

**AN ASSOCIATION BETWEEN INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE AND UNINTENDED PREGNANCY: EVIDENCE
FROM THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT

Previous studies suggest that intimate partner violence (IPV) is positively associated with a number of reproductive health problems. However there is a lack of knowledge about the association between IPV and control over fertility among Thai women. Also the prevalence of physical and sexual violence that leads women to experience an unintended pregnancy is high in Thailand.

This study aims to examine the association between unintended pregnancy and the level of IPV, and to explore the factors affecting unintended pregnancy among Thai women aged 15-49, using secondary data from the 2000 WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, Thailand. A total of 531 women who had their last pregnancy within the last five years and had a single life partner preceding the survey were chosen for this study.

One-third of the respondents reported that their last pregnancy was unintended. About 40.5 percent of the participants reported IPV in their life course, 13 percent reported only physical violence, 16.6 percent reported only sexual violence and another 10.9 percent reported both physical and sexual violence. Women who experienced unintended pregnancy were more likely to be younger, unmarried, have (more) several children, be not financially autonomous, and of lower socio-economic status. Also, women who engaged in risk behavior such as using alcohol, smoking, having a partner who had sexual relations with other women, and who had experienced any form of violence were more likely to report that their pregnancy was unintended. Finally, results of logistic regression showed the odds of unintended pregnancy for (1) women who experienced both sexual and non-sexual violence was 2.4 times higher, (2) only sexual violence was 2.7 times higher, and (3) only physical violence was 1.5 times higher, compared to non-abused women.

These findings strongly indicate the need for the development of appropriate IPV prevention and intervention programs to improve health of Thai women through social and political response.

**KEY WORDS: THAILAND / UNINTENDED PREGNANCY /
VIOLENCE / GENDER ROLES / BATTERING /
FINANCIAL AUTONOMY / SEXUAL AUTONOMY /
SEXUALITY.**

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