



Intimate partner violence among older Chinese women

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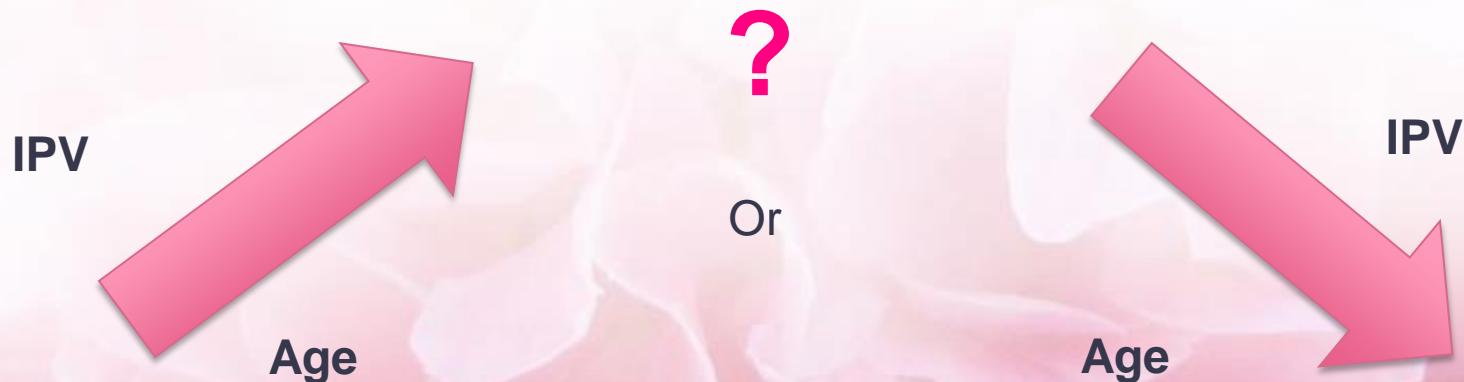
IPV in older women

- 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



Wilke, D. J., & Vinton, L. (2005). The nature and impact of domestic violence across age cohorts. *Affilia*, 20(3), 316-328.

Rennison, C. M., & Rand, M. R. (2003). Nonlethal Intimate Partner Violence Against Women: A Comparison of Three Age Cohorts. *Violence against women*, 9(12), 1417-1428.



*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



The screenshot shows the BMC Public Health journal interface. At the top left is the BMC Public Health logo. To its right is an orange box indicating an Impact Factor of 2.26. A search bar contains the text 'BMC Public Health' and a dropdown arrow. Below the logo and search bar is a navigation menu with buttons for 'Home', 'Articles', 'Authors', 'Reviewers', 'About this journal', and 'My BMC Public Health'. The main content area features the article title in blue, followed by the authors' names: Agnes Tiwari^{1*}, Ko Ling Chan², Denise Shuk Ting Cheung¹, Daniel Yee Tak Fong¹, Elsie Chau Wai Yan², and Debbie Hoi Ming Tang³. To the right of the title are two buttons: 'Highly accessed' (red) and 'Open Access' (blue).

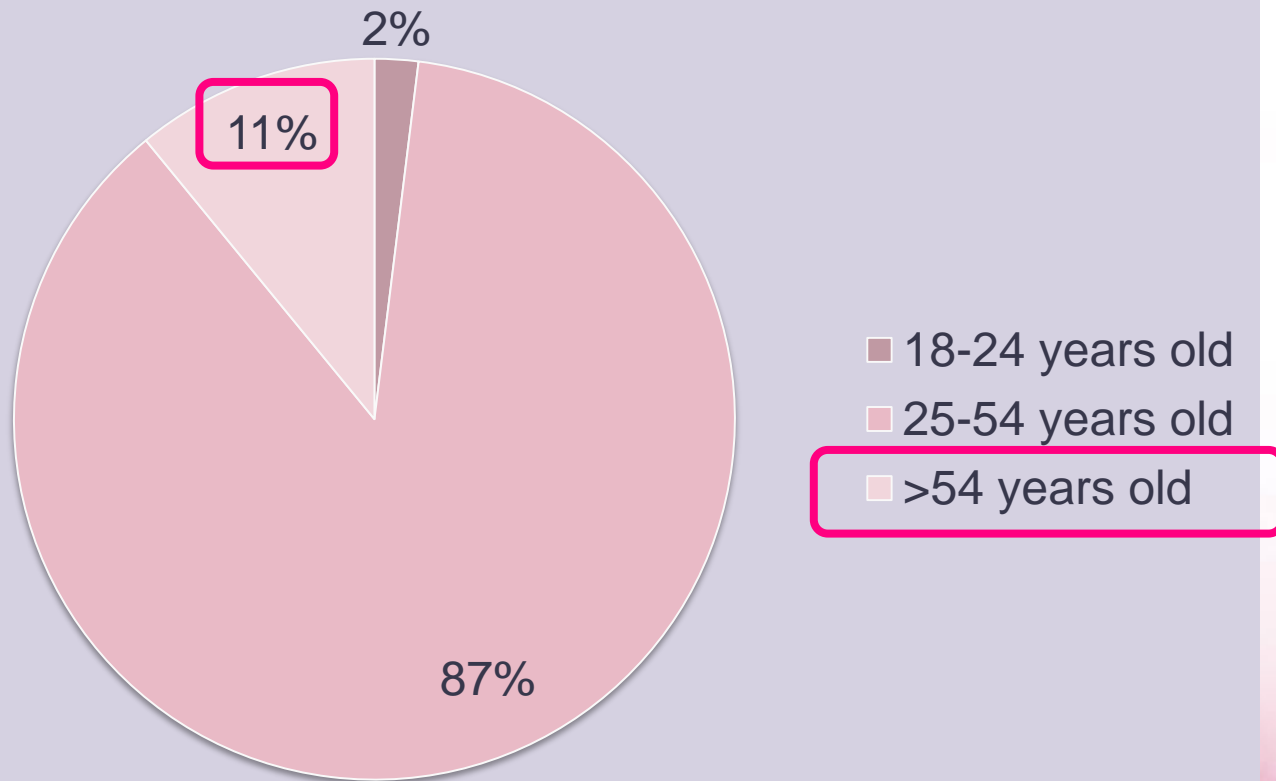
Tiwari, A., Chan, K.L., Cheung, D.S.T., Fong, D.Y.T., Yan, E.C.W., & Tang, D.H.M. (2015). The differential effects of intimate terrorism and situational couple violence on mental health outcomes among abused Chinese women: a mixed-method study. *BMC Public Health*, 15, 314.

