

# Evaluation of intimate partner violence victims and perpetrators: A sample from Turkey

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## SUMMARY

**Objective:** Intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to behaviours such as physical, psychological or sexual harm that occur in close or romantic relationships. The main objectives of this study are to describe the characteristics of IPV victims and perpetrators in Turkey, to elucidate the causes and risk factors associated with IPV, and to discuss the data obtained with similar studies.

**Method:** The study population comprised IPV cases who had consented to participate between February 2019 and June 2020 in the emergency department and forensic medicine clinic.

**Results:** Physical violence emerged as the primary manifestation of IPV, accounting for 98.4% of reported incidents between partners. Jealousy (38.6%) and economic factors (37.6%) were identified as the most common triggers. Of the victims, 204 (65.6%) cases acknowledge this circumstance when exposed to IPV. As the level of education of the victim increases, violence due to jealousy and family factors was observed. The rate of exposure to economic violence was found to be high among women with low income levels.

**Discussion:** It was thought that increasing the level of education of female victims of violence, promoting awareness of violence, fully integrating them into the workforce and thereby securing a sustainable economic income can significantly reduce the incidence of IPV and its acceptance. The study suggests that the widespread implementation of psychological support practices, including premarital education programmes and family counselling focused on addressing issues related to jealousy, holds the potential for substantial benefits in reducing IPV.

**Key Words:** Intimate partner violence, domestic violence, physical violence, risk factors, sexual violence, perpetrators.

## INTRODUCTION

Intimate partner violence; It is defined as "abuse by current and former spouses and dating partners in close relationships, which may vary in frequency and severity over a period of time, where one partner keeps the other under power and control, and may include physical, sexual, psychological and economic coercion (1). Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a global public health concern predominantly affecting women (2,3). Although developed countries exhibit heightened sensitivity towards IPV and its societal repercussions, it is estimated that IPV occurs at significantly higher rates in patriarchal societies and low-income countries (4). Optimistic estimates from the United States suggest that approximately 20%–30% of women experience

IPV at least once in their lifetimes (5). As per the World Health Organization's comprehensive study, encompassing ten countries, women encounter physical and sexual violence at varying rates, spanning from 15% to 71% (6). In Eastern Asia, Western Europe, and North America, IPV is observed at the lowest rates (15% to 20%), while it reaches the highest rates (65%) in Sub-Saharan Africa, indicating significant regional disparities (7). Several factors, including alcohol consumption, history of psychiatric illness, economic constraints, and exposure to violence during childhood, have been identified as contributors to an increased risk of IPV (8). However, these factors should be considered and emphasized separately because the sociocultural and socioeconomic characteristics of each society are different.

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Violence against women is becoming more common around the world and in Turkey (2). According to the report on the Importance and Role of Law Enforcement in Preventing Domestic Violence and Femicide in Turkey; Between January 1 and July 1, 2020, 117 thousand 192 incidents of domestic violence and violence against women occurred (9). The prevalence of IPV against women ranged from 67.7 to 85.4% in regional studies conducted in Turkey (2).

The study aimed to determine the characteristics of IPV victims and perpetrators in eastern of Turkey, to reveal the causes and risk factors of IPV, and to discuss the data obtained with similar studies. The most distinctive feature of this study is that it examines the forensic medical and psychiatric characteristics of IPV perpetrators and victims in eastern Turkey.

## METHODS

Victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence admitted to emergency departments and forensic medicine clinics in a center in eastern Turkey between February 2019 and June 2020 were examined. The study was conducted prospectively, with informed consent acquired from each participant. Some victims did not want to participate, 90% of the victims who came to the polyclinic participated in the research. Victims who wanted to participate in the study were included. Examination records of victims of violence were recorded in a questionnaire prepared by the researchers. The perpetrator data was documented based on anamnesis and information provided by the victims. The survey was administered face to face by the research leader.

