

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - MUFTIC & DELJKIC 2012

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We will now be exploring intimate partner violence in Eastern countries in an article written by Muftic and Deljkic entitled "Exploring the Overlap Between Offending and Victimization Within Intimate Partner violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although intimate partner violence in the overlap between victimization and offending are believed to impact all segments of society across the globe, the majority of the research to date has focused on Western samples. An example of such defender-victim overlap research in North America, Britain, and Western Europe had been presented in a series of studies identified here.

Generally, three main findings have emerged from victim-offender overlap research in the West. First, both victims and offenders share a similar demographic profile. It is also believed that victims and offenders are often one in the same. And then finally, similar processes seem to produce offending and victimization. Although limited, support for these results have been found with non-Western research in Columbia, Puerto Rico, and South Korea.

As Muftic and Deljkic point out, there's a shortage of research on the link between intimate partner violence and victim-offender overlap, especially among diverse, national, cultural, religious, and ethnic groups. Therefore, in an effort to address this gap in literature, these authors examined an adult Bosnian sample to determine the relationship between intimate partner violence offending and intimate partner violence victimization. And they did this through an analysis of the similarities and differences among intimate partner violence victims, offenders, and victim-offenders.

Overall, perpetration of intimate partner violence has been influenced by the post conflict environment of current Bosnia, which is marked by a moral, economic, and political crisis. As such, assessing the rates of intimate partner violence in Bosnia has proven to be quite difficult due to the vast differences and statistics that are available. For example, the official statistics suggest that intimate partner violence occurs at a rate of 0.3 per 1,000 adults 15 and older, whereas victim hotlines registered 3 per 1,000 adults 15 and older.

Additionally, nongovernment organizations report that most Bosnian women who are victims of intimate partner violence remain silent. And research shows that Bosnian women are more likely than women in neighboring countries to experience intimate partner violence. This is potentially due to the post-war environment of Bosnia.

Given this information, the current study sought to answer five specific research questions. For instance, what is the prevalence of intimate partner violence perpetration? What is the prevalence of intimate partner violence victimization? What percentage of Bosnian adults in this sample have experienced both intimate partner violence, perpetration, and victimization? What percentage of Bosnian adults in this sample have experienced exclusive intimate partner violence and behaviors? And are their demographic and behavioral differences between exclusive intimate partner violence

offenders, exclusive intimate partner violence victims, and intimate partner violence victim offenders?

Surveys were administered to two different groups in 2006 and 2008. The first group consisted of 70 Bosnian women who completed the survey in 2006. The 2008 survey was completed by 137 law enforcement officers. After the removal of seven cases due to missing values, the final sample included 200 adult Bosnians survey between 2006 and 2008.

The respondent's demographic background was determined based on their sex, age, education, marital status, children and ethnic affiliation. Three subscales were created for victimization and offending, particularly physical assault, sexual coercion, and injury. Also, three groupings were created to categorize the victim-offender overlap groups into exclusive victims, exclusive offenders, and victim offenders.

Results from the analysis conducted suggests that half the sample reported no physical or sexual violence in the past or current relationships. For those with a history of IPV, almost 75% of individuals have participated in both perpetration and victimization behaviors, which is also known as situational couple violence. Victimization rates show that 13.5% of the sample had been subjected to physical victimization, and 35.5% had experienced sexual victimization.

Higher rates of perpetration and victimization were reported among women, and relatively high rates of sexual perpetration for both men, with 32.4%, and women, at 44.95%, were reported. Additionally, the results from this study also suggests that women are significantly overrepresented as exclusive victims and underrepresented as exclusive offenders of intimate partner violence.

Limitations of this study are also addressed by the authors, starting with the small sample size and the small cell sizes for exclusive victims and exclusive offenders. The sample composition could also be worrisome since the two samples were combined and nonprobability-based sampling was used to recruit the respondents from both samples. The current study also relied on a fairly homogeneous sample, which may prevent the results of this study from being generalizable to the country as a whole.

Additionally, there are limitations associated with the use of self-report questionnaires, especially considering the variable of interest, because it's sensitive in nature. Also, they relied on their Revised Conflict Tactics Scale to measure intimate partner violence perpetration and victimization as this scale has been criticized for its failure to account for the gender nature of intimate partner violence. Finally of concern, this scale specifically was also developed for use in Western societies, and its applications in Bosnia may be a limitation.

Taken together, this study found that outcomes associated with intimate partner violence differ by group. As such, if adequate services are to be provided to the victim in need, a distinction between victims and victim offenders as necessary. Now he also suggests that reserving formal responses for high-risk cases may have the most impact on reducing intimate partner violence. The findings also

stress that to ensure proper treatment of individuals, intimate partner violence programs and services must be conscious and educated on the victim-offender overlap specifically.