

**TITLE:** Exploring the Relationship between Intimate Partner Violence and Suicidality in Low-Income, African American Women

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**INTRO:** Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant public health concern; one in four women experience IPV in their lifetime. African American women may endorse higher rates of IPV. Previous research indicates that African American women with a history of IPV are at increased risk for suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. Furthermore, existing research from this sample demonstrated that women with IPV reported more cognitive-affective depressive symptoms compared to non-IPV counterparts. Our study aims to examine and compare suicidality among African American women with and without a recent experience of IPV. We hypothesize that women with IPV will endorse higher rates of suicidal ideation compared to non-IPV women.

**METHODS:** Our sample of 112 female African American participants were randomly selected from a larger existing sample of participants from the Grady Nia Project. Participants completed the Beck Scale for Suicide Ideation (BSS), and either endorsed (+) or denied (-) experiencing IPV within the past twelve months. Participants were divided into two groups: IPV+ and IPV-, and t-tests were used to compare group means on each item of the BSS and the total score.

**RESULTS:** Findings demonstrated that IPV+ women had significantly higher scores on an item related to reasons to attempt suicide ( $t = 2.35, p = 0.0224$ ) and contrary to our hypothesis, IPV- women reported had higher scores approaching significance on two items relating to ideation ( $t = -1.39, p = 0.1697$ ) and desire ( $t = -1.48, p = 0.1449$ ). The groups did not differ significantly on the BSS total score.

**CONCLUSION:** Our findings suggest that IPV may play a role in differences among reasons to attempt suicide, whereas IPV may play a reduced role among other factors related to suicidality. More research is needed to identify salient mechanisms underlying the relationships between IPV and suicidal ideation and behavior.