

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Gender differences in intimate partner violence victimization and its relationships with anxiety, depression symptoms and suicide behaviours in China

Original Article, Int J Public Health

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main findings of the study.

The sample included a large number of participants from various ethnic groups and rural areas, enhancing the representativeness of the results across diverse geographical contexts. While the effects of intimate partner violence (IPV) on mental health have been studied previously, this research specifically explores gender differences, examining how men and women respond differently to different types of IPV (psychological, physical, and sexual). Statistical models, adjusted to compare the effects of IPV between genders, as well as an analysis of the moderating role of sociodemographic characteristics, offer a broader perspective compared to previous studies.

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

Strength of the study

By addressing a critical issue in a less-studied region, such as China, the study fills an important gap in the literature on intimate partner violence and its effects on mental health, contributing to global and local knowledge in this field. The findings provide useful evidence for the adaptation of preventive interventions and multidisciplinary responses, suggesting that strategies need to take into account gender differences and sociodemographic characteristics to be most effective.

Limitations of the study is a cross-sectional study, no definitive causal relationships can be established between intimate partner violence victimization and mental health problems. There may be other confounding variables that have not been adequately controlled and that could influence the results of the study. In addition, although the study found that there were no significant gender differences in the prevalence of intimate partner sexual violence, this finding could be influenced by underreporting, given that sexual violence in contexts such as the study may be more hidden or less reported, especially by men.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

Sample size and representativeness: The study included 21,824 participants, providing significant statistical power. The sample was randomized and stratified by clusters, which enhances the representativeness and generalizability of the results to a broader population, reflecting both geographic and cultural diversity within China.

Robust statistical methods: The use of multiple logistic regressions enables a detailed analysis of the associations between different forms of intimate partner violence and mental health outcomes, while adjusting for sociodemographic variables. This approach yields more accurate results and helps control for potential biases.

Ethical considerations: The study appears to have adhered to key ethical standards for this type of research. Ethical approval was granted by a committee, participants voluntarily provided informed consent, and the principles of anonymity and voluntariness were upheld. Additionally, the study followed STROBE guidelines for observational research reporting. These measures ensure that participants' rights were protected and the study was conducted ethically. However, it would be beneficial if the study provided more details on how the psychological risks associated with addressing such a sensitive topic were managed, and whether any support or follow-up was offered to participants if needed.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

The title does not mention that the study was conducted in China, which could be relevant given that gender dynamics and intimate partner violence may vary across cultures. The geographic context is an important aspect of the study

Q 5 Are the keywords appropriate?

The keywords are appropriate and align well with the topic of the article.

Q 6 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

The English language is adequate and it uses the concepts appropriately

Q 7 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Q 8 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)

The reference list covers relevant literature in an appropriate and unbiased manner.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9 Originality



Q 10 Rigor



Q 11 Significance to the field



Q 12 Interest to a general audience



Q 13 Quality of the writing



Q 14 Overall scientific quality of the study



REVISION LEVEL

Q 15 Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Minor revisions.