





Intimate partner violence complaints during COVID-19 lockdown in Spain: a cross-sectional and a case-control study

Belén Sanz-Barbero ^{1,2}, Francisco Estévez-García ³, Daniel La Parra-Casado ³, Juan J. Lopez-Ossorio^{4,1} and Carmen Vives-Cases ^{2,5}

1 National School of Public Health, Institute of Health Carlos III, Madrid, Spain

2 CIBER for Epidemiology and Public Health (CIBERESP), Madrid, Spain

3 Department of Sociology II, University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain

4 State Secretariat for Security Ministry of Interior, Madrid, Spain

5 Department of Community Nursing, Preventive Medicine, Public Health and History of Science, University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain

Correspondence: Daniel La Parra-Casado, Department of Sociology II, University of Alicante, Carretera de San Vicente s/n, 03690 Alicante, Spain. Tel: +34 622152426, e-mail: daniel.laparra@ua.es

Background: During the COVID-19 lockdown, a large proportion of the women exposed to intimate partner violence had to live with their abusers full-time. This study analyzes the new official complaints that were filed during the lockdown in Spain. **Methods:** Data from the Comprehensive Monitoring System for Cases of Gender Violence from the Ministry of the Interior, Spain. Using logistic regression models, the complaints registered during the lockdown were compared to those registered in the previous year. Subsequently, we analysed association between the seriousness of the incident reported and the period in which the complaint was filed. **Results:** Official complaints decreased by 19% during the lockdown. The probability of complaints during lockdown mainly increased when victims had a relationship with the abusers [odds ratio (OR) = 1.33] and when they lacked social support (OR = 1.22). The probability that the complaints were associated with previous jealousy (OR = 0.87), previous harassment behaviours (OR = 0.88) or the victim's fear for minors' safety (OR = 0.87) decreased. In addition, during lockdown increased the probability that the complaints filed were due to incidents of severe physical violence (OR = 1.17); severe psychological violence against women with minors in their charge (OR = 1.22); and severe violence due to threats (OR = 1.53) when the woman had previously suffered harassment. **Conclusions:** The decrease in new complaints during the studied period and the increase in their severity evidence difficulties in seeking help due to the lockdown. In situations of confinement, it is necessary to design measures that protect women with a lack of social support, and at those who live with the aggressor.

Introduction

During the last few decades, a substantial body of knowledge has been produced on the effects of different crises—economic, natural or socio-political—on the intimate partner violence suffered by women at the hands of their partner or ex-partner (IPV).^{1–3} The factors identified as triggers of IPV during crises act both directly—unemployment, economic difficulties—or through intermediate mechanisms, such as deteriorating mental health or an increase in alcohol consumption.^{4,5}

Since 2020, the world has been in the midst of a near-unprecedented pandemic. The measures adopted to address the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic entailed a drastic change in social relations. Previous studies pointed to an increase in IPV during this period.⁶ Social isolation, men's frustration, unemployment, the use of alcohol and other drugs may have exacerbated IPV—while limiting support and access to the resources needed to face these issues.^{7–10}

The opportunities to leave a violent relationship are greater the more support is diversified across informal networks and in formal services.¹¹ This diversification when searching for help—which can be influenced by individual, interpersonal and contextual factors—¹² has been drastically altered during the pandemic too.

In the process of dealing with IPV, a formal complaint against the abuser allows civil measures to be implemented to help protect the

victims, and criminal proceedings against the abuser to begin. In Spain, 25% of women killed due to IPV in 2019, and 22% of women exposed to IPV had filed a complaint against the abuser.¹³ The presence of minors in the home, physical IPV and the severity of the violence, are all factors that promote a complaint being filed to try to find safety and protection.^{14,15} However, during the months of the COVID-19 lockdown, complaints decreased¹⁶; this is despite the continued presence of minors in the home and the fact that the first studies carried out on emergency services in contexts similar to ours pointed to an upsurge in the severity of IPV.^{17,18}

