Alcohol, Violence Against Women and Girls and Mental Health: Pooled analyses from Low-middle Income Settings

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Introduction

• Harmful alcohol use and poor mental health increasingly recognized as drivers and consequences of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

• In some populations in low middle income settings, up to 60% of women experience IPV.

• Harmful alcohol use recognized driver of VAWG, but importance has been contested, and most research emerges from global North.

• Similarly, poor mental health recognized as both a driver and outcome of VAWG.

• Evidence of a bidirectional relationship between alcohol and VAWG and poor mental health and VAWG.
Research Questions

• Two sets of analyses sought to establish the association between alcohol and poor mental health and VAWG perpetration and experience, respectively.
  • To understand the intersections between alcohol use and violence perpetration and experience in four LMIC in Africa
  • To understand the intersections between poor mental health (depression and PTSD) and violence perpetration and experience in LMIC in Africa and Middle East

• To illustrate the impact of violence prevention interventions on Alcohol, VAWG & Mental Health
Methods

• Pooled analysis of cross-sectional baseline data
  • **Alcohol**: 8104 men and 5613 women 18+ years old
  • Comparable measures of alcohol use (past year alcohol use and AUDIT)
  • Physical and sexual IPV & NPSV (WHO)

• **Mental Health**:
  • 7021 men and 4,525 women 18+ years old
  • Comparable measures of mental health (depression and PTSD)
  • Physical and sexual IPV & NPSV (WHO)

**Main outcomes:**
Physical and non-partner sexual violence perpetration (men)
Physical and non-partner sexual violence experience (women)
Among the 8104 men 51% consumed alcohol in the past year.
- Range: 37% to 69%
- 24% of men reported past year harmful alcohol use was 24% range: 11%–44%
- Almost 1/3 of men (29%) perpetrated IPV
- 25% perpetrated NPSV.
Among the 5163 women, 37% reported having seen their partner drunk in the past, with a range of 14%–53%.

16% reported seeing their partner frequently drunk in the past year, with a range of 8%–23%.

35% of women reported experiencing IPV in the past year.

Women’s Witnessing of Partner Drunkenness & IPV

- Among the 5163 women, 37% reported having seen their partner drunk in the past
- Range: 14%–53%
- 16% reported seeing their partner frequently drunk in the past year
- Range: 8%–23%
- 35% of women reported experiencing IPV in the past year
Men’s Alcohol Use & Odds of IPV Perpetration

- Consistent associations between harmful alcohol use in the past year and past year physical IPV across all individual studies, and in the pooled analysis
Men’s Alcohol Use & Odds of NPSV Peretration

- Consistent associations between harmful alcohol use in the past year and past year Non-Partner Sexual Violence IPV across all individual studies, and in the pooled analysis
### Women’s Reports of Partner and Alcohol Use & Odds of Violence Experience

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<th>Frequent</th>
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<td>Overall</td>
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**Key Points:**
- Consistent associations between women’s reports of partner alcohol use and IPV experience.
- Women who had seen their partner occasionally drunk or frequently drunk in the past 12 months had an overall increased odds of experiencing physical IPV.
Prevalence of Depression, PTSD Physical IPV and NPSV perpetration among men & experience among women

- Overall, 29% of men reported depressive symptoms (range: 18% to 46%)
- Six percent (6%) reported PTSD (range: 5-14.2%)
- 29% reported perpetrating PTSD
- 25% reported perpetrating NPSV

- Overall, 35.6% of women reported depressive symptoms (range: 25.8% to 45.2%)
- 21% reported PTSD (range: 5-14.2%)
- 30.9% reported experiencing IPV (range: 15.5% to 59.5%)
- 11% reported experiencing NPSV (range: 2.8% to 33.7%)
Men’s Depression & PTSD & Odds perpetrating IPV

Across all studies, men who had experienced depression had an increased odds of perpetrating IPV.

Similarly, men who had experienced PTSD had an increased odds of perpetrating IPV across all studies.
Across all studies, women who had experienced physical IPV had an increased odds of experiencing depression.

Similarly, women who had experienced NPSV had an increased odds of experiencing depression.
Intervention Impacts on Alcohol, VAWG & Mental Health

**VATU, Zambia**

Alcohol use for women and men by arm in the VATU trial

- Intervention - men
- Control - men
- Intervention - women
- Control - women

**SSCF, South Africa**

Alcohol use by men in the Stepping Stones and Creating Futures trial by arm

- Intervention
- Control

**Zindagii Tajikistan**

Data on past year violence perpetration and IPV prevalence by intervention arm.
Discussion

• Both alcohol and men’s poor mental health (depression and PTSD) associated with increased IPV and NPSV perpetration among men, and experience for women

• IPV & NPSV increase as alcohol intake increases

• Interventions aimed at reducing alcohol may lead to reductions in IPV & NPSV perpetration and experience.

• Women’s experiences of IPV associated with depression.

• Interventions aimed at preventing IPV and NPSV perpetration must take account of men’s mental health

• Women experiencing IPV and NPSV must be screened and treated for poor mental health symptoms
THANK YOU

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