

# Gender vulnerability and human rights violation in a Metropolitan area of Brazil's capital

Leides Barroso Azevedo Moura<sup>†</sup>  
Ana Maria Nogales Vasconcelo<sup>‡</sup>

## Introduction

More recently violations of women's human rights and gender vulnerability have become popular themes for research in studies involving issues related to violence against women (VAW). Ironically, the most prevalent type of violence against women is perpetrated by intimate partners and ex-partners<sup>16</sup> VAW needs to be understood within the framework of the interrelationship among systems of oppression, such as patriarchy, racism, class exploitation, sexual division of labor and others categories that build a whole system of representation of the unequal prestige and power of the male gender. The use of violence to mediate gender-based conflicts evolves, to a certain extent, from the historically constructed representation of the inferior status of women in society and its consequent association of femininity with passivity and masculinity with power. In this sense, Seymour<sup>10</sup> (2009) states that social masculinities, instead of biological sex differences, are essential to understanding gendered violence.

Historically, the establishment of social life in a variety of societies has been marked by the phenomenon of IPV. This violence has been tolerated, denied, mitigated, and naturalized as an expected component of human interactions. Stanko<sup>12</sup> (2003) affirms that the 'rules of engagement' for violence imply that 'not all violence is condemned; not all forms of violence are punished; not all forms of violence receive widespread disapproval'<sup>12:12</sup>.

The research specialists in the last decades have produced a large body of information about the magnitude of violence against women and the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) in global and local societies<sup>5-7</sup>.

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<sup>†</sup> Doctoral Student in Health Science, Professor at Nursing Department - University of Brasília- Brazil

<sup>‡</sup> Professor at Department of Statistic - Universidade de Brasília – Brazil

Email for contact: lmoura@unb.br

IPV is an unacceptable violation of basic human rights; nevertheless, it is a widespread phenomenon in most societies.

This article is based on findings from a study undertaken to investigate the prevalence of intimate partner violence (physical, psychological, and sexual) against women aged from 15 to 49 years that live in a metropolitan area of Brazil's capital called Varjão. The research investigates women's lifetime experience of violence and the episodes of violence in the last twelve months before the interview. For the purpose of this article, only the prevalence of IPV during women's lifetime will be presented.

The study emphasizes the need to understand violence against women as a phenomenon impacted by multiple levels of context and adopts an ecological model<sup>2,4</sup> as a conceptual framework to understand the complexity of IPV.

## **Literature Review**

This article employs an ecological model as a framework to organize and examine the findings of the IPV against women. The ecological model proposed by Bronfenbrenner<sup>2</sup> describes levels of environment called microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, macrosystem, and chronosystem. In other words, violence can be understood in a complex interaction of factors in four levels: personal: bio-psychological characteristics, personal history (microsystem); processing: interpersonal interaction (mesosystem); contextual: family support system, formal and informal networks, community, culture (exosystem and macrosystem), and temporal: intra-, inter-, and trans-generational (chronosystem).

The ecological model permits to understand violence as multifaceted and interconnected network of factors at individual, relational, community and societal level. IPV is viewed in the light of the relationship that exists among the elements of the model that includes individual variables and intergenerational learned behaviors, community and spatial factors and patterns, as well as, society and its culture and socio-economic structure. The articulation between these factors will serve as a conceptual framework to capture part of the

subjectivity of phenomenon of gender-based violence. Structural violence must be included in this framework in order to overcome the systematic discrimination against women and the persistent violation of human rights.

In order to apply the ecological model for IPV, we found it necessary to adopt some important theoretical concepts that will function as a key for interpretation of the study's result. The concepts are: gender, vulnerability, and human's right violation.

