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# *Intimate partner violence among older Chinese women*

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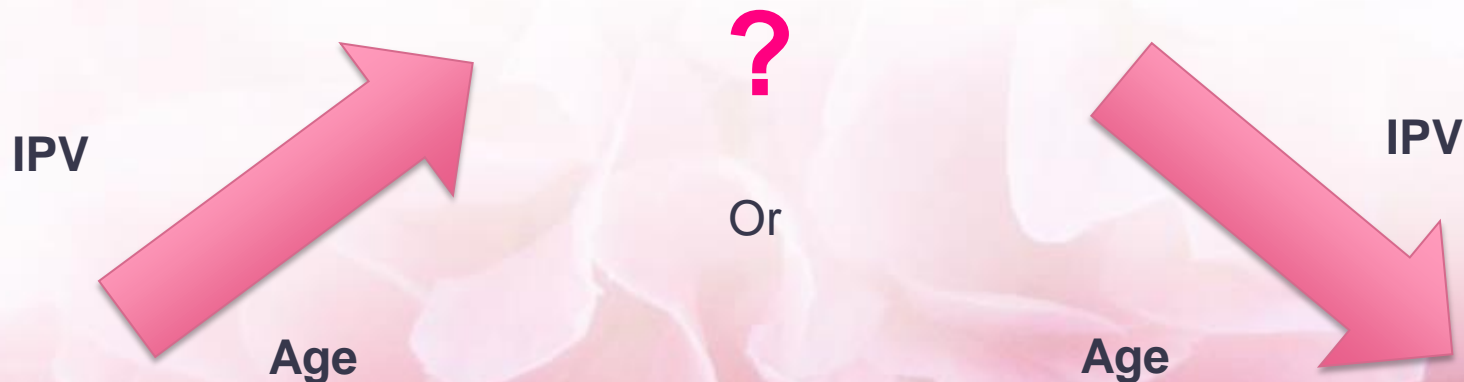
# IPV in older women

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) has long been recognized as a serious public health problem
- Relatively little attention has been given to IPV in late life
- Wife abuse: older victims- a minority
- Elder abuse: IPV- seldom studied

- IPV in older women can manifest in 2 ways:
  - IPV grown old
  - New experience of violence with onset in older years




- Conflicting views on how IPV may differ between younger and older adults
- Use of coercive control tactics by intimate partners in older adults has received scant attention



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Rennison, C. M., & Rand, M. R. (2003). Nonlethal Intimate Partner Violence Against Women: A Comparison of Three Age Cohorts. *Violence against women*, 9(12), 1417-1428.



*Intimate partner violence against  
older Chinese women provides the  
context of the present analysis*

## Original Study

# ***The differential effects of intimate terrorism and situational couple violence among abused Chinese women: a mixed-method study***



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Tiwari, A., Chan, K.L., Cheung, D.S.T., Fong, D.Y.T., Yan, E.C.W., & Tang, D.H.M. (2015). The differential effects of intimate terrorism and situational couple violence on mental health outcomes among abused Chinese women: a mixed-method study. *BMC Public Health*, 15, 314.