In Spain, services for IPV victims were considered as essential,¹⁹ and, to complement this, increased access to the Security Forces and Corps was implemented to facilitate the filing of complaints. Despite these emergency measures, it was more difficult to implement a planned and safe strategy to respond to the consequences for a woman and her children of reporting the abuser during lockdown. Judicial processes were also more broadly disrupted, and social assistance was focused on responding to the essential needs of the moment. When women are unable to implement active strategies to safely exit violent situations, the mechanisms that are put in place are avoidance behaviours which allow victims to survive that IPV.^{20,21}

An internationally observed pattern was repeated during the lockdown in Spain.²² Calls to the 016-helpline increased by 47%

compared to the analogous period the previous year, while IPV complaints to the police decreased by 15%,¹⁶ but so far we do not have a full characterization of the use of these resources. Since 2007, the State Security Forces and Corps, the Foral Police of Navarra and more than 500 local police forces have registered and collected information on all IPV complaints via the Comprehensive Monitoring System for Cases of Gender Violence (VioGén System).²³ This information has allowed a longitudinal database to be generated, which offers a unique opportunity for the analysis of formal IPV complaints to the police across a large part of Spain.

In this context, this study's objectives were: (i) to analyse the main characteristics of the new complaints for IPV filed during the COVID-19 lockdown in Spain in comparison to the new complaints filed during the same period in 2019; and (ii) to analyse whether there is an association between the period in which a complaint is filed (under lockdown or not) and the severity of the violence reported.

Methods

In order to analyse the main characteristics of the new IPV complaints filed during COVID-19 lockdown, a retrospective case-control study was carried out. The cases were new formal IPV complaints registered between 15 March and 21 June 2020 and the controls, new complaints of the same period in 2019. With the aim of identifying whether the confinement was associated with the severity of the IPV reported, a cross-sectional study of new complaints filed in the same periods was carried out.

Data came from the VioGén System, which the Secretary of State for Security, from the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for, via the Police Risk Assessment Form, version VPR5.0. The period analysed runs from 15 March to 21 June of the years 2019 and 2020. The original database includes 23 549 new IPV complaints, defined as any act of violence against women perpetrated by a man who is or has been her spouse, or who is or has been linked to her by a similar emotional relationship, even without cohabitation. The analysed database contains 22 078 records. The excluded records were evenly distributed across the two study periods (2019/20). The study was approved by the Ethical Committee of Alicante University (Ref. 2020-07-08).

To achieve to the objectives of the study, the following dependent variables were defined:

- Period in which the new complaint was filed: lockdown period/previous period.
- Severity of the violence (psychological, physical, sexual, treats) reported in the new complaint; mild-moderate/severe-very severe.

The assumptions that group the different types of IPV based on severity are shown in [Supplementary table A1](#).²⁴

The independent variables are listed in [table 1](#). These are classified into five categories study period, type of IPV, variables related to the victim, involvement of minors, and variables related to the abuser.

First, after obtaining the frequencies and percentages of missing values ([table 1](#)), an analysis of the patterns and relationships of these values with different variables was carried out for all variables. This analysis showed that the mechanism of generation of missing values was Missing At Random (MAR). Considering the results, weights were applied using the Inverse Probability Weighting technique (IPW), which is suitable for MAR.²⁵ The variables used as predictors to calculate the weights were: the nationality of the victim, the current relationship with the abuser, the age of the victim and the number of coexisting forms of IPV.

The descriptive analysis includes (i) the complaints filed during the confinement period and during the analogous period the previous year ([Supplementary table A1](#)), and (ii) the severity of the different types of IPV (physical, sexual, psychological, threats) collected in the complaints—considering the previously described covariates

([Supplementary table A2](#)). Hypothesis contrasts were performed using the Phi (Φ) statistic for the binary variables, and the F statistic for the age variable.

Subsequently, in order to estimate the association of the covariates with the dependent variables, we used logistic regression models. Model 1 has the period in which the complaint was filed as the dependent variable. Models 2–5 have the severity of physical violence as a dependent variable (Model 2), psychological (Model 3), threats (Model 4) and sexual (Model 5), and as the main independent variable: the period in which the complaint was filed.