The concept of gender was adopted as a relational category by the scholars around the 1970s to indicate the existence of dominant cultural norms, social roles and attributes assigned to man and women in different patriarchal societies. Gender discourses of masculinity and femininity are molded by cultural and biological arrangements in different periods of history. The concept describes the historically constructed processes within society that emphasize male hierarchy. The idea of gender relation has been inseparable from that of power and domination. The development of gender identity is linked to context and gendered norms and social roles. Spencer et al<sup>11</sup> (2004) studying hypermasculine attitudes affirm:

“ exaggerated presentation of masculinity can lead to conflict (...), but it can also serve as a coping response to deal with environmental stressors such as lack of economic opportunities and fear of victimization. Male identity development is influenced by ecology (...)” <sup>11: 234</sup>

It is important to emphasize that IPV is not only a result of hypermasculinity attitudes and stereotypic gendered display of destructive power. Gender violence can also be aggravated by the intensification of the modern neoliberal State with a market that globally increases the exclusion of disadvantaged urban areas. More recently, gender theory encompass the macro-structural basis of social inequalities and gender vulnerability which play a role in human interactions, generational relations and interpersonal encounters at family, community and society level. Gender role socialization based on patriarchal values is associated with higher levels of IPV. <sup>1</sup>

The comprehensive understanding of vulnerability needs to be considered as an emerging concept. Watts and Bohle <sup>14</sup> (1993) trying to describe a structural design to understand the causes of hunger suggested that vulnerability should be understood as an integration of three dimensions which

are: 'entitlement', the rights that people have to satisfy the basic human need of survival and when it is not satisfied constitutes an exposure risk; 'empowerment', their political participation with access to systems of productive property and vulnerability is defined in terms of capacity ; and 'economic policy', referring to historical-structural organization of society to minimize destructive consequences. Vulnerability can be defined "in terms of exposure, capacity and potentiality".<sup>14:46</sup>

In addition, vulnerability needs to be addressed in the lights of economic exploitation of women, which included the hidden ideology of capitalist production. The result of an oppressive economic system, such as 'late capitalism', would contribute to maintain unjust social, political and economic systems.

The concept of women's rights is based on international law that establishes basic human rights and supports normative standards for human well-being and freedom. Violence against women is recognized as a serious challenge to democracy and social development, as well as, a serious health hazard problem. Human rights protect citizens from governments that do not respect the civil and social rights of their citizens. The basic human rights include the right to not be subjected to torture, or other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, right to a fair trial, freedom of thought and expression, access to education, shelter and other forms of systematic discrimination and social exclusion. It is a concept that has been constructed by the international community as an integrated element of the civilization process.

Integration of the three concepts: gender, vulnerability and women's right will provide an ecological approach to capture important information about the dynamic phenomenon of gender-based violence against women in the selected area. Vulnerability to violence will be understood as part of the social mechanisms of oppression by which women receive an inferior status in society. This subordinated position could then create conditions for violation of women's rights and place women at greater risk for violence, such as IPV.

In the last few decades, there has been an increasing concern with the protection of human's rights and the need to unveil the magnitude of violence against specific target groups. The growing evidence about the harmfulness of violence against women suggests that even after sixty years of the Universal

declaration of Human Rights, we have quite long way to go in order to become an effective civilized society.

In Brazil, IPV is a frequent fact in the lives of thousands of women and adolescences<sup>13,15</sup>. A national cross-sectional study showed that 43% of Brazilian women had experienced at least one episode of IPV in her lifetime<sup>13</sup>. It was only at the end of the second millennium that the violence against women became part of the political agenda as a human rights violation. In addition, only at the beginning of the third millennium, it was sanctioned a specific Brazilian law that creates mechanisms to restrain domestic and family violence against women<sup>§</sup>. The law defines violence perpetrated by an intimate partner as 'any action or omission based on gender that causes the woman's death, injury, physical, sexual or psychological suffering and moral or patrimonial damage'

In sum, the primary aim of the study was to estimate the prevalence of violence against women, with emphasis on physical, psychological and sexual violence perpetrated by an intimate male partner. The study's design used the ecological model of violence to analyze the data.

## **Method**

This cross-sectional study adheres to the World Health Organization (WHO) ethical guidelines for the conduct of violence against women research and uses the WHO Violence Against Women Instrument as developed for use in the WHO Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence. The instrument had a total of 58 questions.

