Alcohol, and Violence Against Women and Girls: Pooled analyses from Low-middle Income Settings

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Introduction

• Harmful alcohol use is increasingly recognized as a **driver** of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) ¹

• IPV perpetration is often preceded by drinking and harmful (binge drinking) and is associated with severity of partner violence, injury, and femicide ¹,²

• Evidence of a bidirectional relationship between alcohol and other drugs and GBV.

• GBV leads to an increased use of alcohol and drugs, often to cope with the trauma which, in turn increases risk for GBV.

• Despite the evidence, its importance has been contested, and most research emerges from global North.
Based on analyses from five LMIC settings across Africa, we sought to establish the association between alcohol and VAWG (IPV and NPSV) perpetration and experience, respectively.

- To understand the intersections between alcohol use and violence perpetration and experience in four LMIC in Africa (5 studies)
- To illustrate the impact of violence prevention interventions on Alcohol, VAWG
Methods

• Pooled analysis of cross-sectional baseline data from the Global What Works to Prevent Violence against women and girls global programme
  • **Alcohol**: 8104 men and 5613 women 18+ years old
  • Comparable measures of alcohol use (past year alcohol use and AUDIT)
  • Physical and sexual IPV & NPSV (WHO)
  • **Setting**: (SA x2 studies, Rwanda x 2 studies, Ghana 1 study)

Main outcomes:
Physical and non-partner sexual violence perpetration (men)
Physical and non-partner sexual violence experience (women)
Among the 8104 men 51% consumed alcohol in the past year
• Range: 37% to 69%
• 24% of men reported past year harmful alcohol use was 24% range: 11%–44%
• Almost 1/3 of men (29%) perpetrated IPV
• 25% perpetrated NPSV
Among the 5163 women, 37% reported having seen their partner drunk in the past 12 months.

Range: 14%–53%

16% reported seeing their partner frequently drunk in the past year.

Range: 8%–23%

35% of women reported experiencing IPV in the past year.
Men’s Alcohol Use & Odds of IPV Perpetration

- Consistent associations between harmful alcohol use in the past year and past year physical IPV across all individual studies, and in the pooled analysis
Men’s Alcohol Use & Odds of NPSV Perpetration

• Consistent associations between harmful alcohol use in the past year and past year Non-Partner Sexual Violence IPV across all individual studies, and in the pooled analysis
Women’s Reports of Partner and Alcohol Use & Odds of Violence Experience

- Consistent associations between women’s reports of partner alcohol use and IPV experience
- Women who had seen their partner occasionally drunk or frequently drunk in the past 12 months had an overall increased odds of experiencing physical IPV
Intervention Impacts on Alcohol, VAWG & Mental Health

**VATU, Zambia**

Alcohol use for women and men by arm in the VATU trial

**SSCF, South Africa**

Alcohol use by men in the Stepping Stones and Creating Futures trial by arm

**Zindagii Tajikistan**

Alcohol use mean scores (>=more)

Post-year violence perpetration

Prevalence of depression and IPV

Prevalence of alcohol use and IPV

- Intervention - men
- Control - men
- Intervention - women
- Control - women

- Intervention - depression
- Control - depression
- Intervention - physical IPV
- Control - physical IPV
Discussion

• Harmful alcohol use associated with increased IPV and NPSV perpetration among men, and experience for women in LMIC settings

• Interventions aimed at reducing alcohol may lead to reductions in IPV & NPSV perpetration and experience.

• We need to intervene in an integrated manger across sectors (GBVF and substance use) on the continuum from prevention to treatment

• Men in substance use treatment programmes should be screened for GBV perpetration and women for GBV experience
THANK YOU

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