For all the models, the first step was to perform bivariate analyzes, and the variables were selected with $P < 0.25$. Subsequently, the selected variables were entered into multivariate models and estimates were made by phases until reaching the final variables, always keeping the variable under study in the model (lockdown), nationality (v7) and age of victim (v9). Prior to the construction of the final models, we evaluated the collinearity between all the independent variables. In the models evaluating the severity of the different IPV types (Models 2–5), we explored the possible interactions of the variable 'lockdown period' with the remaining covariates selected in the previous steps. Estimates were made using Robust Standard Errors.²⁶ All the analyses were performed using SPSS 26.0²⁷ and Stata 14.2.²⁸

Results

Of the 22 078 total new complaints registered in the VioGén System, 12 177 occurred during March–June 2019 and 9901 during the lockdown period, March–June 2020. The most frequent type of IPV in both periods was psychological (9931 in 2019 and 8058 in 2020), physical (8675 and 7142), the presence of threats (6459 and 4784) and sexual violence (1053 and 799).

During lockdown period, the frequency of new complaints significantly increased where the victim was a foreign woman (38.1% in 2019 vs. 40.0% in 2020), had a current relationship with the abuser (63.2% vs. 70.8%), lacked of social support (17.2% vs. 20.8%), and had previously reported other abusers (15.6% vs. 17.9%) ([Supplementary table A2](#)). The frequency of new complaints significantly decreased in which women had informed the abuser of their intention to break off the relationship (53.6% vs. 52.1%) and in which the victims reported fear for the integrity of the minors (12.6% vs. 10.9%). In lockdown period, the frequency of complaints in which the abuser had shown previously exaggerated jealousy (47.5% vs. 43.9%) or harassing (34.2% vs. 29.1%) behaviours towards the victim decreased.

[Table 2](#) shows the independent effect of the covariates with the probability of an IPV report having been filed during the lockdown period. In the complaints filed during confinement, we identified a greater probability that the victim maintained a relationship with the abuser [odds ratio (OR) = 1.33 (1.25–1.42)]; lacked family or social support [OR (confidence interval, CI 95%) = 1.22 (1.13–1.32)]; had previously reported other abusers [OR = 1.13 (1.05–1.23)]; and, that the abusers had a history of IPV [OR = 1.17 (1.08–1.27)]. During lockdown, complaints were less likely to be associated with jealousy [OR = 0.87 (0.86–0.98)], with bullying behaviour [OR = 0.88 (0.82–0.94)], or the victim's fear for the safety of children [OR = 0.87 (0.80–0.96)].

During lockdown, the number of severe IPV complaints—physical, psychological, threats, sexual—decreased compared to the reference period (detailed results in [Supplementary table A3](#)). In relative terms, during lockdown, there was a significant increase in the percentage of serious physical IPV complaints (18.4% vs. 16.9%) and the percentage of severe IPV complaints due to threats (67.6% vs. 61.9%).

[Table 3](#) shows the association between lockdown (ref: analogous period for the previous year) and the probability of registering a report with severe violence vs. moderate violence, in the different types of violence and independently of the other the covariates.

