

## Men as Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

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# Third-party perceptions of intimate partner violence victimization in men.

First Posting Database: APA PsycArticles

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[Thomas, Paul A. Hart, Kathleen J.](#)

### Citation

Thomas, P. A., & Hart, K. J. (2022). Third-party perceptions of intimate partner violence victimization in men. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000406>

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### Abstract

Evidence is accumulating that men frequently experience and are harmed by intimate partner violence (IPV), although this form of IPV has only recently been studied. Recent studies suggest that social stereotypes may negatively influence men's help-seeking and outcomes following IPV. We assessed the third-party perception of a man versus a women who experienced physical and psychological IPV.

Using video vignettes of psychological/physical IPV that varied only in the gender of the perpetrator and victim, 168 participants recruited from an online survey platform and a Midwestern private university were randomly assigned to view an interaction depicting either a man or woman IPV victim.

Participants rated their emotional response immediately after watching the vignette, followed by perceptions of the IPV victim and perpetrator.

Participants reported less negative affect after viewing IPV perpetrated against a man versus against a woman, and male IPV victims were rated as deserving of less sympathy, less in need of medical, psychological, and legal help, and less successful, powerful, and socially desirable than female IPV victims.

Post hoc analyses regarding perpetrator criminality and identification of the IPV victim using the "victim" label also differed by IPV victim gender. Our findings suggest that preconceived notions based on gender roles impede the identification of men as victims and likely influence their treatment by friends, medical and mental health care providers, and legal authorities. Further research is needed to inform the unique interpersonal and intrapersonal stereotyping that may explain men's help-seeking and outcomes in IPV victimization. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2022 APA, all rights reserved)

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## Impact Statement

The present study draws attention to the ways that men who are victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) are viewed by others, which provides additional information about the unique experiences of these men. Compared to women who are victimized in the same manner, the male victim portrayed in this study faced interpersonal and internalized stigma, reduced sympathy, shame, and other judgments that are likely to significantly reduce men's help-seeking, willingness to apply the "victim" label, and other important outcomes in IPV victimization. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2022 APA, all rights reserved)

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# Men's experiences of help-seeking for female-perpetrated intimate partner violence: A qualitative exploration.

Journal Article Database: APA PsycInfo

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[Hogan, Kevin F. Clarke, Victoria Ward, Tony](#)

## Citation

Hogan, K. F., Clarke, V., & Ward, T. (2021). Men's experiences of help-seeking for female-perpetrated intimate partner violence: A qualitative exploration. *Counselling & Psychotherapy Research*, 21(4), 934–945. <https://doi.org/10.1002/capr.12409>

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## Abstract

The subject of female-perpetrated intimate partner violence (IPV) against men has been one of controversy, with well-rehearsed arguments surrounding both the nature and existence of female-perpetrated abuse against men.

The aims of this study were to explore men's help-seeking experiences and/or their perceptions of utilising support services/support networks following IPV victimisation.

Consequently, this study explored the help-seeking experiences of 26, largely British, men who self-identified as having experienced female-perpetrated IPV. As the focus was on subjective experiences, a qualitative design was employed. Participation was invited from men who had sought help for their IPV victimisation from a range of sources and those who had not sought help at all.

Semi-structured interviews explored the men's experiences of seeking help, and barriers to seeking help, following IPV. The data were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. Some

of the participants who took part in this study had received formal support for their experiences of IPV (i.e. counselling, calling IPV helplines and support services, contact with social workers or the police) and informal support (e.g. speaking to work colleagues, family and friends).

Five participants had never spoken to anybody about their experiences prior to taking part in the interview. A range of barriers prevented the men from seeking help. First and foremost, the importance of maintaining a sense of masculinity consistently underpinned the participants' narratives.

The men's fear of being judged negatively by others was often not unfounded. Negative help-seeking experiences included being treated with suspicion and contempt. Positive help-seeking experiences facilitated the men in recognising their relationship as abusive, which for some of the men was influential in their decision to leave or seek help.