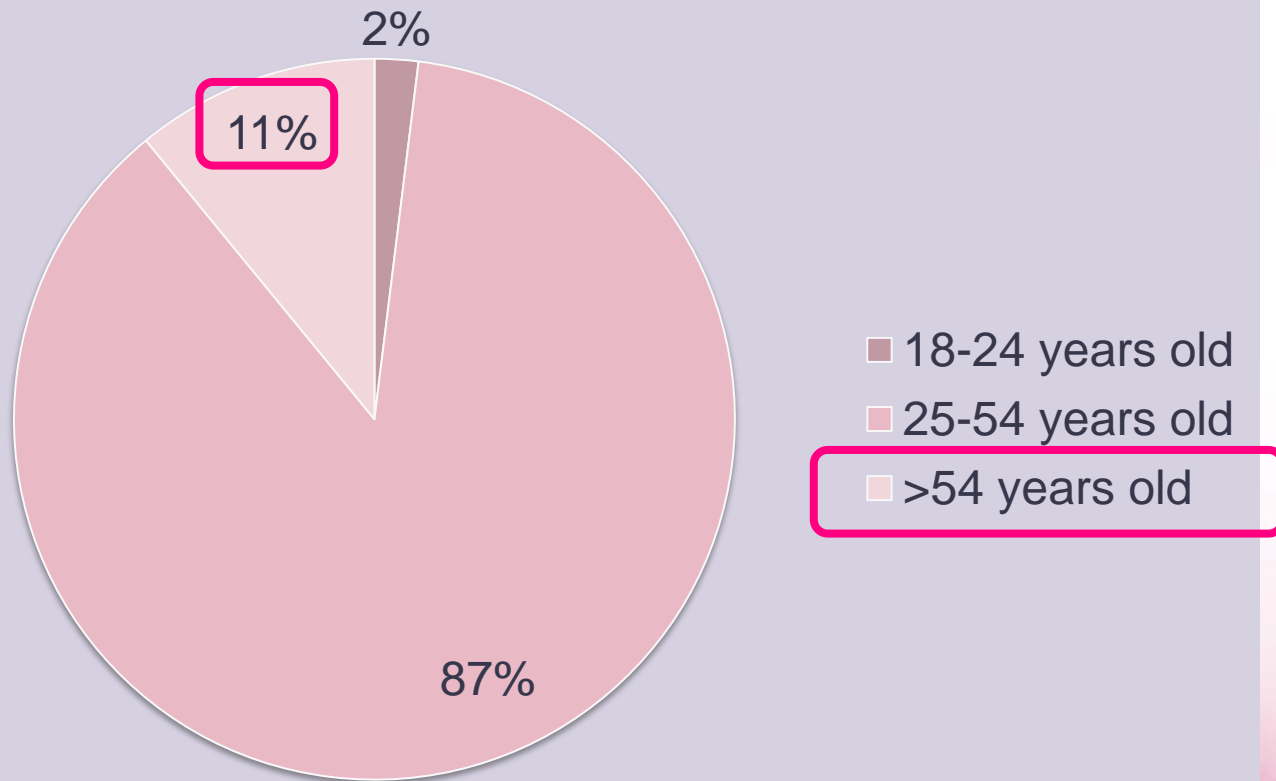
# Classifying different types of IPV

		Participant (woman)		
		No Violence	Non controlling aggression	Controlling aggression
Partner (man)	No Violence	Non-violent	Non-violent	Non-violent
	Non controlling aggression	Situational couple violence (SCV)	Situational couple violence	Violent resistance
	Controlling aggression	Intimate terrorism (IT)	Intimate terrorism	Mutual violent resistance



- 613 Chinese women recruited from 18 districts in Hong Kong
- Quantitative instruments were administered to assess intimate partner violence, control by an intimate partner, and mental health outcomes
- Individual face-to-face interviews were conducted with 200 of the women to capture their experiences of intimate partner violence and the context in which it occurred

# Sample age distribution



*Some unexpected findings*



# Table 1: Sociodemographics

	25-54 years old (n=534, 87.0%)		>54 years old (n=67, 10.9%)		p <sup>a</sup>
	n	%	n	%	
<b>Education (years)</b>					
≤ 9 years	343	64	54	81	<0.05
> 9 years	191	36	13	20	
<b>Living in Hong Kong (years)</b>					
≥ 7 years	312	59	65	97	<0.05
< 7 years	219	41	2	3	
<b>Chronic illness</b>					
Yes	26	5	10	15	<0.05
No	508	95	57	85	

- Despite being permanent residents of Hong Kong, they received less than 9 years of education
- More of them reported chronic illness compared to the younger abused women