Table 1 Description of the independent variables

Variable	Values attributed	% of total complaints	% missing values
<i>Main variable for the study</i>			
i0 Lockdown period	0/1	44.8	0.0
<i>Type of violence inflicted in the incident</i>			
t1 Presence of physical violence	0/1	69.1	0.0
t2 Presence of psychological violence (harassment, insults and humiliation)	0/1	81.4	0.0
t3 Presence of threats/plans aimed at causing harm to the victim	0/1	51.7	0.0
t4 Forced sex	0/1	8.6	0.0
<i>Victim characteristics and actions</i>			
v1 Victim has some type of disability, or serious physical or psychiatric illness	0/1	5.7	4.7
v2 Victim presents suicidal ideation/suicide attempts	0/1	7.0	5.7
v3 The victim presents with some type of addiction or substance abuse	0/1	5.6	8.5
v4 Lacks favourable family or social support	0/1	18.3	7.5
v5 The victim has reported other abusers in the past	0/1	17.6	2.0
v6 In the last 6 months, the victim expressed their attention to break off the relationship to the abuser	0/1	51.6	7.8
v7 Foreign victim	0/1	38.9	0.0
v8 The victim maintained the relationship with the abuser in that moment	0/1	66.6	0.0
v9 Victim's age	Metrics	M: 37.26; SD: 11.98	0.0
<i>Involvement of minors</i>			
m1 The victim had minors in her care	0/1	53.2	3.1
m2 Presence of physical threats to minors	0/1	5.0	2.2
m3 The victim fears for the children's safety	0/1	11.2	3.1
<i>Characteristics of the abuser</i>			
a1 The abuser had shown exaggerated jealousy in the last 6 months	0/1	45.0	8.9
a2 The abuser has presented harassing behaviour during the last 6 months	0/1	32.2	8.9
a3 The abuser has a criminal or police record	0/1	42.8	0.0
a4 The abuser has a record of previous infringements: cautions, criminal acts	0/1	15.4	0.0
a5 History of physical or sexual assault	0/1	3.1	0.0
a6 History of intimate partner violence against other partners	0/1	18.3	0.0

Percentage of total new IPV complaints. VioGén System. Period: March–June 2019/20.

During lockdown, the probability that the new complaints filed would record severe physical IPV increased (Model 2) (OR = 1.17). Regarding psychological IPV complaints (Model 3), a significant interaction was identified between the lockdown period and the presence of minors in the victim's charge (Supplementary figure 1). To understand that interaction, simple effects were obtained estimating the differences of the predicted values (between points connected by each line in figure 1). Having or not having dependent children for a victim at a time other than lockdown does not significantly change their estimated likelihood of suffering serious violence [$\text{coef}_{\text{diff}} = -0.01$ ($-0.03; 0.01$)]. However, the difference between having or not having children in charge when the victim was in the lockdown period was statistically significant [$\text{coef}_{\text{diff}} = 0.03$ ($0.01; 0.05$)].

In the threats category (Model 4), a significant interaction was identified between the lockdown period and the abuser's previous bullying. For victims at a time other than lockdown, the difference between having suffered or not previous harassment by the abuser was statistically significant [$\text{coef}_{\text{diff}} = 0.04$ ($0.01; 0.06$)]. For victims at a lockdown time, the difference between having suffered or not previous harassment by the abuser was statistically significant too [$\text{coef}_{\text{diff}} = 0.09$ ($0.06; 0.12$)], and significantly higher than that of the previous difference (Supplementary figure 2), as exposed by the interaction coefficient in that model.

For reports of sexual violence, lockdown did not increase the probability of reporting serious sexual violence (Model 5).

Discussion

During the COVID-19-induced lockdown in Spain, new IPV complaints decreased by 19% when taking the same months of 2019 as a reference. New complaints were associated with IPV incidents where

the couple's relationship was continuing, the woman lacked social support and had reported other abusers previously. There was a lower likelihood of complaints due to previous extreme jealousy or harassment behaviour, but likelihood increased for complaints in which the abuser had a history of IPV perpetrated against other partners. In the complaints filed during lockdown, the probability that these included situations of risk to children's safety decreased.

In the new complaints filed due to physical violence during lockdown, the probability that this violence was serious increased. The probability of complaints as a result of serious psychological violence in this period also increased for women with minors in their care. The probability of reporting serious threats was higher, especially for women who had previously suffered harassment from the abuser.

During the lockdown period when exceptional isolation and stay-at-home measures against Covid-19 were in force in Spain, IPV complaints were considerably reduced, as shown by our results. Increases in other indicators during this period, such as 016-helpline calls¹⁶ indicate that this decrease in complaints does not necessarily reflect a decrease in IPV itself, but rather a change in help seeking or that lockdown reduced the possibilities of perpetrating IPV in non-cohabiting relationships. In fact, our results show that the women who filed complaints during lockdown were the most exposed to violence: they had a current relation with the abuser, they lacked social support, or they knew about the process because they had filed prior complaints.