The analysis encompassed socio-demographic characteristics of the perpetrator and victims of violence (age, gender, education level, employment status, monthly income, place of living), alcohol and substance use, violence in childhood, the nature of relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, reason for violence, frequency of violence, type of violence experienced, instruments used in the assaults, body parts affected during the attacks, and severity of the injuries. Monthly

income was grouped according to minimum wage. While the minimum wage in Turkey was approximately 2000 TL in 2019, it increased to 2300 TL in 2020. No sampling method was chosen for the study and all cases who gave consent between the specified dates were included in the study. The form used in the study; Created by adding new data to the National Injury Prevention and Control Center's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (10).

The study maintained confidentiality by refraining from recording identifying information such as names or ID numbers for the cases involved. The authors assert that all procedures contributing to this work comply with the ethical standards of the relevant national and institutional committees on human experimentation and with the Declaration of Helsinki, last revised in 2013. The privacy rights of human subjects were respected during the implementation of study by the authors. Ethical approval for the study's implementation was obtained from the Firat University Non-Interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committees. (Date: 24.01.2019, Number: 19/02).

For statistical analyses, the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences; SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL) 21 package program was utilized. Categorical variable comparisons between groups were conducted using Pearson's Chi-square analysis. Fisher's Exact test was employed when expected values fell  $<5$ , and in cases where  $>20\%$  of expected values were  $<5$ . The normal distribution conformity of continuous variables was assessed using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. For comparisons between two groups, when variables adhered to normal distribution the independent samples t-test was employed. The Mann-Whitney U test was utilized when the variables did not adhere to normal distribution. The predetermined level of statistical significance for all analyses was set at  $p < 0.05$ . The sample size of the study was calculated using the G\*Power V3.1.9.2 program. Accordingly, the minimum sample size was calculated as 210 at  $d=0.50$  effect size, 0.95 power and  $\alpha=0.05$  error probability.

**Table 1.** Socio-demographic characteristics of victims of violence and perpetrators.

	Victims		Perpetrators		p	
	n	%	n	%		
The Average Age (year)	33,1–9,8		35,9–10,6		0,001	
Sex	Female	277	89,1	34	10,9	<0,001
	Male	34	10,9	277	89,1	
Place of residence	Urban center	292	93,9	290	93,2	0,744
	Countryside	19	6,1	21	6,8	
Pregnancy	Positive	11	3,9	0	0	-
	Negative	274	96,1	0	0	
Week of pregnancy	16,2–8,8		-		-	
Number of children	1,7–1,5		-		-	
Duration of marriage (year)	10,5–9,1		10,4–9,1		0,932	
Number of marriages	1,1–1,0		1,2–0,4		0,896	
Level of education	Illiterate	22	7,1	4	1,3	0,01
	Primary school	61	19,6	65	20,9	
	Middle school	60	19,3	65	20,9	
	High school	80	25,7	90	28,9	
	University	88	28,3	87	28,0	
Employment	Unemployed	206	66,2	86	27,7	<0,001
	Employed	105	33,8	225	72,3	
Monthly income (Turkish Lira)	1098,2–2021,1		3565,8–4122,4		<0,001	
Alcohol Use	Positive	11	3,5	102	32,8	<0,001
	Negative	300	96,5	209	67,2	
Substance Use	Positive	3	1,0	32	10,3	<0,001
	Negative	308	99,0	279	89,7	
Marital status	Married	273	87,8	277	89,1	0,616
	Single	38	12,2	34	10,9	
Domestic violence during childhood	Positive	47	15,1	90	28,9	<0,001
	Negative	261	83,9	162	52,1	
	Unanswered	3	1,0	59	19,0	

**RESULTS**

The study analyzed 311 cases of IPV. Among the victims of violence, 277 (89.1%) were female and 34 (10.9%) were male. The perpetrators comprised 277 (89.1%) males and 34 (10.9%) females. The average age of the victims was 33.1±9.8 years (min–max, 15–66) while the average age of the perpetrators was 35.9 ± 10.6 years (min–max, 18–72). The average age of the perpetrators was significantly higher than the victims (p=0.001). The employment rate among victims (33.8%) was significantly lower than that among perpetrators (72.3%) (p<0.01). Perpetrators were found to have a significantly higher monthly income than the victims (p<0.001). Additionally, the prevalence of

alcohol and substance use among perpetrators surpassed that among the victims of violence (p< 0.001). Table 1 provides an overview of the socio-demographic characteristics of victims of violence and perpetrators.

