

Pink or Blue ... Black and Blue? Examining Pregnancy as a Predictor of Intimate Partner Violence and Femicide

Violence Against Women


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Abstract

This study explores the effect of pregnancy on women's risk of IPV victimization. Previous studies have produced conflicting findings and have been limited by comparing only two categories of IPV. The current study included analyses of the effect of pregnancy on three statuses of IPV: no abuse, nonlethal abuse, and lethal abuse. The data used for this project are taken from the first phase of the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRs). Findings suggest that both nonlethal and lethal abuse statuses differ significantly from no abuse in that women's risk of IPV victimization may decrease during pregnancy.

Keywords

domestic violence, homicide, pregnancy

Intimate partner violence (IPV) during pregnancy presents a unique phenomenon that has produced a body of sociological and medical research with conflicting results and explanations. Although there is a fair amount of consensus on the effects of sociodemographic factors on IPV, the results for family dynamics are more varied across studies. Perhaps the most heavily debated issue is whether or not pregnancy presents an increased risk for IPV (e.g., Jasinski, 2004).

Regardless of the conflicts within the extant research, IPV during pregnancy is a topic worthy of more attention in both scholarly research and social policy initiatives. As one group of researchers pointed out, although violence at any time can be devastating to a woman's life, IPV during pregnancy may present particularly catastrophic consequences

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