Classifying different types of IPV

		Participant (woman)		
		No Violence	Non controlling aggression	Controlling aggression
Partner (man)	No Violence	Non-violent	Non-violent	Non-violent
	Non controlling aggression	Situational couple violence (SCV)	Situational couple violence	Violent resistance
	Controlling aggression	Intimate terrorism (IT)	Intimate terrorism	Mutual violent resistance

- 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



Some unexpected findings



Table 1: Sociodemographics

	25-54 years old (n=534, 87.0%)		>54 years old (n=67, 10.9%)		p ^a
	n	%	n	%	
Education (years)					
≤ 9 years	343	64	54	81	<0.05
> 9 years	191	36	13	20	
Living in Hong Kong (years)					
≥ 7 years	312	59	65	97	<0.05
< 7 years	219	41	2	3	
Chronic illness					
Yes	26	5	10	15	<0.05
No	508	95	57	85	

- 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

	25-54 years old (n=534, 87.0%)		>54 years old (n=67, 10.9%)		p-value
	n	%	n	%	
Psychological abuse					
Yes	533	100	66	99	>0.05
No	1	0	1	1	
Physical violence					
Yes	467	88	52	78	>0.05
No	67	12	15	22	
Sexual assault					
Yes	171	32	15	22	>0.05
No	361	68	52	78	
Escalation of violence					
Yes, increasing	200	41	23	42	>0.05
Stayed the same	168	35	16	30	
No, decreasing	117	24	15	28	

Table 2: IPV characteristics (continued)

	25-54 years old (n=534, 87.0%)		>54 years old (n=67, 10.9%)		p-value
	n	%	n	%	
Fear					
Yes	321	60	34	51	>0.05
No	213	40	33	49	
C-BDI-II score (mean)	23.6		18.5		>0.05
C-PCL-C score (mean)	46.2		41.1		>0.05
C-CTS-2 score (mean)	1.70		1.36		>0.05

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

	25-54 years old (n=543)			>54 years old (n=67)		
	IT (n=188)	SCV (n=283)	P-value	IT (n=24)	SCV (n=35)	P-value
Onset of violence	33.1	34.1	>0.05	43.8	54.1	<0.05
Duration of violence (years)	5.1	4.1	<0.05	5.1	4.1	<0.05
C-BDI-II score	33.4	15.0	<0.05	27.0	10.1	<0.05
C-PCL-C score	60.5	33.9	<0.05	53.3	28.1	<0.05
C-CBS-R score	2.25	0.59	<0.05	1.96	0.53	<0.05
C-CTS-2 score	2.8	0.6	<0.05	2.3	0.5	<0.05

No difference in onset between IT and SCV survivors in the younger age group

Earlier onset was reported by older women survivors of IT
 → ?IPV grown old for IT

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Onset of violence	33.1	34.1	>0.05	43.8	54.1	<0.05
Duration of violence (years)	5.4	4.1	<0.05	19.1	8.1	<0.05
C-PCL-C score	60.5	33.9	<0.05	53.9	23.1	<0.05
C-CBS-R score	2.25	0.59	<0.05	1.96	0.53	<0.05
C-CTS-2 score	2.8	0.6	<0.05	2.3	0.5	<0.05

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

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C-CBS-R score	2.25	0.59	<0.05	1.96	0.53	<0.05
C-CTS-2 score	2.8					<0.05

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
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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



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