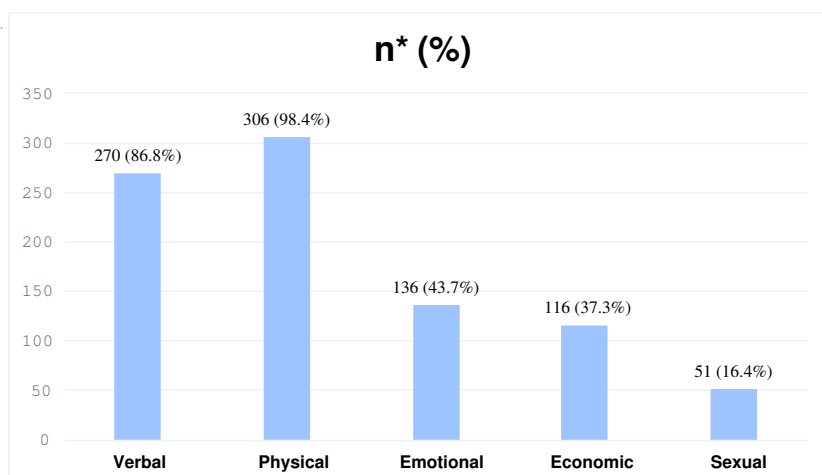
Among the perpetrators, 282 (90.7%) were spouses of the victim, and of these spouses 271 (87.1%) were officially married. Among the married individuals, 164 (57.3%) were found to have married after the dating period. In our country, the arranged marriage period is a period spent by people who are about to get married to get to know each other. This is also seen as a time period with the consent of families (Table 2).

Physical violence was predominantly observed among partners, constituting 98.4%, whereas sexual violence occurred with the lowest frequency at 16.4%. Figure 1 provides an illustration of the various types of violence observed among partners.

The study identified that 26 victims of violence (8.4%) experienced physical violence for the first time with the initial occurrence, typically, transpiring around the 15th month of the relationship. It

**Table 2.** Relationship between Partners.

	n	%	
Degree of intimacy of the perpetrator	Spouse	282	90,7
	Ex spouse	2	0,6
	Boyfriend/Girlfriend	24	7,7
	Engaged	2	0,6
	Other	1	0,3
Partner relationship type	Officially married	271	87,1
	Religious marriage	11	3,5
	Cohabitation	13	4,2
	Other	16	5,1
Marriage method if the violent spouse	By agreement (dating)	164	57,3
	Arranged marriage	99	34,6
	Forced marriage (by family)	4	1,4
	Elopement	16	5,6
	Forced marriage by abduction	3	1,0



**Figure 1.** Type of violence between partners \*Those who are subjected to more than one type of violence.

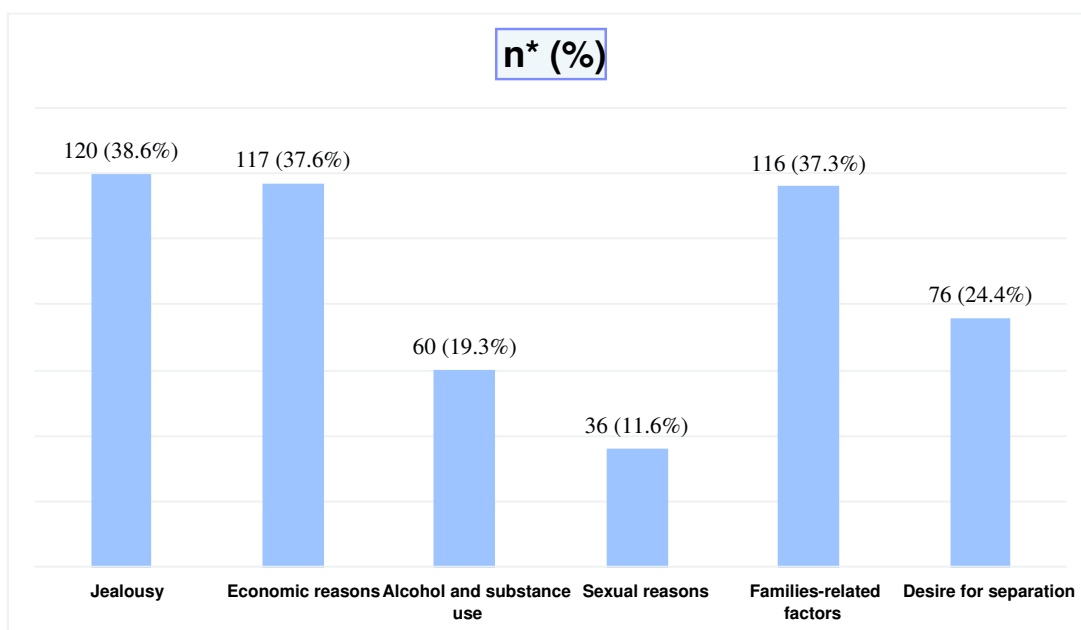
was understood that physical violence occurred between partners 34.6 times a year on average. Predominantly, the first incidence of physical violence occurred during marriage (86.8%). While assessing the motives behind IPV, jealousy (38.6%) and economic reasons (37.6%) emerged as the most prevalent, while sexual reasons were the least common (Figure 2).

