

Men's Alcohol Consumption and Women's Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence in Ukraine

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Abstract (150)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a matter of concern across the globe, especially in Ukraine, where a fourth of ever-married women report having experienced some type of emotional, physical, or sexual violence perpetrated by a partner or husband. Leveraging data from the 2007 Demographic and Health Survey, this visualization summarizes women's experiences of physical, sexual, and emotional IPV according to their husbands' alcohol consumption. The proportionally drawn square matrix chart depicts the prevalence of IPV in Ukraine, by type, and confirms the strong association between alcohol consumption and IPV found in previous research. This study adds to an existing literature on the impact of alcohol on IPV perpetration and suggests a need for targeted interventions that address alcohol use in intimate partnerships. Read today in the current context of armed conflict in Ukraine, we are reminded of the urgent need for reliable and recent data on health and family life.

Keywords (3)

intimate partner violence, alcohol consumption, gender

Text (517)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a matter of great concern across the globe, especially in Ukraine, where a fourth of ever-married women report having experienced some type of emotional, physical, or sexual violence perpetrated by a partner or husband. Additionally, Ukraine is characterized by elevated levels of alcohol use and alcoholism in comparison to other European countries, particularly among men (Bromet et al. 2005). This is concerning given that men's alcohol use has been identified as the strongest risk factor associated with IPV perpetration in Ukraine and across former Soviet states (Barrett et al. 2012, Ismayilova 2015).

This figure leverages data from the most recent Demographic and Health Survey fielded in Ukraine; effectively, I summarize the experiences of currently-married Ukrainian women in 2007 according to their husbands' levels of alcohol consumption. The measure of violence distinguishes women's cumulative experience of physical, sexual, and emotional intimate partner violence.

The matrix chart is partitioned proportionally, according to women's reports of their husbands' drinking habits: never, sometimes, or often. Each square of the matrix represents 0.1% of the total weighted sample of currently-married Ukrainian women, for a total of 1000 squares. Within each group, the proportion of women who report intimate partner violence are denoted by the color of the square: those having experienced physical violence are denoted in yellow, emotional violence in blue, and sexual violence in red. Because women can and do experience multiple types of IPV, combinations of violence are represented by multi-colored squares.

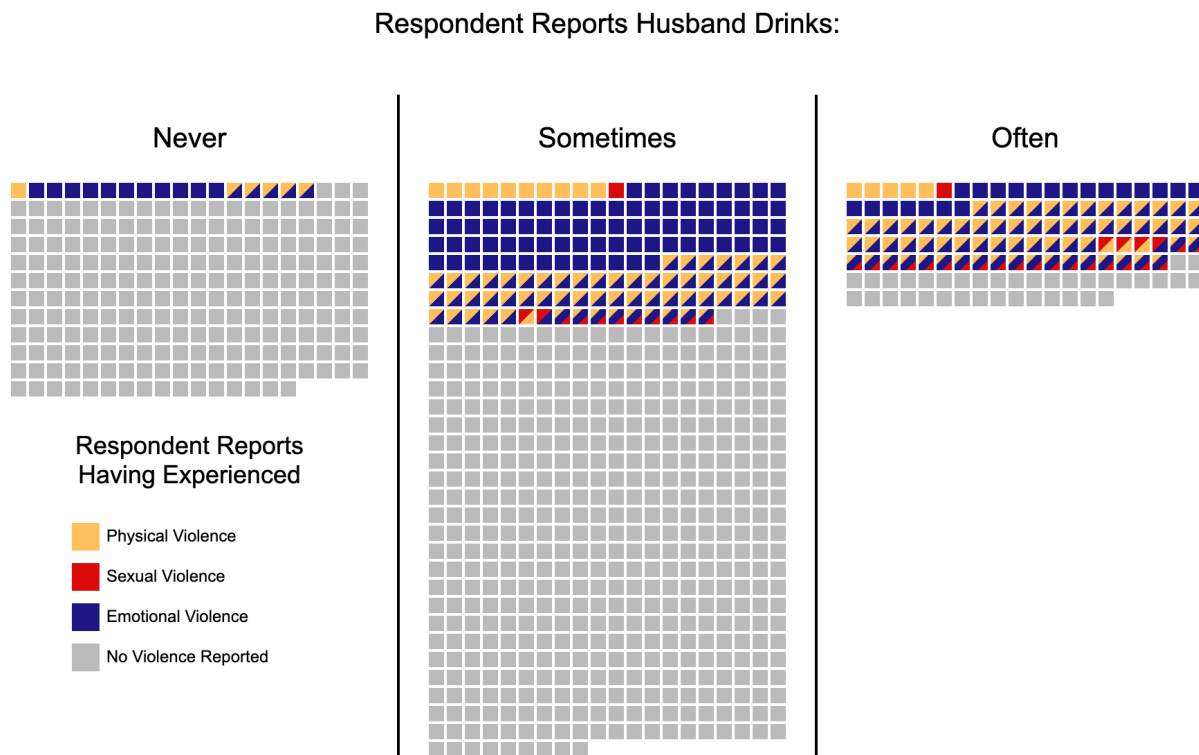
Overall, this visualization allows readers to 1) compare frequencies of how often women report their husbands drink, 2) compare frequencies of the forms of IPV women experience, and, importantly, 3) comprehend the relative proportion of IPV experiences in each alcohol-consumption group. For women with abstemious husbands, 7% report having experienced at least one form of IPV, with none of these women reporting sexual violence. Among women whose husbands sometimes drink, nearly a quarter (24.5%) experienced some form of violence. Nearly three-fourths (72.6%) of women whose husbands often drink report having experienced some form of IPV. Moreover, women with husbands who drink "often" experience extremely high levels of violence; with over one third (36.2%) reporting IPV experiences, even though they make up just 13% of the sample. The most prevalent form of IPV is emotional violence (24.9%), followed by physical (15.3%), and sexual (3.7%) violence.

Confirming the strong relationship between alcohol consumption and intimate partner violence shown in previous epidemiological studies (e.g. Foran and O'Leary 2008), this visualization underscores the prevalence of IPV in Ukraine and the role of alcohol as a risk factor in intimate partnerships. The current conditions of conflict in Ukraine have disrupted daily life, including the collection of data on health and familial relationships. Research from other conflict settings suggests that the stress of armed conflict exacerbates IPV, among other social problems (Annan and Brier, 2010). As the consequences of war are cataloged and examined by scholars and humanitarian workers, the prevalence and patterning of IPV among Ukrainian families should be counted among the many urgent questions that need to be answered.

References:

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Figure 1: Ever-married Ukrainian Women's Experience of Intimate Partner Violence, Given How Often Her Husband Drinks, 2007



Source: Demographic and Health Surveys Program, Ukraine 2007

Note: This square matrix chart depicts the proportion of ever-married Ukrainian women who report having ever experienced intimate partner violence (IPV); the matrix is partitioned into three panels according to women's reports of how often their husbands drink: 'never', 'sometimes', or 'often.' Squares are colored to denote the proportion of women who have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence, or any combination thereof. Each square represents 0.1% of the total weighted sample of Ukrainian women from the 2007 Demographic and Health Survey. The matrix is composed of 1000 squares.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Allison Towey is a graduate student at the University of Chicago. Her work on data visualization can be found at <https://www.allisontowey.com/>.

IRB

Exempt.

DATA AVAILABILITY

All DHS Program data are available to researchers through <https://dhsprogram.com/>

GRANT SUPPORT

None declared.

CONFLICTS

None declared.