

Intimate Partner Violence among Sexual Minorities in Consensual Non-Monogamous Relationships

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Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious public health issue that is becoming increasingly prevalent due to the indirect effects of COVID-19. Research has established that IPV is a complex issue with negative effects on the health of individuals, families, and society. Unfortunately, IPV is often overlooked in marginalized populations such as individuals who practice consensual non-monogamy (CNM), a practice in which all partners consent to having romantic and/or sexual relations with other people outside of their dyads. Despite the increasingly common practice of CNM among sexual minorities, there remains a dearth of research on the CNM population and how IPV manifests in these relationships. Thus, the current project seeks to investigate the manifestation of intimate partner violence (IPV) among sexual minority individuals in non-monogamous (CNM) relationships. Study aims will focus on 1) understanding the prevalence and frequency of IPV among sexual minorities in CNM relationships, 2) examining anticipated risk factors such as sexual minority stress and jealousy for IPV in said population, 3) examining the moderating effects of communication and social support on the relationships between proposed risk factors and IPV, and 4) evaluating mental health implications of IPV in CNM partners, including associations with depression, anxiety, and PTSD symptoms. Findings from the project will provide insight into the manifestation of IPV among sexual minority individuals in CNM relationships, which will in turn provide clinical guidelines for the development of effective IPV assessments and interventions for this underrepresented population.

Keywords: non-consensual monogamy, intimate partner violence, sexual minority, stigmatization