



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

By: Kayla Stemmer

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIC

BACKGROUND

Domestic violence has been a disturbing and ongoing problem for centuries. This problem has been characterized by a lack of nuanced understanding of who the victims are and why so many choose to stay.

METHODS

- Descriptive research study
- Secondary analysis of data
- Sample: 50 clients selected randomly from WHW's database
- Secondary analysis of existing data

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Are there certain characteristics that describe abused women in intimate relationships? YES.
- Are there common factors that could categorize women based on demographics to the extent that they could be grouped by common factors into a typology? YES.
- What is the race, sexual orientation, relationship status, and age of women being abused in intimate relationships?

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN (WHW)

WHW is a non-profit organization that serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this research is to identify contributing factors to women being abused in intimate relationships. This information can be used to help identify women in abusive situations and could also be used to develop prevention and educational programs.

POPULATION

50 randomly selected women from WHW

DISCUSSION

Eradicating DV is important to SW and this study can help identify a typology so that primary prevention and educational programs can be created to intervene BEFORE the DV happens,

CONCLUSIONS

Women in abusive relationships can be categorized which is important because that means we can begin to develop primary prevention and education plans to catch DV before it ever takes root.

RESULTS

AGE

- MEAN: 33.4 yrs
- MEDIAN: 32.5 yrs
- MODE: 38 yrs
- RANGE: 40 yrs

RACE

- MODE: Black/white
- BLACK: 21/50 (42%)
- WHITE: 21/50 (42%)
- ASIAN: 2/50 (4%)
- HISPANIC: 5/50 (10%)
- MULTIRACIAL: 1/50 (2%)

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- MODE: Straight, 50/50 (100%)

RELATIONSHIP STATUS

- MODE: Current intimate partner (IP)
- CURRENT SPOUSE: 9/50 (18%)
- FORMER SPOUSE: 3/50 (6%)
- CURRENT IP: 18/50 (36%)
- FORMER IP: 17/50 (34%)
- DATING: 3/50 (6%)

109 Domestic Violence Fatalities

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