During lockdown, official complaints where the abuser showed previous extreme jealousy or continued harassing behaviour decreased. As reflected in different theoretical frameworks,²⁹ jealousy and harassment appear and generate violence due to the abuser's insecurity and lack of control over the victim. The stay-at-home order, the victim's lack of social contact as well as the strategies

Table 2 Variables associated with the probability that a new IPV complaint will be filed during COVID-19 lockdown

Variables		Model 1: new IPV complaint filed during COVID-19 lockdown	
		Coef.	ORa (CI 95%) ^a
v2.	Lacks favourable family or social support	0.20	1.22 (1.13–1.32)
v3.	The victim has reported other abusers in the past	0.13	1.13 (1.05–1.23)
v5.	Foreign victim ^b	−0.01	0.99 (0.93–1.06)
v6.	The victim had a current relationship with the abuser	0.29	1.33 (1.25–1.42)
v7.	Victim's age ^b	0.00	1.00 (1.00–1.00)
m3.	Victim feared for children's safety	−0.13	0.87 (0.80–0.96)
a1.	The abuser had shown exaggerated jealousy in the last 6 months	−0.09	0.87 (0.86–0.98)
a2.	The abuser has presented harassing behaviour during the last 6 months	−0.13	0.88 (0.82–0.94)
a5.	There is a history of gender violence inflicted other partners	0.16	1.17 (1.08–1.27)
	Constant	−0.38	0.69 (0.61–0.77)
	Wald χ^2 (9) = 205.36, $P < 0.001$		
	Pseudo R^2 = 0.01		

VioGén System. Period: March–June 2019/20. Multivariate logistic regression model.

a: Adjusted odds ratios (95% confidence intervals using robust standard errors).

b: Control variables.

implemented by women to avoid conflict³⁰ were likely to have increased abusers' perception of control, partially avoiding violent crises caused by jealousy.

Contact with the police services and officially reporting the abuser has been identified as a key moment in women's decision-making when trying to leave a violent relationship.³¹ During the lockdown, although IPV reports decreased, the severity of IPV reported increased. It is important to bear in mind that our study analyzes new complaints; therefore, this greater severity is not due to an increase in violence after a first formal complaint, rather to a possible delay in filing the complaint or to contextual elements that triggered or increased risk factors for serious violent behaviour such as victim social isolation.³²

An IPV victim files a formal complaint against her abuser when she sees that the mechanisms that she has put in place to reduce, alleviate or survive the IPV are not working.^{33–35} The fact that during lockdown there were an increased number of complaints involving serious threats, especially in those situations where the victim reported having been harassed in the previous months, suggests the possible recurrence of previously established IPV, or the appearance of new forms of IPV inflicted through threats.³⁶ Serious threats can be made without the physical presence of the abuser, perhaps explaining why they were more frequent during lockdown—when including serious threats—as compared to other forms of IPV.

In the new complaints filed during lockdown, women's fear for minors' safety was observed less frequently, despite the presence of minors in the home increasing the likelihood of complaints reflecting severe psychological IPV. Although the data do not provide information on cohabitation, it is possible that social distance increased psychological violence against women in those cases of shared custody where the other parent had difficulty obtaining access to the children.³⁷

Irrespective of the period in which a report was filed, the probability of reporting a serious IPV incident was greater when there was harassment and extreme jealousy in the previous months. Jealousy³⁷ is one of the risk factors most predictive of women being murdered as a result of IPV.³⁸ The fact that, during lockdown in Spain, IPV murders decreased by 74% compared to the analogous period of the previous year,¹⁶ could in part be related to a decrease in jealousy due to greater perception of control over the victim, and the separations being postponed—since, in 35% of intimate femicides in Spain, the couple were not cohabiting.¹³

After the lockdown in Spain, murders of women and children due to gender violence increased by 50% compared to the average number of murders registered in the previous 5-year period.¹³ It is necessary to bear in mind that violence follows established dynamics,³⁹ and that the violence held in check by the pandemic may emerge over time. At the same time, the socioeconomic crisis caused by the pandemic may generate an increase in new cases of IPV, as has occurred in other recent crises,³ largely due to the fact that complex crises can have direct effects on IPV risk factors.

