Prevalence and influencing factors of intimate partner violence victimization among men who have sex with men in Guangzhou, China

Lin Kai-hao[1], Li Jing[1], Tan Zhi-min[1], Chen Xiao-bin[1], Cheng Wei-bin[2], Xu Hui-fang[2], Yang Yi[1], Jiang Hong-bo[1]

[1]School of Public Health, Guangdong Pharmaceutical University, Guangzhou, 510310, China
[2]Department of AIDS Control and Prevention, Guangzhou Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Guangzhou 510440, China
Corresponding author: Jiang Hongbo, Email: hongbojiang3@163.com

Objectives

To understand prevalence and influencing factors of intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Guangzhou.

Methods

From May to November 2017, men who were aged 18 years and over, living in Guangzhou for more than 3 months, and had anal sex with men in the past 6 month, were recruited in voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) clinics, Lingnan partners and Zhitong charity in Guangzhou. Information on socio-demographic characteristics, sexual behaviors, substance use, and experience of IPV were collected using an anonymous electronic questionnaire. Chi-squared and non-conditional multivariate logistic regressions were used to explore the influencing factors of IPV victimization.

Results

Among the 976 MSM included, the mean (SD) age was 28.35 years (6.83). Majority of them were employed, never married, educated with college or above, and earning more than 5,000 yuan per month. A total of 129 (13.22%) MSM reported experiencing IPV. Multivariate logistic regression analysis indicated that individuals educated with high school education or above were at a lower risk to report IPV experience than those educated with junior high school or less (aOR=0.50, 95%CI: 0.27-0.92). Participants who had unprotected anal intercourse or had sex with a female partner in the past 6 months were at a higher risk of IPV victimization (aOR=1.47, 95%CI: 1.00-2.16; aOR=1.94, 95%CI: 1.24-3.03) than those did not have. Individuals who used rush poppers before sex had a higher risk of IPV (aOR=1.88, 95%CI: 1.28-2.75) than those did not use.

Table 1 Socio-demographic characteristics, sexual behaviors, substance use and IPV experience among MSM in Guangzhou, China (N=976)

Variable	IPV Victimization (%)[a]	No IPV Victimization (%)[a]	χ^2	P	Variable	IPV Victimization (%)[a]	No IPV Victimization (%)[a]	χ^2	P
Age, years			4.645	0.031	Sexual role			0.102	0.950
≤ 29	76(11.59)	580(88.41)			Insertive	20(12.74)	137(87.26)		
> 29	53(16.56)	267(83.44)			Both insertive and receptive	87(13.16)	574(86.84)		
Ethnic*			0.551	0.458	Receptive	22(13.92)	136(86.08)		
Han	121(13.04)	807(86.96)			**Sexual behavior in the past 6 month**				
Minority	5(17.86)	23(82.14)			Ever had multiple male sexual partners[b]			2.687	0.101
Duration in Guangzhou, years			0.003	0.953	No	41(10.96)	333(89.04)		
≤1	15(13.39)	97(86.61)			Yes	88(14.62)	514(85.38)		
>1	114(13.19)	750(86.81)			Ever had unprotected anal intercourse			6.183	0.013
Marital status			2.623	0.269	No	54(10.63)	454(89.37)		
Never married	107(12.60)	742(87.40)			Yes	75(16.03)	393(83.97)		
Married/Cohabiting	17(16.35)	87(83.65)			Ever had homosexual commercial sex			8.049	0.005
Divorced/Widowed	5(21.74)	18(78.26)			No	115(12.47)	807(87.53)		
Education			12.192	<0.001	Yes	14(25.93)	40(74.07)		
Junior school or less	18(27.27)	78(72.73)			Ever had regular male sex partners			3.789	0.052
High school or above	111(12.20)	799(88.80)			No	50(16.34)	256(83.66)		
Employment status*			3.559	0.059	Yes	79(11.79)	591(88.21)		
Employed	112(14.23)	675(85.77)			Ever had casual male sex partners			0.670	0.413
Unemployed	17(9.04)	171(90.96)			No	49(12.16)	354(87.84)		
Monthly income, yuan			8.094	0.088	Yes	80(13.96)	493(86.04)		
0	11(9.32)	107(90.68)			Ever had sex with female partners			13.723	<0.001
1~	16(16.67)	80(83.33)			No	91(11.35)	711(88.65)		
3001~	47(17.22)	226(82.78)			Yes	38(21.84)	136(78.16)		
5001~	35(10.94)	285(89.06)			**Substance use in the past 6 month**				
10001~	20(11.23)	149(88.17)			Ever drank alcohol before sex			2.564	0.109
Age of first homosexual anal sex, years			0.060	0.807	No	80(12.03)			
<18	14(14.00)	86(86.00)			Yes	49(15.76)	585(87.97)		
≥18	115(13.13)	761(86.87)			Ever had rush poppers use before sex			11.454	0.001
Using condoms at first anal sex			0.726	0.696	No	67(10.53)	569(89.47)		
Yes	85(13.08)	565(86.92)			Yes	62(18.24)	278(81.76)		
No	34(14.47)	201(85.53)							
Can't remember exactly	10(11.09)	81(89.01)							

Note. * data missing; [a] proportion; [b] multiple male sexual partners: ≥ 2 male sexual partners.

Table 2 Non-conditional logistic regression models exploring correlates of IPV victimization among MSM in Guangzhou, China (N=976)

Variable	β	SE	Waldχ^2	P	aOR	95%CI
High school education or above (ref. junior high school or less)	-0.69	0.36	4.950	**0.026**	**0.50**	**0.27-0.92**
Ever had unprotected anal intercourse in the past 6 months (ref. no)	0.39	0.20	3.877	**0.049**	**1.47**	**1.00-2.16**
Ever had homosexual commercial sex in the past 6 months (ref. no)	0.64	0.34	3.528	0.060	1.90	0.97-3.73
Ever had sex with female partners in the past 6 months(ref. no)	0.66	0.23	8.491	**0.004**	**1.94**	**1.24-3.03**
Ever had rush poppers use before sex in the past 6 month (ref. no)	0.63	0.20	10.326	**0.001**	**1.88**	**1.28-2.75**

Note. aOR = adjusted odds ratio; CI = confidence interval. Adjusted for age.

Conclusions

The prevalence of IPV victimization was relatively high among MSM in Guangzhou. Targeted interventions need to be conducted to reduce the occurrence of IPV, particularly for those with lower education, had unprotected anal sex or had sex with female partner or used rush poppers before sex in the past 6 months.

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