Interviews were conducted in the homes of 300 women aged 15 to 49 years old. The life time experience of physical, psychological and sexual violence or controlling behavior by an intimate partner were measured, as well as, frequency and severity of the violent episodes. Sociodemographic, behavioral and context variables were selected.

In the context of this study, IPV was defined as physical, sexual and psychological abuse by an intimate partner. An intimate partner can be a current or ex- husband or non-marital partner, such as a boyfriend, fiancé or

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<sup>§</sup> Law n. 11.340 (07/08/2006). Refers to domestic and family violence against women

sexual partner. The prevalence research definition used in this study will be any *incident* of physical, sexual or psychological abuse at some time in the women's life.

The data collection instrument was based on the operational definitions for physical, sexual, and psychological violence developed by World Health Organization. It includes the following:

- Physical violence

It is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, injury or harm. Physical violence includes, but is not limited to: scratching, pushing, shoving, throwing, grabbing, biting, choking, shaking, poking, hair pulling, slapping, punching, hitting, burning, the use of restraints or one's body size or strength against another person, and the use or threat to use a weapon (gun, knife or object).

- Sexual Violence

It is any act in which one person in a power relationship uses force, coercion or psychological intimidation to force another to carry out a sexual act against her or his will, or to participate in unwanted sexual relations from which the offender obtains gratification. Abusive sexual contact occurs in a variety of situations, including within marriage, on dates, at work and school, and in families (i.e. incest). Other manifestations include undesired touching, oral, anal or vaginal penetration with the penis or objects, and obligatory exposure to pornographic material.

- Psychological

It is any act or omission that damages the self-esteem, identity or development of the individual. It includes but is not limited to humiliation, threatening loss of custody of the children, forced isolation from family or friends, threatening to harm the individual or someone they care about, repeated yelling or degradation, inducing fear through intimidating words or gestures, controlling behavior, and the destruction of possessions.

Those eligible for inclusion in the study were women aged 15 to 49 years who had to have had at least one intimate relationship with a man during their lifetimes and lived in the household of the selected area of the study for a minimum of four weeks. Only one woman in each household was interviewed. In situations where there was more than one eligible respondent, one of the

woman was randomly selected for interview. 7, 3% (N=22) were excluded from analysis because they had never been involved in such an intimate relationship.

The chosen location where the study was conducted, Varjão, is located at a central area in Brazil's capital in the Federal District; however, it is an area marked by poverty and social economical segregation.

This population-based household survey used simple random sampling to calculate sample size. The estimated measure was the proportion of woman who suffers violence by an intimate partner. The sample size was calculated based on the available published WHO Multi country study's prevalence of IPV from a metropolitan area in Brazil<sup>15</sup>. Based on 27% prevalence for physical violence, with a confidence level of 95% and absolute precision of 0.05 the total number of women who were interviewed was 300. 22 women who were interviewed had never have an intimate partner and were excluded from the analysis, and therefore, the study had a total of 278 women.

Data were collected on a number of individual, gender-relational, community and environment level variables that have been linked to IPV violence. Descriptive and logistic regression analyses were used to analyze the data. The database of Access was exported to SPSS and SAS and further analysis was carried out. For these logistic regression analyses, the dependent variables "Physical or sexual violence" were dichotomized (presence or absence of violence). A *p* value of less than 0.05 was considered as the minimum level of significance.

Prevalence of physical, sexual, psychological, and physical or sexual violence were calculated and the physical or sexual dependent variable was examine to test association with demographic variables of women (age, education, occupation, religion and number of marriage), with demographic variables of partners ( age, education and occupation), and with partner's behavioral variables (use of alcohol, episodes of drunkenness, use of alcohol, infidelity, and history of male-to-male violence) and context variables ( family support, family and financial problems due to alcohol use) by using both bivariate and multivariate procedures. Logistic regression analyses were used to identify demographic variables that were significantly related to IPV violence.