Among the victims exposed to partner violence, 204 (65.6%) acknowledged and accepted this situation while 56 (18%) sought divorce. People who did not show any reaction after intimate partner violence were reported as accepting. (Figure 3).

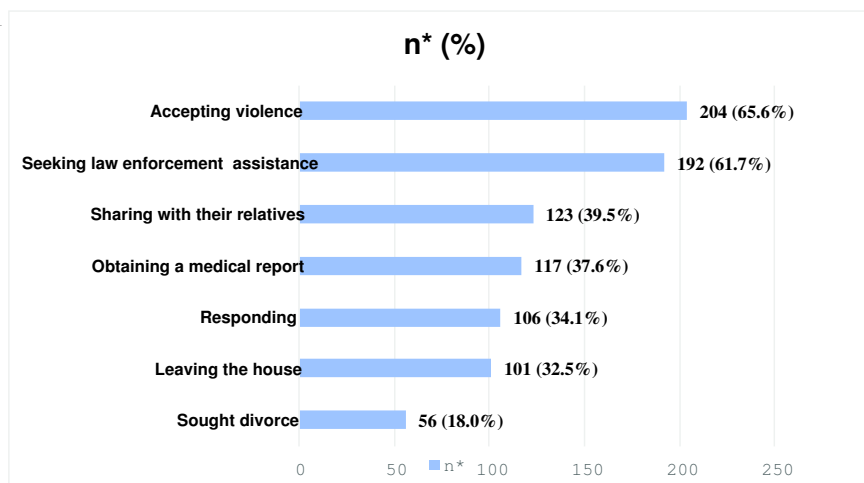
Concerning perpetrators, 301 (96.8%) utilized

hands/feet during the attacks, 77 (24.8%) employed blunt objects, 29 (9.3%) resorted to sharp tools, and 7 (2.3%) used firearms. The face was the most frequently injured body region (64%) during these attacks (Figure 4). Additionally, the majority of injuries (95.2%) were classified as mild in severity.

When the education levels of the victims were categorized into two groups, "primary school and below" and "middle school and above"; it was observed that the victims with lower education levels had lower rates of experiencing violence due to jealousy ( $p < 0.001$ ) and originating from the families of their partners ( $p < 0.001$ ). Conversely, the victims with higher education levels exhibited lower rates of experiencing violence due to economic rea-



**Figure 2.** Causes of Violence between Partners \* Multiple causes of violence are present.



**Figure 3.** The responses of victims exposed to partner violence. \* Multiple responses are present.

sons ( $p = 0.002$ ). Similarly, among perpetrators, those with higher education levels demonstrated a lower rate of resorting to violence due to economic reasons ( $p = 0.005$ ). The rate of seeking assistance from law enforcement was significantly higher among the victims with lower education levels ( $p = 0.041$ ). However, no significant difference was observed between education status and the types of violence, among the victims and perpetrators (Table 3).

