TITLE: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

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Introduction

Domestic violence among women in Lusaka, Zambia, is culturally accepted as normal and even a necessary practice among co-habiting and married couples alike.

Husbands or intimate sexual partner are the perpetrators. In very few and far between instances, female spouses show up as victimisers. Cases are not reported to the Police for cultural reasons.

Alcohol abuse, poor educational background, low socio-economic factors,
traditional teachings and the age of the women were some of the associated factors.

**Methods**

A cross-sectional study of 385 pregnant women randomly studied using. Structured and semi-structured questionnaires and focus -group discussions. Data was analysed using EPI-INFO 6.2 Software.

**Results and discussion**

Of the respondents, 242(62.8%) were aged between 21 and 30 years. 385 (87.8%) or 338 were married. Only 17 or 16.7% had no formal education.

Of this number, 224(65.1%) were formally employed.. 88.0% reported domestic violence in the current pregnancy.

Males were perpetrators (98.8%) Of the victims, 215 or 87.0% had received traditional “initiation or coming of age” ceremonies, which teach that domestic violence is culturally a sign of love and that women must not discuss
it outside the home. Men used physical or corporal beatings in 116 or 68.6% of cases.

Of the 92 respondents 65.2% of perpetrators used alcohol compared to 10.9% of victims. Of these husbands/intimate partners, 45 or nearly 50% took alcohol at least between once a week to everyday. 12 men or 20.3% took alcohol daily. The frequency and type of alcohol intake, was associated the socio-economic background of the husband/partner.

**Conclusions**

The enquiry revealed that Domestic violence among pregnant women was widespread. The pregnant women were victims and culturally accepted beatings from
partners as a traditional, time-honoured sign of love to their spouses. Males were perpetrators. Use of alcohol, (usually illicit-intoxicants) and other substances was common among the perpetrators who also tended to have less educational attainments, came from poorer socio-economic backgrounds and had less disposable incomes.

References:( Compressed)

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