The ethical approval of the research was in agreement with the Resolution 196/96 (Project 003/2007) and the Research Ethics Committee.

Mechanisms were established to decrease the probability of harm and discomfort and to assure maximum confidentiality regarding women's narratives of VPI experiences. Written individual informed consent was obtained from all participants before the interviews. Face-to-face interviewing techniques to address gender-based violence were essential to assure quality and consistency during data collection. Methodological procedures, modified with minor adaptations, followed the World Health Organization multicounty study protocol on violence against women.

## **Results**

Table 1 shows the socio-economic characteristics of the women and their partner. Majority of women and men were in the age group of 25 - 34 (45 and 40% respectively) with a mean average of 30 years (SD=8,5) for women and a media of 32 year for men. Both men and women had a low educational level with 87% that did not achieve graduation from high school. The average years of education were 6, 5 years for women (SD = 3,1) and 5,1 years (SD = 3,6) for men. Regarding employment status, 37% of women and 77% of men were employed; however majority of men's job were part time and per diem jobs. A considerable number of women reported that their male partner use moderately alcohol (49%) and is currently using drugs (11%). With regard to infidelity, 48% of women reported that their partner have in the pass or currently an affair with another women. Interesting to note was that 35% of their partners were involved in a male-to-male episode of physical violence.

Table 2 demonstrates the prevalence of the various forms of intimate partner violence during the life time reported by women. The prevalence of having experienced at least one act of psychological violence was 80,2% (N= 223). 50% of the women have received verbal threats from their partners. Of those, 62% declares that these treats happened many times during their intimate relationship. For physical violence the prevalence was 58, 6% (N= 163) and the prevalence of women who were sexually abused by a current or former partner was 28, 8% (N= 80).

The prevalence of severe physical violence, the violent acts that is likely to lead to external or internal injuries, is presented by each violent act. The

study shows a higher prevalence of severe (42%) violence than moderate (17%). Being hit with a fist, kicked, dragged, threatened with a weapon or having the weapon used against the women was defined as severe violence. The WHO recognizes that ranking violent acts by severity is somehow subjective and even the acts considered moderate can cause potential severe injury<sup>15</sup>.

An overall percentage of 30 % (N=84) of women reported that their intimate partner hit them with a fist or use some other object. 57% of those reporting this type of violent act affirm that these episodes happen many times. In addition, 28% of women described episodes of being kicked, dragged or beat up. Among them, 61% affirm that these violent acts happened many times in their lives. The most common act of violence experienced by women was being pushed or shoved (53%). This was followed by being slapped by their partner (43%).

In addition, one in each four women (28%; N=79) affirm that they have been threatened by their partner with the use of a gun, knife or other weapon. Far from being an isolated event, 41% of these women states that these threats happened many times in their lives.

In the same logic, 23 % of the women reported having sex because they were afraid of something their partners might do to them. 61% of women from this group affirm that they have coerced sexual relationships many times with their partner.

The prevalence of various forms of intimate partner violence by some socio-demographic characteristics of the women was presented in table 3. The prevalence of physical, sexual, and physical or sexual was highest in the older group age from 35 to 49 years old (64%, 38%, and 88% respectively). On the other hand, the younger women, especially those aged 15 to 24 were at higher risk for physiological violence (83%). Regarding the educational background, the group with the lower number of school years, less than fifth grade, had the highest prevalence for all types of IPV. Also, women who had an occupation had a higher prevalence for both: physical and physical or sexual violence with 63 and 64% respectively. Interesting to note was the fact that women had had a partner in the pass, but has no partner at the time of the interview, had the highest prevalence of all types of violence. Finally, a slightly higher prevalence

of psychological and physical or sexual violence was observed in the women who had smaller time of residence in the community (Table 3).