Monthly income data was examined in two groups: “below the minimum wage” and “above the minimum wage”. It was found that the rate of experiencing violence due to alcohol and drug use was higher among the victims with low-income ( $p = 0.002$ ). Among perpetrators, the rate of violence stemming from economic reasons was significantly higher among low-income individuals ( $p = 0.028$ ) (Table 4).

**Table 3.** Comparison of types of violence and responses of victims to violence by the education level of the victim and perpetrator.

		The education levels of the victims				p	The education levels of the perpetrators				p
		Primary school and below		Middle school and above			Primary school and below		Middle school and above		
		n	%	n	%		n	%	n	%	
Jealousy	Pres.*	18	21,7	102	44,7	<0,001	27	39,1	93	38,4	0,916
	Abs. \	65	78,3	126	55,3		42	60,9	149	61,6	
Economic reasons	Pres.	43	51,8	74	32,5	0,002	36	52,2	81	33,5	0,005
	Abs.	40	48,2	154	67,5		33	47,8	161	66,5	
Alcohol and drug	Pres.	14	16,9	46	20,2	0,513	10	14,5	50	20,7	0,252
	Abs.	69	83,1	182	79,8		59	85,5	192	79,3	
Sexual reasons	Pres.	6	7,2	30	13,2	0,148	8	11,6	28	11,6	0,996
	Abs.	77	92,8	198	86,8		61	88,4	214	88,4	
The families of their partners	Pres.	18	21,7	98	43,0	0,001	19	27,5	97	40,1	0,057
	Abs.	65	78,3	130	57,0		50	72,5	145	59,9	
Desire for separation	Pres.	20	24,1	56	24,6	0,933	15	21,7	61	25,2	0,554
	Abs.	63	75,9	172	75,4		54	78,3	181	74,8	
Verbal violence	Pres.	73	88,0	197	86,4	0,721	59	85,5	211	87,2	0,715
	Abs.	10	12,0	31	13,6		10	14,5	31	12,8	
Physical violence	Pres.	82	98,8	224	98,2	0,733	67	97,1	239	98,8	0,308
	Abs.	1	1,2	4	1,8		2	2,9	3	1,2	
Emotional violence	Pres.	33	39,8	103	45,2	0,394	28	40,6	108	44,6	0,550
	Abs.	50	60,2	125	54,8		41	59,4	134	55,4	
Economic violence	Pres.	38	45,8	78	34,2	0,062	26	37,7	90	37,2	0,941
	Abs.	45	54,2	150	65,8		43	62,3	152	62,8	
Sexual violence	Pres.	11	13,3	40	17,5	0,366	8	11,6	43	17,8	0,222
	Abs.	72	86,7	188	82,5		61	88,4	199	82,2	
Accepting violence	Pres.	61	73,5	143	62,7	0,077	48	69,6	156	64,5	0,431
	Abs.	22	26,5	85	37,3		21	30,4	86	35,5	
Responding	Pres.	23	27,7	83	36,4	0,153	21	30,4	85	35,1	0,469
	Abs.	60	72,3	145	63,6		48	69,6	157	64,9	
Sharing with their relatives	Pres.	36	43,4	87	38,2	0,405	22	31,9	101	41,7	0,141
	Abs.	47	56,6	141	61,8		47	68,1	141	58,3	
Leaving the house	Pres.	31	37,3	70	30,7	0,268	21	30,4	80	33,1	0,681
	Abs.	52	62,7	158	69,3		48	69,6	162	66,9	
Seeking law enforcement assistance	Pres.	59	71,1	133	58,3	0,041	44	63,8	148	61,2	0,694
	Abs.	24	28,9	95	41,7		25	36,2	94	38,8	
Obtaining a medical report	Pres.	24	28,9	93	40,8	0,056	24	34,8	93	38,4	0,581
	Abs.	59	71,1	135	59,2		45	65,2	149	61,6	
Sought divorce	Pres.	15	18,1	41	18,0	0,985	9	13,0	47	19,4	0,224
	Abs.	68	81,9	187	82,0		60	87,0	195	80,6	