## Table 2: IPV characteristics

	25-54 years old (n=534, 87.0%)		>54 years old (n=67, 10.9%)		p-value
	n	%	n	%	
<b>Psychological abuse</b>					
Yes	533	100	66	99	>0.05
No	1	0	1	1	
<b>Physical violence</b>					
Yes	467	88	52	78	>0.05
No	67	12	15	22	
<b>Sexual assault</b>					
Yes	171	32	15	22	>0.05
No	361	68	52	78	
<b>Escalation of violence</b>					
Yes, increasing	200	41	23	42	>0.05
Stayed the same	168	35	16	30	
No, decreasing	117	24	15	28	

**Table 2: IPV characteristics (continued)**

	25-54 years old old (n=534, 87.0%)		>54 years old (n=67, 10.9%)		p-value
	n	%	n	%	
<b>Fear</b>					
Yes	321	60	34	51	>0.05
No	213	40	33	49	
<b>C-BDI-II score (mean)</b>	23.6		18.5		>0.05
<b>C-PCL-C score (mean)</b>	46.2		41.1		>0.05
<b>C-CTS-2 score (mean)</b>	1.70		1.36		>0.05

# ***IPV characteristics***

- No significant differences in IPV characteristics between younger and older abused Chinese women
- Thus, IPV in old age exists among Chinese women

# Table 3: Comparison of IT and SCV survivors

	25-54 years old (n=543)			>54 years old (n=67)		
	IT (n=188)	SCV (n=283)	P-value	IT (n=24)	SCV (n=35)	P-value
Onset of violence	33.1	34.1	>0.05	43.8	54.1	<0.05
Duration of violence (years)	5.1	4.1	<0.05	5.1	4.1	<0.05
C-BDI-II score	33.4	15.0	<0.05	27.0	10.1	<0.05
C-PCL-C score	60.5	33.9	<0.05	53.3	28.1	<0.05
C-CBS-R score	2.25	0.59	<0.05	1.96	0.53	<0.05
C-CTS-2 score	2.8	0.6	<0.05	2.3	0.5	<0.05

**No** difference in onset between IT and SCV survivors in the younger age group

Earlier onset was reported by older women survivors of IT  
 → ?IPV grown old for IT



# Table 3: Comparison of IT and SCV survivors

	25-54 years old (n=543)			>54 years old (n=67)		
	IT (n=188)	SCV (n=283)	P-value	IT (n=24)	SCV (n=35)	P-value
Onset of violence	33.1	34.1	>0.05	43.8	54.1	<0.05
Duration of violence (years)	5.4	4.1	<0.05	19.1	8.1	<0.05
C-PCL-C score	60.5	33.9	<0.05	53.9	23.1	<0.05
C-CBS-R score	2.25	0.59	<0.05	1.96	0.53	<0.05
C-CTS-2 score	2.8	0.6	<0.05	2.3	0.5	<0.05

Also difference in duration between IT and SCV survivors in the younger age group

**Longer** duration was reported by older women survivors of IT compared to older SCV survivors

# Table 3: Comparison of IT and SCV survivors


	25-54 years old (n=543)			>54 years old (n=67)		
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C-CBS-R score	2.25	0.59	<0.05	1.96	0.53	<0.05
C-CTS-2 score	2.8					<0.05

For **both** age groups, IT had significantly worse effect on the women's mental health compared to SCV survivors



*Limitations and implications*

# Limitations

- Self-selection of the participants- only for those who sought services
  - Cross sectional study- unable to study the life course of IPV
  - Secondary analysis- limited sample size for older women
- 

# Implications for practice

- *Assessment:*
- Need to recognize that IPV against older Chinese women is not a single phenomenon
- The context in which IPV occurs must be assessed also (level of control)

- The assumption that IPV is mainly a problem for women of childbearing age has long been questioned
- Our findings suggest that IPV against older women also exists among Chinese women

# Implications for practice

- ***Intervention:***
- Need to address the effect of long duration of controlling violence and how it may undermine the survivors' confidence and prevent them from leaving the violent relationship



- This was the first secondary analysis to examine and compare the dynamics and effect on mental health between IT and SCV survivors in two age groups of Chinese women
- Sound theoretical frameworks are required to facilitate early detection and inform intervention





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