The variables associated with severe violence in our study support the arguments of other authors about the dynamics of violence; these authors affirm that serious assaults occur in many cases after continued exposure to violence and are associated risk factors which increase the probability of femicide.³⁸ In our results, regardless of the period in which the aggression, jealousy and harassment occurred, these factors were present for at least 6 months before filing a serious complaint. The women who reported severe IPV presented a chronic deterioration in their general wellbeing a higher probability of suicide attempts, and presented incidences of the abuser inflicting multiple forms of IPV on them, and, finally, they lacked social support. All this suggests that serious IPV attacks are neither ad hoc nor spontaneous. If we consider that our analysis includes only new complaints, where the woman had not previously reported the abuser, it is notable that new formal complaints for severe IPV occur after a long process of psychological deterioration.

The study presented here must be understood within the framework of its limitations. The information collection system includes information that covers 79% of the Spanish population. Although there were a limited number of missing values in the different variables, the combination of them in the multivariate analyses caused a loss of records, which may have led to bias in the estimates made. It should be noted that the mechanism for missing value generation was MAR; the IPW technique was used to give greater weight to the complete records, which due to their particular characteristics were more likely to contain missing values. In addition, robust estimators were used for the regression models. These techniques are appropriate for the type of problem faced; however, it can never be said with certainty that all bias in the results has been eliminated.

The change in the complaints profile suggests access barriers during the lockdown and specific groups of women were exposed to more serious violence. In situations of forced isolation, it is necessary to design measures that protect the most vulnerable women from IPV and prevent the escalation of violence. These measures should be

Table 3 Variables associated with the probability of filing a new serious IPV report in the VioGén System