\*: Present, \: Absent

**Table 4.** Comparison of causes of violence based on the income status of the victim and the perpetrator.

	Monthly income of the victim				p	Monthly income of the perpetrator					
	Below the minimum wage		Above the minimum wage			Below the minimum wage		Above the minimum wage			
	n	%	n	%		n	%	n	%		
Jealousy	Present	93	38,0	27	40,9	0,662	57	44,9	63	34,2	0,058
	Absent	152	62,0	39	59,1		70	55,1	121	65,8	
Economic reasons	Present	96	39,2	21	31,8	0,273	57	44,9	60	32,6	0,028
	Absent	149	60,8	45	68,2		70	55,1	124	67,4	
Alcohol and drug	Present	56	22,9	4	6,1	0,002	24	18,9	36	19,6	0,883
	Absent	189	77,1	62	93,9		103	81,1	148	80,4	
Sexual reasons	Present	30	12,2	6	9,1	0,477	13	10,2	23	12,5	0,540
	Absent	215	87,8	60	90,9		114	89,8	161	87,5	
Families-related factors	Present	92	37,6	24	36,4	0,859	42	33,1	74	40,2	0,201
	Absent	153	62,4	42	63,6		85	66,9	110	59,8	
Desire for separation	Present	61	24,9	15	22,7	0,716	25	19,7	51	27,7	0,105
	Absent	184	75,1	51	77,3		102	80,3	133	72,3	

Low-income victims of violence had higher rates of sharing the incident of violence with their relatives ( $p=0.004$ ), leaving the house ( $p=0.012$ ), and seeking law enforcement assistance ( $p<0.001$ ) after the violence incident (Table 5). In contrast, the likelihood of obtaining a medical report after the violence incident was higher among high-income victims of violence ( $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 5).

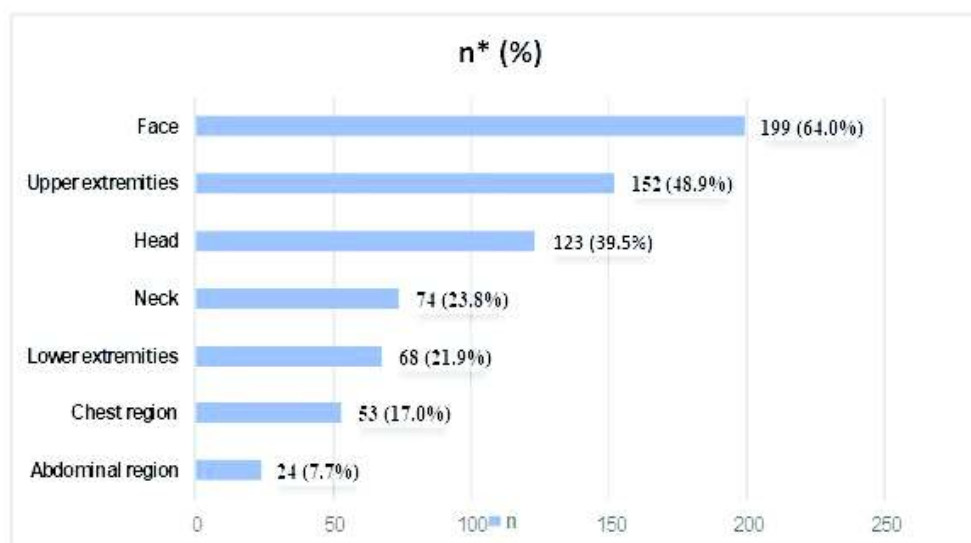
## DISCUSSION

IPV, conventionally associated with violence perpetrated by men against women (11). It was corroborated by our study, revealing a majority in female victims. This situation creates the perception that androgens play a role in the occurrence of aggression and violence. However, studies have not yet confirmed this relationship. The focus is mostly on the concept of social gender (12). It was thought that the social meaning that society attributes to men and women, especially in developing coun-

tries, contributed to the observation of this profound difference.