Cross-tabulations were used to explore whether there were significant differences between individual, relational and community characteristics and the occurrence of physical violence and table 4 presents some associations, which were examined through bivariate analysis, adopting the presence or absence of violence as a dependent variable. Women's socio-economic characteristics, as well as, her partner's socio-economic characteristics and behavioral attitudes were independent variables. Women's lower education, separated or divorced status, and high number of marriage were variables associated with the experience of physical violence. Individual partner factors such as frequency of alcohol use, drug use, infidelity, history of male-to-male physical aggression, financial and family problems due to alcohol consumption were more likely to be associated with physical violence. The prevalence of physical or sexual violence was 63% (CI 55,5 - 67,3). The overlap of physical, sexual and psychological violence was experienced by a substantial proportion of women (31%). These women have experienced multiple types of violence and victimization across their lifespan (Table 4).

Physical or sexual violence was considered as a dependent variable, which was designed for use as a dichotomous dependent variable. Initially, univariate logistic regression models were used for the demographic, behavior and context variables of the women and her partner. Any variable whose univariate test has a p-value  $< 0,25$  were selected to be included as independent variables in the multivariate model<sup>26</sup>. The regression models were built by the consecutive exclusion of single variables from the full model, with the likelihood ratio test used to determine the importance of the variable. After the exclusion of the variables, the model was re-evaluated and the stability of the estimates was assessed.

Table 5 shows the results of multivariate logistic regression, as described above, to examine the association of factors from individual, behavioral and context levels on the prevalence of physical or sexual violence reported by women. Women who were physically or sexually abused by their partners also suffer higher rates of controlling behavior by their partners. Four or more types of controlling behavior would place the women at 17 times greater risk for

physical or sexual violence. Therefore, the experience of this type of violence tends to be accompanied by more controlling behavior by an intimate partner. The proportion of women reporting four or more of these behaviors was 29% and, on the other hand, only 21% of the interviewed women stated that they do not suffer any type of these gender-based behaviors.

In addition, women's partner with a personal history of male-to-male violence had 3 times more chance to perpetrate physical or sexual violence against the women. Also, physical or sexual violence was twice higher among partners reported to have had a history of infidelity than among those who did not have an extra-conjugal affair. Finally, women's partner who were users or are still using drugs had almost four times more chance to be a victim of this type of violence. In the same manner, weekly episodes of partner's drunkenness increase 3 times the chance for women to experience physical or sexual violence.

### **Discussion and conclusions**

National and international data indicate that a large proportion of women have been silenced by oppressive practices and cultural custom that emphasize inequalities based of sex and a culture that reinforce the association of violence with masculinity. Several studies from a range of countries around the world show that 10- 69% of women reported being physically battered by an intimate male partner at some point in their lives<sup>22</sup>. The high prevalence of physical or sexual violence found in this study (61%) was compatible with the findings of the study developed by the WHO. The proportion of ever-partnered women who had experienced in their lifetime physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner ranged from 15% to 71% among 15 different countries<sup>15</sup>.

In much of the available literature, it is acknowledged that a large proportion of women are constrained in violent relationships. The high prevalence of physical violence revealed in this study shows a profound vulnerability being experienced by women in their relationship with intimate partners. Previous studies show similar pattern of partner violence<sup>1, 4, 9-10, 13-15</sup>. Despite of the fact that violence is present in all social status, race, and religion, it is present disproportionally. The study showed that women who belong to a marginalized population are experiencing severe human rights violation and

imposition of controls on their behavior or the denial of their rights as human beings. Women's violence should not be analyzed in an isolated manner; rather, the study of women's lives should be closely linked to society as a whole.

It is important to analyze the results as a whole scenario that describes a status of women in capitalist patriarchal society. Association of women's lower education with more physical violence, the fact that women who had been separated or divorced reported much more partner violence during her life time than currently married women, and that higher number of marriage were variables associated with the experience of physical violence, all these multi-level factors are intense manifestations of gender inequalities and asymmetry of power between female and male gender. They need to be considered in the light of the male controlling behavior and his individual and context factors such as frequency of alcohol use, drug use, infidelity, history of male-to-male physical aggression; financial and family problems due to alcohol consumption were more likely to be associated with physical violence. Gender-based violence is a multidimensional phenomenon grounded in an interrelationship among all these factors and others that were not presented for the purpose of this article.

