

## Intimate partner violence: Effects on health among refugee women in Jordan

### Abstract

**Background:** Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a problem experienced by women in refugee camps. Physical health was rarely assessed among victims of violence of this group.

**Objectives:** This study aimed at identifying the prevalence of physical health problems among IPV victimized women of Palestinian origin. Associations between health problems and type of violence by the partner were assessed as well.

**Design and Sample:** A cross-sectional study was implemented and a sample of 238 women provided data for this study. Participants were recruited from women attending United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) healthcare centers in three Jordanian cities.

**Results:** A variety of health problems were reported by victims of IPV. However, rates of physical health problems were higher among victims of psychological IPV, with many had significant associations with psychological IPV, compared to victims of physical and sexual IPV. Furthermore, women's self-rated health status was only significant with psychological IPV ( $X^2 = 14.1, p < .0001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Findings of the study indicated that women's physical health is a fundamental target for psychological IPV; a conclusion that highlights significance of psychological IPV in victims' lives.