Rurality, Domestic Relocation and Intimate Partner Violence in Young Women

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Introduction

• In Australia, intimate partner violence (IPV) has been ranked as the leading contributor to illness, disability and death in women aged 18 to 44 years [1]
• Australian police reports indicate higher rates of IPV in rural & remote areas than in urban centres
• Links between IPV and domestic relocation consequent to experience of IPV remains largely unexplored

Aims

This study aimed to:
• report on the prevalence of IPV across rural, regional and metropolitan areas of Australia; and
• investigate factors related to domestic relocation of women, with a focus on regional difference and the role of IPV.

Methods

Data

• This study analyses data from the on-going Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH) comprising three cohorts of older, middle aged and younger group [2]
• This analysis focuses on cohort of women born between 1973-78 comprising 14,247 women, surveyed about every 3 years since 1996 giving 5 survey waves for analysis [3]

Measures & Data Analysis

• Lifetime prevalence of IPV was gauged from the response to the question “Have you ever been in a violent relationship with a partner/spouse?”
• Regional area of residence was based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+), categorised to four regions
• Domestic relocation was based on a change in residential address between survey wave 4 & 5
• IPV status used in logistic regression with domestic relocation was based on IPV status at survey 4
• Current IPV = experience of IPV in past 12 months
• Past IPV = Past report of IPV but none in last 12 months
• No IPV = No reported history of IPV
• Analysis used chi square test & binary logistic regression

Notes

[2] The research on which this poster is based was conducted as part of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health, the University of Newcastle and the University of Queensland. We are grateful to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for funding and to the women who provided the survey data.