

Intimate partner violence, sociodemographic factors and mental health among population based samples in Sweden

Akademisk avhandling

Som för avläggande av medicine doktorsexamen vid Sahlgrenska akademien, Göteborgs universitet kommer att offentligen försvaras i hörsal Arvid Carlsson, Academicum, Medicinaregatan 3 (Medicinareberget), fredagen den 5 april 2019, klockan 13:00

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Avhandlingen baseras på följande delarbeten

- I. Lövestad, S., Krantz, G., 2012, Men's and women's exposure and perpetration of partner violence: an epidemiological study from Sweden. *BMC Public Health*, 12:945.
- II. Lövestad, S., Löve, J., Vaez, M., Krantz G., 2017, Prevalence of intimate partner violence and its association with symptoms of depression; a cross-sectional study based on a female population sample in Sweden. *BMC Public Health*, 17:335.
- III. Lövestad, S., Vaez M., Löve, J., Hensing G., Krantz, G., Exposure to physical partner violence and associations with perceived need and primary health care utilization: pooled analyses of a population based study on women in Sweden (*Manuscript*).
- IV. Lövestad, S., Löve, J., Vaez, M., Waern, M., Hensing, G., Krantz, G., Suicidal ideation and attempts in population-based samples of women: temporal changes between 1989 and 2015 (*Revision submitted to BMC Public Health*).

**SAHLGRENKA AKADEMIN
INSTITUTIONEN FÖR MEDICIN**



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Abstract

The aim of this thesis was to explore the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and its association with sociodemographic factors, symptoms of depression, perceived need for mental care and primary health care utilization. Another aim was to explore the prevalence of self-reported suicidal ideation and attempts over a 26 year period and associations between sociodemographic factors and lifetime suicidal ideation.

Data was based on two postal surveys and face-to-face interviews. Prevalence's were used in descriptive data. Crude and adjusted Odds Ratios with 95% Confidence Intervals were used in bivariable and multivariable logistic regression analyses.

Compared to men, women reported higher prevalence of exposure to sexual violence for past year and earlier life. For past 12 months, 11.0% of the men and 8.0% of the women reported exposure to physical violence, whereas 15% of the women and 11.0% of the men reported such violence for earlier in life (Study I). Being single and having poor social support was associated with lifetime exposure to physical and/or sexual IPV among women, whereas among men, a relationship of ≤ 3 years was associated with IPV (Study I). Being exposed to physical, sexual violence as well as isolating control during past 12 months, was associated with self-reported symptoms of depression among women (Study II). Women exposed to physical IPV past 5 years were three times more likely to perceive the need for mental health care as compared to unexposed women (Study III). Of the women aged 20-30 years, 45% reported lifetime suicidal ideation in 2013/15 as compared to 1989/91 when 33% reported this. Self-reported rates of attempted suicide remained similar. Among women aged 31-49 years, 35.4% reported lifetime suicidal ideation in 2013/15 as compared to 2000/02 when 23.1% reported this. In this age group, lifetime suicide attempts increased from 0.0% in 2000/02 to 3.6% in 2013/15. Having compulsory and/ or high school education, being unemployed, being a student and being single was associated with lifetime suicidal ideation (Study IV).

Exposure to IPV showed different patterns between men and women. IPV was associated with symptoms of depression and need for mental care among women. Current finding indicate an increasing trend in suicidal ideation and attempts which should be further explored in future studies.

Keywords: Intimate Partner Violence, population based, symptoms of depression, perceived need for care, suicidal ideation and attempts