Seymore <sup>10</sup> (2009) affirms that the distinction between 'domestic' violence and 'generic' violence holds a false premise and a non-existent dichotomy because all types of violence, such as that violence between men in the public sphere and others types of urban violence are, ultimately, gendered violence. They need to be addressed from the lenses of theoretical concepts that are under permanent construction, such as human rights, gender and social vulnerability.

Although many studies cite one or more primary predictors of intimate partner violence, such as poverty, income or alcohol consumption by women's partner, the results present in this study show that, while it is important to continue study avenues of control for these possible primary predictors, multi-level factors from an ecological perspective should also be considered. These results suggest that theoretical models that do not rely upon an ecological approach of violence from micro and macro structures to examine intimate partner violence may be incomplete and misleading.

Some study limitations found were that the small sample size does not allow perceiving low prevalence variables that could play a role in larger sample of the population. This study has a qualitative approach that will be published latter and may help to unveil some variables that were not included in the group of variables analyzed. In addition, there were several potential sources of measurement error and bias in this research design that may have interfered with the results. One example was that men were not directly interviewed. All the information's about the partners were collected from the women. The interview techniques adopted in this study help to deal with the highly sensitive topic and allowed a thrust climate that facilitate the level of disclosure reached in the study. The cross-sectional design of the study was also a limitation.

### **Implication of the Study**

The development of public policies and strategies to counter violence perpetrated by an intimate partner requires continuous information that can be provided by local and national research. The selected region where the study was developed did not have any previous research on IPV and, therefore, the results of this study will help to increase awareness of the phenomenon and to design prevention strategies and local public policy. Interventions need to be designed to produce new cultural forms and local responses to reduce the high prevalence of IPV like the ones found in this investigation. Building ecologically healthy society, free of human rights violation, is a task for individual, families, community and every society in this post modern period of history. The use of violence to solve gender-based conflicts no longer pertains to private domain. It needs to be rejected and reported as a deviance from the social norms that are accepted by contemporary societies.

These and other questions in the field of women rights violation need to be urgently investigated. Human rights are in a state of permanent surveillance and require an empowered community and individuals to defend its core values. It is important to design new perspectives to integrate research that transcend the epidemiological model of cause-effect. The ecological model can assist to integrate gender identities, generational groups, practices of social and cultural belonging, and structural context. Prevention of IPI requires policies and

interventions which address both the need to fairly distribute economical resources and political resources. Women's empowerment needs to be encouraged in order to foster the formation of more fair society's systems that embrace women as equal partners. Global and local patterns of women's human rights violations demand an ecological framework to capture the different nuances of this complex problem.

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**Tabel 1.** Characteristics of the women interviewed and their partner. Varjão, Brasil, 2007I (N = 278)

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Women Demographic Variables</b>		
<u>Age Group</u> (years)	71	25
15 - 24	125	45
25 - 34	82	30
35 - 49		
<u>Educational Level</u> (years)		
Up to 4	72	26
4 - 7	101	36
8 - 10	68	24
11 or more	37	13
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Currently married/ Living with man/ Regular partner, living apart	230	83
Currently no partner, divorced, separated, widowed	48	17
<u>Number of Marriage</u>		
1	199	72
2 or more	79	28
<u>Occupation</u>		
Working	102	37
Unemployed/Looking for a Job	160	58
Leave of Absence	16	5
<u>Religion</u>		
Catholic	143	51
Evangelical	80	29
No religion	48	17
Other religion	7	3
<b>Partner Demographic Variables</b>		
<u>Age Group</u> (years)		
15 - 24	58	21
25 - 34	112	40
35 - 49	91	33
50 or more	17	6
<u>Educational Level</u> (years)		
Up to 4	101	36
4 - 7	96	35
8 - 10	44	16
11 or more	37	13
<u>Occupation</u>		
Working	213	77
Unemployed/Looking for a Job	48	17
Leave of Absence	17	6
<b>Partner Behavioral Variables</b>		
<u>Alcohol Use Frequency</u>		
Frequently	32	12
Moderate	136	49
Rarely	31	11
Never	78	28
<u>Drug Use</u>		
Current Using	30	11
Used in the pass	53	19
Never used	189	68
<u>Extra-Conjugal Relationship</u>		
Yes	134	48
No	144	52
<u>History of male-to-male physical violence</u>		
Yes	98	35
No	180	65