Variable			Type of serious or very serious IPV complaint filed during COVID-19 lockdown							
			Model 2: Serious or very serious physical violence		Model 3: Serious or very serious psychological violence		Model 4: Serious or very serious threat(s)		Model 5: Serious or very serious sexual violence	
			Coef	ORa (IC 95%) ^a	Coef	ORa (IC 95%) ^a	Coef	ORa (IC 95%) ^a	Coef	ORa (IC 95%) ^a
Violence	i0	Victim during lockdown	0.16	1.17 (1.07; 1.29)	0.01	1.01 (0.90; 1.13)	0.19	1.21 (1.08; 1.35)	0.08	1.08 (0.88; 1.33)
	t1	Suffered physical violence	—		-0.17	0.84 (0.78; 0.91)	0.18	1.20 (1.09; 1.32)	0.37	1.45 (1.10; 1.90)
	t2	Suffered psychological violence	0.20	1.23 (1.04; 1.45)	—		n.i.		n.i.	
	t3	Suffered threats and plans to harm her	0.44	1.55 (1.39; 1.73)	0.87	2.38 (2.19; 2.57)	—		n.i.	
Victim	t4	Suffered sexual violence	0.56	1.76 (1.54; 2.01)	0.54	1.72 (1.53; 1.93)	0.37	1.45 (1.26; 1.68)	—	
	v1	Victim with a disability, severe physical or psychiatric illness	n.i.		n.i.		n.i.		n.i.	
	v2	Victim had suicidal ideas/attempts at suicide	0.42	1.52 (1.29; 1.78)	0.51	1.66 (1.46; 1.89)	0.21	1.24 (1.05; 1.45)	n.i.	
	v3	Victim with addiction or substance abuse behaviours	0.24	1.27 (1.03; 1.56)	n.i.		n.i.		n.i.	
	v4	Lacks favourable family or social support	0.19	1.21 (1.08; 1.36)	0.37	1.45 (1.32; 1.59)	n.i.		0.27	1.31 (1.04; 1.66)
	v5	The victim has reported other abusers in the past	n.i.		n.i.		n.i.		n.i.	
	v6	Victim had expressed intention to break off the relationship	0.12	1.13 (1.02; 1.25)	0.26	1.29 (1.19; 1.40)	n.i.		n.i.	
	v7	Foreign victim ^b	0.02	1.02 (0.92; 1.13)	-0.25	0.78 (0.72; 0.85)	-0.08	0.92 (0.84; 1.01)	0.08	1.08 (0.87; 1.34)
	v8	The victim had a current relationship with the abuser	n.i.		0.14	1.14 (1.06; 1.24)	0.17	1.19 (1.08; 1.30)	n.i.	
	v9	Victim's age ^b	0.00	1.00 (0.99; 1.00)	0.01	1.01 (1.01; 1.02)	0.01	1.01 (1.01; 1.01)	-0.01	0.99 (0.98; 1.00)
Children	m1	The victim had minors in her care	n.i.		-0.03	0.97 (0.87; 1.07)	-0.19	0.83 (0.75; 0.91)	-0.33	0.72 (0.59; 0.89)
	m2	Presence of physical threats to minors	n.i.		n.i.		0.64	1.90 (1.52; 2.36)	n.i.	
	m3	Victim feared for children's safety	0.23	1.26 (1.10; 1.45)	0.54	1.72 (1.54; 1.92)	0.41	1.51 (1.30; 1.77)	n.i.	
Abuser	a1	The abuser had shown exaggerated jealousy in the last 6 months	0.23	1.26 (1.13; 1.41)	0.30	1.35 (1.24; 1.46)	0.13	1.14 (1.04; 1.26)	n.i.	
	a2	The abuser has presented harassing behaviour during the last six months	0.25	1.29 (1.15; 1.44)	0.61	1.84 (1.70; 2.00)	0.18	1.19 (1.06; 1.35)	0.60	1.83 (1.49; 2.25)
	a3	The abuser has a criminal or police record	n.i.		0.08	1.09 (1.01; 1.18)	0.28	1.32 (1.20; 1.45)	n.i.	
	a4	The abuser has a record of previous infringements: cautions, criminal convictions, penales...	n.i.		n.i.		n.i.		n.i.	
	a5	History of physical or sexual assault	0.52	1.69 (1.51; 1.89)	0.20	1.22 (1.11; 1.36)	0.28	1.32 (1.16; 1.49)	n.i.	
	a6	History of intimate partner violence against other partners	n.i.		n.i.		n.i.		n.i.	
		Constant	-2.48	0.08 (0.07; 0.11)	-2.59	0.08 (0.06; 0.09)	-0.46	0.63 (0.52; 0.78)	-0.86	0.42 (0.26; 0.68)
		Interactions with i0 (lockdown)								
		m1 (1) × i0 (1)	—		0.19	1.21 (1.04; 1.40)	—		—	
		A2 (1) × i0 (1)	—		—		0.24	1.27 (1.06; 1.52)	—	
	Wald χ^2 (df) =		609.17 (14), $P < 0.001$		1667.74 (17), $P < 0.001$		427.88 (15), $P < 0.001$		60.62 (7), $P < 0.001$	
	Pseudo R^2 =		0.06		0.10		0.04		0.03	

Period: March–June 2019/20. Multivariate logistic regression models.

a: Adjusted odds ratios (95% confidence intervals using robust standard errors).

b: Control variables.

n.i.: variable not introduced in that model due to lack of significance.

directed mainly at women with a lack of social support, and at those who live with the aggressor. It is imperative that these women receive attentive follow-up, adapted to the difficult circumstances of the pandemic.

Supplementary data

Supplementary data are available at *EURPUB* online.

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Conflicts of interest: None declared.

Data availability

The data underlying this article, the VioGén system data base, were provided by the Secretary of State for Security, from the Ministry of the Interior, Spain, by permission. Viogen data will be shared on request to the the Secretary of State for Security, from the Ministry of the Interior of Spain.

Key points

- Studies in early phases of COVID-19 lockdown pointed to an increase in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) emergency calls and a decrease of complaints.
- The analysis of the new formal complaints that were filed show a significant change in the profile in complaints.
- The study confirmed an increase in severity for various forms of violence: severe physical and psychosocial violence increase in IPV new complaints during the lockdown period in the specific case of Spain.
- The decrease in new complaints and the increase in their severity suggest difficulties in seeking help due to the COVID-19 prevention measures.

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