



# FILIPINO WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



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## Intimate Partner Violence

One of the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) is to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in private and public spaces. Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains to be one of the most pervasive social and health problems, and continues to threaten women especially in times of crises and pandemics.

Several studies explored the root causes of IPV and found that the causes are diverse (Fulu, Jewkes, Roselli, et. Al., 2013; Heise & Kotsadam, 2015; Jewkes, 2002), and there is no single factor that further explains why some individuals are violent, or why violence is more prevalent in some communities than in others (Abeya, Afework & Yalew, 2011).

Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. This definition covers violence by both current and former spouses and partners. (World Health Organization)

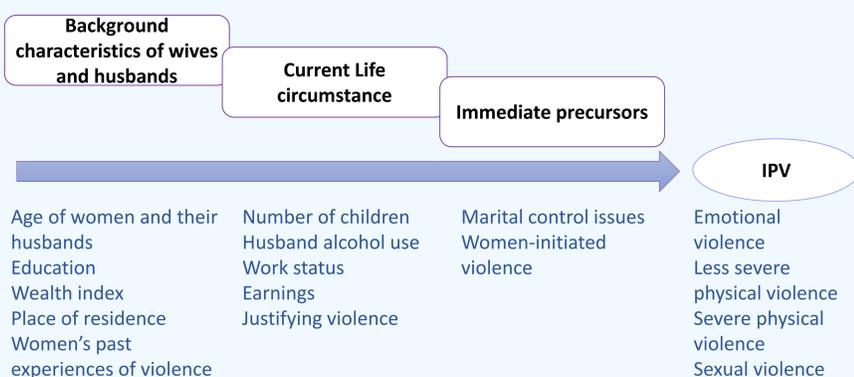
## Objectives & Methods

The study explored the factors influencing the recent experiences of IPV among Filipino women (ages 15 to 49 years old) using the Women's Safety Module of the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey data (N=13,251).

1. Describe the recent IPV experiences of Filipino women; and
2. Examine the determinants of different IPV experiences at the couple-level context of violence, focusing on elements of control and power.

## Study framework

**Power Theory** (Straus, 1976 & 1977 in Bell and Naugle, 2008) and modified **three-level model of perceived reasons for aggression** (Flynn and Graham, 2010).



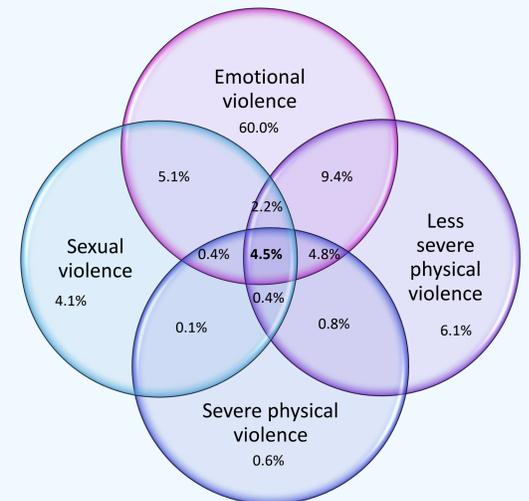
## Conclusion

Despite improvements in the status of Filipino women, IPV remains a problem. The results of the study showed that the power imbalance between the couples manifests in their current life circumstances and immediate precursors. The imbalance is reinforced by the norms on violence and traditional gender roles. An important consideration based on the findings is to design IPV elimination programs, which engage men and redefine concepts of control and heteronormativity.

## Key findings

15.6% of women (n = 2067) reported to have experienced IPV in the last 12 months

They experienced more than one form of IPV.  
Emotional violence (13.7%)  
Physical Violence  
Less severe (4.5%)  
Severe (1.9%)  
Sexual violence (2.7%)



## Determinants of Recent IPV Experiences based on Logistic Regression Results (p<=0.05)

	Background variables	Current life circumstances	Immediate precursors
<b>Emotional violence</b>	• Age • Education • Residence • Past experiences of violence	• Justify violence • H alcohol use	• Marital control • Wife-initiated violence
<b>Less severe physical violence</b>	• Age • Past experiences of violence • H's education	• Justify violence • H alcohol use	• Marital control • Wife-initiated violence
<b>Severe physical violence</b>	• Education • Residence • Past experiences of violence	• Justify violence	• Marital control • Wife-initiated violence
<b>Sexual violence</b>	• Past experiences of violence • H's education	• Number of children • Justify violence	• Marital control • Wife-initiated violence



### Tolerance of violence

Women's experience of **violence during childhood** (hurt by a parent; witnessing parental violence) and **norms of violence** (justifying wife-beating) increased their risk of IPV.



### Power imbalance and family tensions

**Marital control** (manifestation of power imbalance) by the husband and **wife-initiated violence** are important predictors. Wife-initiated violence increase family tensions (Bell & Naugle, 2008) putting the couple at higher risk of engaging in IPV.



### Violence cut across economic status

Wealth, relative earnings and work status were not significant predictors of IPV.

## References

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