**Table 2.** Lifetime prevalence and frequency distribution of types of violence by an intimate partner, among ever-partner women. Varjão, Brasil, 2007.

Types of Violence	Prevalence			Frequency of Episodes		
	N	%	CI (95%)	Once	A Few Times	Many Times
<b>Psychological Violence</b>						
Insulted using abusive language	193	69%		11%	36%	53%
Humiliation and Public degradation	121	44%		11%	30%	60%
Intimidation	165	59%		15%	33%	53%
Treats	138	50%		16%	22%	62%
Episode of Psychological Violence	223	80%	75,5 - 84,9			
<b>Physical Violence</b>						
<b>Moderate Physical Violence</b>						
Slapped, threw something that hurt	119	43%		26%	29%	45%
Pushed or shoved	146	53%		28%	29%	43%
<b>Severe Physical Violence</b>						
Hit with a fist or something else	84	30%		24%	19%	57%
Kicked, dragged or beat up	71	26%		13%	27%	61%
Choked or burnt on purpose	60	22%		42%	17%	42%
Threatened or used a gun, knife or other weapon	79	28%		42%	18%	41%
Episode of Physical Violence	163	59%	52,8 - 64,4			
<b>Sexual Violence</b>						
Physically forced to have sexual intercourse	56	20%		18%	29%	53%
Sexual intercourse because of fear of partner	63	23%		6%	29%	65%
Forced to do sexual acts that women found degrading or humiliating	34	12%		26%	38%	35%
Episode of Sexual Violence	80	29%	23,5 - 34,1			
<b>Physical or Sexual</b>	171	61,5%	55,5 – 67,3	25%	26%	49%

**Table 3.** Prevalence of types of IPV reported by women by socio-demographic characteristics of the women. Varjão, Brasil, 2007.

Characteristics	Prevalence of IPV			
	Physical violence	Psychological violence	Sexual violence	Physical or Sexual
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
<b><u>Age group</u></b>				
15 - 24	39 (55%)	59 (83%)	18 (25%)	43 (61%)
25 - 34	77 (58%)	104 (78%)	34 (26%)	79 (59%)
35 - 49	47 (64%)	60 (81%)	28 (38%)	49 (66%)
<b><u>Education (years)</u></b>				
1 to 4	53 (74%)	62 (86%)	28 (39%)	54 (75%)
5 - 7	58 (57%)	80 (79%)	26 (26%)	63 (62%)
8-10	34 (50%)	51 (75%)	18 (26%)	36 (53%)
11 or more	18 (49%)	30 (81%)	8 (22%)	18 (49%)
<b><u>Religion</u></b>				
Catholic	84 (59%)	114 (85%)	37 (26%)	89 (62%)
Evangelical	44 (55%)	63 (79%)	23 (29%)	46 (58%)
No religion	31 (65%)	41 (85%)	18 (38%)	32 (67%)
Other religion	4 (67%)	5 (83%)	2 (33%)	4 (67%)
<b><u>Occupation</u></b>				
Working	65 (63%)	82 (80%)	28 (27%)	66 (64%)
Unemployed/ Looking for a Job	92 (58%)	130 (81%)	49 (31%)	98 (61%)
Student	2 (25%)	5 (63%)	0	2 (25%)
Leave of Absence	4 (50%)	6 (75%)	3 (38%)	5 (63%)
<b><u>Marital Status</u></b>				
Currently married	35 (48%)	52 (71%)	20 (27%)	40 (55%)
Living with man	68 (55%)	98 (79%)	33 (27%)	71 (57%)
Regular partner, living apart	20 (59%)	29 (85%)	8 (24%)	20 (59%)
Had a partner	40 (85%)	44 (94%)	19 (40%)	40 (85%)
<b><u>Family Support</u></b>				
Yes	89 (56%)	126 (79%)	40 (25%)	93 (58%)
No	74 (63%)	97 (82%)	40 (34%)	78 (66%)
<b><u>Time of Residence</u></b>				
Up to 5 years	6 (50%)	11 (92%)	2 (17%)	8 (67%)
6 or more	157 (59%)	212 (80%)	78 (29%)	163 (61%)

