

PERPETRATION OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE BY MEN RECEIVING SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT IN ENGLAND: A MIXED METHODS STUDY

Gilchrist G.¹ Radcliffe P.¹

¹ National Addiction Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, UK

Introduction and Aims: Intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration is common among men who use substances. Substance use is a contributing factor for IPV perpetration. This mixed-methods study determined the prevalence and factors associated with ever perpetrating IPV and explored accounts of IPV perpetration by men receiving substance use.

Design and Methods: IPV, adverse childhood experiences, attitudes towards gender relations and roles, substance use, depressive symptoms and anger expression were assessed among a convenience sample of 223 men from 6 drug treatment services in London and South East England. A purposive sample of 20 perpetrators were interviewed in-depth. Logistic regression determined factors associated with ever perpetrating IPV. Qualitative data were analysed using thematic analysis.

Results: 23% reported never perpetrating IPV, 15% had perpetrated emotional IPV only, 56% had perpetrated physical IPV (with/without emotional IPV) and 6% had perpetrated sexual IPV (with/without emotional and/or physical IPV). Experiencing a greater number of adverse childhood experiences and a higher hazardous drinking score predicted ever perpetrating IPV. Perpetrators neutralised and minimised their behaviour. Three narratives were identified: 1) IPV perpetration as a dispute stemming from substance use as misuse of resources and time; 2) IPV perpetration explained by intoxication and 3) IPV explained by sexual jealousy. In all accounts, heteronormative relations made IPV explicable.

Discussions and Conclusions: Findings highlight the multiple and complex risk factors for IPV perpetration. Substance use treatment services should assess IPV and provide a co-ordinated response. Safety measures and support should be available for victims and their children.

Implications for Practice: Men in substance use treatment who perpetrate IPV are rarely referred to perpetrator programmes. Integrated interventions that address both IPV and substance use delivered in substance use treatment could improve outcomes for perpetrators and victims.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: This research was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC ES/K002589/1)