

ABSTRACT

This study examines the prevalence of major depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, alcohol and substance abuse disorders in a sample of 21 women between the ages of 18 and 57 who had experienced intimate partner violence within the previous year. The findings are compared to those in a control sample of 60 women who had never experienced physical abuse. The prevalence of major depression in the battered sample was 71% compared to 10% in the control sample. Posttraumatic stress disorder was found in 62% of the battered sample compared to 2% of the control sample. Both findings were statistically significant. Alcohol and substance abuse disorders were found in 14% of battered subjects as compared to 2% in the control group. This finding was not statistically significant.

The findings are consistent with the hypothesis that intimate partner violence increases risk for mental health problems.