

Impact of Violence Against Women on Maternal Health in the Middle East

Cari Jo Clark, Sc.D., M.P.H.

University of Minnesota Medical School

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Woodrow Wilson Center

Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence

Country	Type	Time Frame	%
Egypt	Physical	Ever	33
Egypt	Sexual	Ever	7
Iraq	Physical	Prior year	21
Jordan	Physical	Ever	21
Jordan	Sexual	Ever	8
Turkey	Physical	Ever	36
Turkey	Sexual	Ever	14
Palestinian Territory	Physical	Prior year	23
Palestinian Territory	Sexual	Prior year	11

Clark CJ, Khawaja M, Lennon R, Usta J. Gender-based Violence in the Middle East Region. Ramallah: Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center / UNESCO and Oxfam GB, 2010 (December). Iraq Family Health Survey 2006/7.

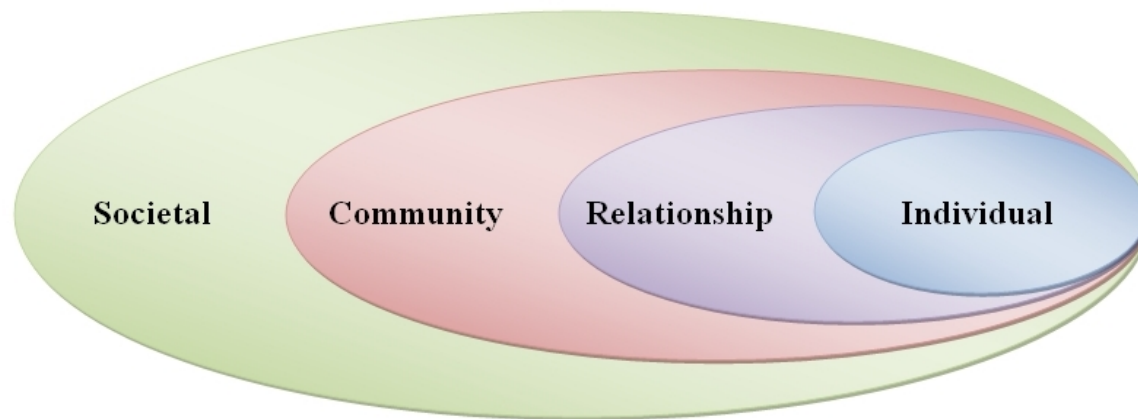
Acceptance of Violence Against Women

Country	%
Egypt	40
Iraq	61
Jordan	90
Turkey	14
Palestinian Men (Jordan)	60
Palestinian Women (Jordan)	62

Demographic and Health Surveys; Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey Study; Khawaja et al 2010. Women's Acceptance of Wife Beating in Iraq. Mediterranean Research Meeting. Khawaja et al. J Fam Viol (2008) 23:211–218.

Contexts Influencing IPV

Figure 2. Ecological Model for Understanding Violence



Note: Reproduced with permission from Figure 1.3 in Dahlberg LL, Krug EG. *Violence -- a Global Health Problem*. In: Krug EG et al., eds. *World Report on Violence and Health*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002, page 12.

Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Reproductive Health in Jordan



Study Objectives

- **Estimate the prevalence of IPV**
- **Examine risk and protective factors for IPV**
- **Examine the reproductive health correlates of IPV**

Methodology

- **Survey**
 - Jordanian Association for Family Planning & Protection
- **Sample:**
 - 7 clinics
 - Probability proportionate to size
 - N=517
 - Response Rate=70%
- **Focus Group Discussions**
 - UNRWA
 - Jordan University
 - YWCA
 - Sisterhood is Global Institute
 - Single Parents' Club
 - N=17

Results: Prevalence of IPV

Controlling behaviors	97%
Psychological violence	73%
Physical violence	31%
Sexual violence	19%

Clark CJ, Bloom DE, Hill AG, Silverman JG. A Prevalence Estimate of Intimate Partner Violence in Jordan. *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal* 2009;15(4):880-889.

Familial Contexts Influencing IPV

Risk Factors

- Extended family living
- Familial interference in the relationship
- Violence from other family members
- Exposure to violence in childhood

Protective Factors

- Family support / connection

Maternal Health Effects of IPV

- **Larger numbers of children**
- **Unintended pregnancy**
- **Interference in women's attempts to limit fertility**
- **Violence during pregnancy = 15%**

Clark CJ, Silverman J, Khalaf I, Abu Ra'ad B, Abu Al Sha'ar Z, Abu Al Ata A, Batiha A. Intimate Partner Violence and Interference with Women's Efforts to Avoid Pregnancy in Jordan. *Studies in Family Planning* 2008;39(2): 123-132. ; Clark CJ. Reproductive Health Correlates of Intimate Partner Violence in Jordan. In: M. Ennaji and F. Sadiqi (Eds.), *Gender and Violence in the Middle East*. UCLA Center for Middle East Development (CMED) series. New York, NY: Routledge, 2011; pp.175-186. Clark CJ, Hill AG, Jabbar K, Silverman JG. Violence During Pregnancy in Jordan: Its Prevalence and Associated Risk and Protective Factors, *Violence Against Women* 2009; 15(6): 720-735

Physical Violence During Pregnancy

	Clinic-based	National
Egypt	6%	6%
Iran	9%	
Jordan	15%	5%
Jordan (Bedouin)	35%	
Lebanon	11%	
Lebanon (Palestinians)	11%	
Turkey		10%
Saudi Arabia	21%	

Clark CJ, Hill AG, Jabbar K, Silverman JG. Violence During Pregnancy in Jordan: Its Prevalence and Associated Risk and Protective Factors, *Violence Against Women* 2009; 15(6): 720-735. Demographic and Health Surveys for national Jordanian and Egyptian data. Turkey national data are from the Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey, 2009 study. Hammoury et al. 2007. *European J of Public Health*. 1-2.

Factors Influencing IPV During Pregnancy

Risk Factors

- Husband's alcohol use
- Frequency of arguing
- Belief that wife should be obedient

Protective Factors

- Education
- Family support / connection
- Consanguinity

Women's Responses to IPV

- **Family is the preferred source for assistance.**
- **Going outside the family has serious consequences.**
- **Most survey respondents did not seek help (60%).**

Women's Responses to IPV

- Few used criminal justice system, social services, non-governmental organizations and religious leaders
- No one reported seeking help through the health system.
- Those who sought help outside the family :
 - Had families that were unwilling or unable to help them.
 - Financial difficulties
 - Distance
 - Abuse in the natal family
 - Refusal to accept woman's children
 - Suffered more extreme abuse

Implications

- **Multi-pronged approaches are needed that:**
 - **Reducing the acceptance of violence against women;**
 - **Raise awareness of VAW and women's rights and help options.**
 - **Support victims' services to protect the most vulnerable.**
 - **Support the extended family in their efforts to prevent violence and assist victims.**
- **Evaluate innovative projects in this area**
 - **USAID's Private Sector Partnership for Women's Health**
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