**Tabela 4** Prevalence of physical violence by an intimate partner by demographic, behavior and context characteristics. Varjão, Brasil, 2007.

Characteristics	Physical Violence	%	Prevalence Ratio	$\chi^2$	p
<b>Women's Demographic Variables</b>					
<u>Educational Level (years)</u>					
Up to 4	53	73.6	1.51	10.3	0,016*
4 - 7	58	57.4	1.18		
8 - 10	34	50	1.03		
11 or more	18	48.6	1.00		
<u>Marital Status</u>					
Currently married/ Living with man/ Regular partner, living apart	123	53.5	1.00	14.6	<0,001*
Currently no partner, divorced, separated, widowed	40	83.3	1.56		
<u>Number of Marriage</u>					
1	104	52.3	1.00	11.7	<0,001*
2 or more	59	74.7	1.43		
<b>Partner's Demographic Variables</b>					
<u>Educational Level (years)</u>					
Up to 4	61	60.4	1.06	0.2	0.97
4 - 7	56	58.3	1.03		
8 - 10	25	53.8	1.00		
11 or more	21	56.8	1.00		
<b>Partner's Behavioral Variables</b>					
<u>Alcohol Use Frequency</u>					
Frequently	31	96.9	2.44	31.2	<0,001*
Moderate	83	61	1.54		
Rarely	17	54.8	1.38		
Never	31	39.7	1.00		
<u>Drug Use</u>					
Current Using	26	86.7	1.78	22.1	<0,001*
Used in the pass	39	73.6	1.51		
Never used	92	48.7	1.00		
<u>Extra-Conjugal Relationship</u>					
Yes	97	72.4	1.58	20.2	<0,001*
No	66	45.8	1.00		
<u>History of male-to-male physical violence</u>					
Yes	73	74.4	1.00	15.9	<0,001*
No	90	50.0			
<b>Context Variables</b>					
<u>Financial problems due alcohol use</u>					
Yes	54	87.1	1.54	17.8	<0,001*
No	78	56.5	1.00		
<u>Family problems due to alcohol use</u>					
Yes	72	81.8	1.53	17.5	<0,001*
No	60	53.6	1.00		

**Table 5.** Results of Multivariate Logistic Regression to examine the association of multi-level factors on the prevalence of physical or sexual violence reported by women. Varjão, Brasil,2007.

Odds Ratio Estimates			
Effect	Point Estimate	95% Wald Confidence Limit	
Number of partner controlling behavior			
1 to 3 controlling behavior x None	4.025	1.759	9.211
4 or more controlling behavior x None	16.804	5.611	50.325
Frequency of episodes of drunkenness	1.329	0.573	3.084
Monthly vs Never been intoxicated			
Weekly x Never	3.030	1.076	8.531
Drug User or Ex- drug user vs never used drugs	3.796	1.574	9.150
Partner's history of male-to-male violence reported by women (yes x no)	3.136	1.501	6.552
Partner's history of infidelity reported by women (yes x no)	2.426	1.223	4.814
Number of women's marriage	9.397	1.901	46.448
2 or more x None			
One marriage x None	5.795	1.284	26.159
Women's concern with level of community violence	6.602	1.453	29.998
Very worried x Not worried			
Community intervention in case of physical violence in the streets (yes x no)	2.300	1.176	4.496

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