The lack of recognition and understanding of male IPV within society was of concern to most of the men. Some expressed a desire to use their own experiences in order to help other men in abusive relationships. These results have important implications for the development of appropriate support for male victims, including the need for practitioners to be non-judgemental whilst assisting men in recognising their relationship as abusive. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2021 APA, all rights reserved)

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## **“No one would ever believe me”: An exploration of the impact of intimate partner violence victimization on men.**

Journal Article Database: APA PsycArticles

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[Bates, Elizabeth A.](#)

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### **Citation**

Bates, E. A. (2020). “No one would ever believe me”: An exploration of the impact of intimate partner violence victimization on men. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*, 21(4), 497–507. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000206>

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### **Abstract**

The aim of this study was to explore the impact of men's experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) in a non-help-seeking sample.

Utilizing an anonymous online survey to encourage disclosure, men were asked how their experiences had impacted on them, what barriers they had experienced to leaving the relationship, and what their perceptions were of societal attitudes about men and IPV.

Findings indicated that men’s experiences impacted on their physical and mental health, the development of future relationships, and their relationships with their children. They described the impact of attitudes toward male victims of IPV as being significant and felt society did not believe men who described these experiences, often perceiving them as “weak” or in fact “abusers.”

These contributed toward the barriers men experience to both help-seeking and to leaving the relationship. The findings are discussed in relation to current U.K. policy and practice, including reference to IPV being treated as a gendered crime under a “Violence against Women and Girls” strategy (Ministry of Justice, 2018). (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2020 APA, all rights reserved)

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# Male victims of female-perpetrated partner violence: A qualitative analysis of men’s experiences, the impact of violence, and perceptions of their worth.

Journal Article Database: APA PsycArticles

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[Machado, Andreia Hines, Denise Douglas, Emily M.](#)

## Citation

Machado, A., Hines, D., & Douglas, E. M. (2020). Male victims of female-perpetrated partner violence: A qualitative analysis of men’s experiences, the impact of violence, and perceptions of their worth. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*, 21(4), 612–621.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000285>

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## Abstract

There has been a recent increase in the amount of research on male victims of female-perpetrated partner violence (PV), but research needs to be conducted to understand how the patterns of abuse persist in these relationships.

In the current study, the experiences of 59 male PV victims in the United States, recruited through online advertisements in professional networks and websites (e.g., agencies that specialize in male victims of PV), were explored through a thematic analysis.

Analyses suggested that the help-seeking process of male PV victims is complex and heterogeneous and can often lead to further negative consequences due to various structural, cultural, social, and organizational factors.

The findings also highlight the potential societal issues that male victims perceived as contributing to male victimization and lack of available resources for them. The results are discussed in terms of its implications for agencies, service providers, and general societal attitudes that are relevant to raising awareness about this phenomenon. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2020 APA, all rights reserved)

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## **Impact Statement**

**Public Significance Statement:** A qualitative analysis of abuse and help-seeking experiences of men who are victims of PV reveals that men report being underacknowledged, mistreated, and penalized when trying to seek help or address the patterns of abuse in their intimate relationships. The findings also highlight the potential societal issues that male victims perceived as contributing to male victimization and the lack of available resources for them. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2020 APA, all rights reserved)

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## **Author's Perspective**

# **Men's experiences of female-perpetrated partner violence and its impact on them**

## **What is it about?**

This study provides qualitative information from 59 male victims of female-perpetrated partner violence. Men discussed the various forms of violence and abuse committed against them, including physical and psychological violence, and the negative impact it had on their physical and mental health. They also discussed the issues that prevented them from seeking help, and the issues that prompted them to seek help. Both seeking help and not seeking help often led to further negative impact. Although counter-intuitive, seeking help often resulted in further isolation and shaming of the men, which the men attributed to a helping system and larger cultural stereotypes that domestic violence only happens to women. They particularly highlighted the lack of available resources for them.

## **Why is it important?**

Data from the Centers for Disease Control in the United States suggests that about half of all partner violence victims are men, yet we have little research on their experiences and what happens when they try to get help. This study shows that men can sustain severe partner abuse, resulting in adverse mental and physical health, yet there are little-to-no resources available to them. Service providers need to be trained in male victimization, and the larger public needs to be educated on the existence and experiences of male partner violence victims.