<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Intimate partner violence among older Chinese women</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Author(s)</strong></td>
<td>Tiwari, AFY; Cheung, DST; Wang, A; Luk, K</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Citation</strong></td>
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<td>2015</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intimate partner violence among older Chinese women

Agnes Tiwari, Denise Cheung, Amy Wang, Kevin Luk
School of Nursing, The University of Hong Kong
IPV in older women

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) has long been recognized as a serious public health problem.
- Relatively little attention has been given to IPV in late life.
- Wife abuse: older victims - a minority.
- Elder abuse: IPV - seldom studied.

• IPV in older women can manifest in 2 ways:
  – IPV grown old
  – New experience of violence with onset in older years
- Conflicting views on how IPV may differ between younger and older adults
- Use of coercive control tactics by intimate partners in older adults has received scant attention


Intimate partner violence against older Chinese women provides the context of the present analysis.
Original Study

The differential effects of intimate terrorism and situational couple violence among abused Chinese women: a mixed-method study

## Classifying different types of IPV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner (man)</th>
<th>Participant (woman)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Violence (man)</td>
<td>No Violence (woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-violent (man)</td>
<td>Non-violent (woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-violent (man)</td>
<td>Non-violent (woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent resistance (man)</td>
<td>Violent resistance (woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situational couple violence (SCV)</td>
<td>Situational couple violence (SCV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling aggression (man)</td>
<td>Intimate terrorism (IT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimate terrorism (IT)</td>
<td>Intimate terrorism (IT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual violent resistance (man)</td>
<td>Mutual violent resistance (woman)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• 613 Chinese women recruited from 18 districts in Hong Kong
• Quantitative instruments were administered to assess intimate partner violence, control by an intimate partner, and mental health outcomes
• Individual face-to-face interviews were conducted with 200 of the women to capture their experiences of intimate partner violence and the context in which it occurred
Sample age distribution

- 18-24 years old: 2%
- 25-54 years old: 87%
- >54 years old: 11%
Some unexpected findings
### Table 1: Sociodemographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>25-54 years old (n=534, 87.0%)</th>
<th>&gt;54 years old (n=67, 10.9%)</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education (years)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤ 9 years</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 9 years</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Living in Hong Kong (years)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 7 years</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 7 years</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chronic illness</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Despite being permanent residents of Hong Kong, they received less than 9 years of education.
- More of them reported chronic illness compared to the younger abused women.
## Table 2: IPV characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>25-54 years old (n=534, 87.0%)</th>
<th>&gt;54 years old (n=67, 10.9%)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical violence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual assault</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escalation of violence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, increasing</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stayed the same</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, decreasing</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: IPV characteristics (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fear</th>
<th>25-54 years old (n=534, 87.0%)</th>
<th>&gt;54 years old (n=67, 10.9%)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-BDI-II score (mean)</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td></td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-PCL-C score (mean)</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-CTS-2 score (mean)</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IPV characteristics

- No significant differences in IPV characteristics between younger and older abused Chinese women
- Thus, IPV in old age exists among Chinese women
Table 3: Comparison of IT and SCV survivors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>IT (n=188)</th>
<th>SCV (n=283)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>IT (n=24)</th>
<th>SCV (n=35)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Onset of violence</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>&gt;0.05</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of violence</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Bdi-II score</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-PCL-C score</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-CBS-R score</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-CTS-2 score</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Earlier onset was reported by older women survivors of IT → ?IPV grown old for IT
# Table 3: Comparison of IT and SCV survivors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>25-54 years old (n=543)</th>
<th>&gt;54 years old (n=67)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IT (n=188)</td>
<td>SCV (n=283)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onset of violence</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>34.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of violence (years)</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also difference in duration between IT and SCV survivors in the younger age group

Longer duration was reported by older women survivors of IT compared to older SCV survivors

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-PCL-C score</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>33.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-CBS-R score</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-CTS-2 score</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33.8 | 23.1 | <0.05
55.3 | 23.4 | <0.05
1.96 | 0.53 | <0.05
2.3  | 0.5  | <0.05
Table 3: Comparison of IT and SCV survivors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>25-54 years old (n=543)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Onset of violence</td>
<td>33.1 (n=188)</td>
<td>43.8 (n=24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of violence (years)</td>
<td>5.4 (n=188)</td>
<td>19.1 (n=24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-BDI-II score</td>
<td>33.4 (n=283)</td>
<td>27.0 (n=35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-PCL-C score</td>
<td>60.5 (n=283)</td>
<td>53.3 (n=35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-CBS-R score</td>
<td>2.25 (n=283)</td>
<td>1.96 (n=35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-CTS-2 score</td>
<td>2.8 (n=283)</td>
<td>2.3 (n=35)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For both age groups, IT had significantly worse effect on the women’s mental health compared to SCV survivors.
Limitations and implications
Limitations

• Self-selection of the participants- only for those who sought services
• Cross sectional study- unable to study the life course of IPV
• Secondary analysis- limited sample size for older women
Implications for practice

• **Assessment:**
  • Need to recognize that IPV against older Chinese women is not a single phenomenon
  • The context in which IPV occurs must be assessed also (level of control)
• The assumption that IPV is mainly a problem for women of childbearing age has long been questioned

• Our findings suggest that IPV against older women also exists among Chinese women

Implications for practice

• **Intervention:**
• Need to address the effect of long duration of controlling violence and how it may undermine the survivors’ confidence and prevent them from leaving the violent relationship
• This was the first secondary analysis to examine and compare the dynamics and effect on mental health between IT and SCV survivors in two age groups of Chinese women

• Sound theoretical frameworks are required to facilitate early detection and inform intervention
We would like to acknowledge the Research Grant Council for granting the General Research Fund.

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