

University Men's Self-Reported Intimate Partner Sexual Violence: Incidence, Context, and Perceptions

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BACKGROUND

- Men's sexual violence (SV) against women:
 - Involves use of verbal or physical tactics to engage in sexual activity with a person who is unwilling.
 - Is committed most often by men toward women (Brousseau et al., 2012; VanderLaan & Vasey, 2009).
 - Is especially common in heterosexual intimate relationships (Black et al., 2011; Gidycz et al., 2011).
- Much of the existing research on SV has:
 - Not distinguished between relationship type.
 - Collected overall occurrence rates of intimate partner SV (IPSV) – little breakdown across tactic and sex act.
- Few studies have examined the contextual characteristics of men's use of SV (especially IPSV), or men's perceptions of its effects.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine:
 - Incidence rates of different types of IPSV perpetration among university men in our sample in the past year.
 - Contextual features of IPSV incidents (location, alcohol consumption).
 - Perpetrators' perceptions of the effects of IPSV incidents on their relationships.

METHOD

Participants

- 447 Canadian university men aged 18-24 ($M = 18.98$) whose most recent dating relationship:
 - Was with a woman;
 - Was exclusive/monogamous;
 - Occurred at least partially within the past year; and
 - Lasted at least 3 months

Procedure

- Online surveys with:
 - Demographics questions
 - The Sexual Experiences Survey-Short Form Perpetration (Koss et al., 2006)
 - Contextual questions about most memorable IPSV incident (location, alcohol consumption)
 - Open-ended question about effects of most memorable IPSV incident on relationship
- Analysis:
 - Frequencies and descriptive statistics in Excel
 - Content analysis on open-ended question about perceptions of effects

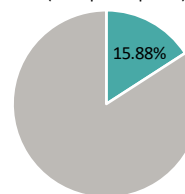
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RESULTS

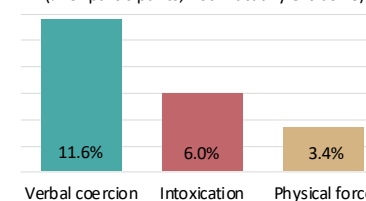
Any IPSV in Past Year of Relationship

(% of participants)



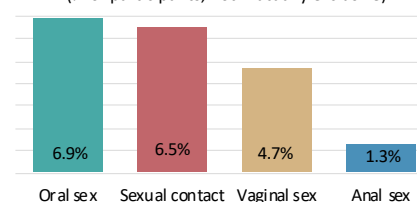
IPSV Tactic in Past Year of Relationship

(% of participants, not mutually exclusive)



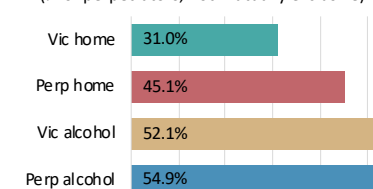
IPSV Sex Act in Past Year of Relationship

(% of participants, not mutually exclusive)



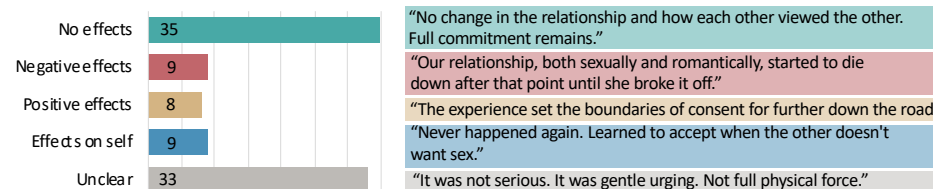
Contextual Features of IPSV Incident

(% of perpetrators, not mutually exclusive)



Perceptions of IPSV Incident Effects on Relationship

(# of perpetrators out of the 58 who responded)



"No change in the relationship and how each other viewed the other. Full commitment remains."

"Our relationship, both sexually and romantically, started to die down after that point until she broke it off."

"The experience set the boundaries of consent for further down the road."

"Never happened again. Learned to accept when the other doesn't want sex."

"It was not serious. It was gentle urging. Not full physical force."

CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- High incidence rates of SV in intimate university relationships.
- Support for previous findings that men more often use verbal & psychological SV in intimate relationships (Brousseau et al., 2011; Wegner et al., 2014).
- Surprisingly high rates of SV for anal penetration and involvement of alcohol and intoxication tactics – important sites of intervention for university IPSV.
- Need to challenge men to understand the ways that seemingly mild SV may still harm women.