Interestingly, our study highlighted that perpetrators and victims predominantly resided in urban centers. The observation that perpetrators and victims predominantly resided in urban centers does not necessarily imply a higher prevalence of IPV in urban areas. Because risk factors for intimate partner violence in rural areas; low education level, unemployment, social pressure are more evident (13). It could be indicative of heightened reporting in urban settings, potentially suggesting underreported incidence rates in rural areas.

It was reported that 3%-9% of women experience IPV during pregnancy (14,15). Our study, consistent with existing research, observed a 3.9% rate among pregnant cases. Among female victims of IPV, there are studies showing that the rate of single women is higher (16). Given that 89.1% of cases

**Figure 4.** Areas of the body subjected to attack

\* In some cases, more than one body part was injured during the same attack.

**Table 5.** Comparison of responses to violence based on the income status of the victim and the perpetrator.

	Monthly income of the victim				P	Monthly income of the perpetrator				P	
	Below the minimum wage		Above the minimum wage			Below the minimum wage	Above the minimum wage				
	n	%	n	%			n	%	n		%
Accepting violence	Present	167	68,2	37	56,1	0,066	76	59,8	128	69,6	0,076
	Absent	78	31,8	29	43,9		51	40,2	56	30,4	
Responding	Present	77	31,4	29	43,9	0,057	50	39,4	56	30,4	0,102
	Absent	168	68,6	37	56,1		77	60,6	128	69,6	
Sharing with their relatives	Present	107	43,7	16	24,2	0,004	44	34,6	79	42,9	0,142
	Absent	138	56,3	50	75,8		83	65,4	105	57,1	
Leaving the house	Present	88	35,9	13	19,7	0,012	43	33,9	58	31,5	0,665
	Absent	157	64,1	53	80,3		84	66,1	126	68,5	
Seeking law enforcement assistance	Present	164	66,9	28	42,4	<0,001	83	65,4	109	59,2	0,275
	Absent	81	33,1	38	57,6		44	34,6	75	40,8	
Obtaining a medical report	Present	80	32,7	37	56,1	<0,001	45	35,4	72	39,1	0,508
	Absent	165	67,3	29	43,9		82	64,6	112	60,9	
Sought divorce	Present	40	16,3	16	24,2	0,137	19	15,0	37	20,1	0,245
	Absent	205	83,7	50	75,8		108	85,0	147	79,9	

in this study were married, domestic violence can persist within families regardless of marital status. Moreover, the lower marriage age and higher marriage rates in Turkey, compared to developed societies, may contribute to proportional differences.

Educational levels play a crucial role in shaping perspectives and behaviors in relationships, with low education being a recognized risk factor for IPV (17). In our study, an unexpectedly high rate (54.0%) was found of individuals with a high school or university education levels. This finding may be linked to a higher incidence of official reports among those with higher education levels, suggesting a potential correlation between education and reporting rates.

In a study conducted in Norway, it was reported that 59% of female victims of violence were unemployed, and in a study conducted in India, 54.2% of female victims of violence were unemployed (18,19). In a study conducted in Turkey, it was stated that women's low status and lack of economic freedom may be related to violence against women (20). The high rate of unemployment among female victims of IPV, as identified in our study, resonates with findings from other regions. This recurrent trend across societies suggests that women who are financially independent and employed may experience less violence.

The family, often considered the primary context for shaping problem-solving approaches and relationship dynamics, plays a crucial role in determining violent behavior. Exposure to violence during childhood lays the groundwork for a learned behav-

ior model, particularly among individuals who later become perpetrators of violence (21). In our study, a notable difference was observed between victims and perpetrators concerning experiences of domestic violence during childhood. This finding supports the concept of an intergenerational cycle of violence. Similarly, studies conducted in Turkey found that those with a history of domestic violence in childhood were more likely to perpetrate intimate partner violence (2,22).

On analyzing the relationship between women subjected to violence and the perpetrators, it was evident that the most common relationship was the legal marriage (90.7%). These marriages, lasting an average of over 10 years, underscore the urgency of addressing societal issues and preventing violence to safeguard future generations.

IPV stands as the most pervasive form of violence against women (23), with global statistics from the World Health Organization indicating that 1 in 3 women experiences physical and sexual violence in their life span (2,24). Physical violence tends to be more frequently reported than other forms due to its visible and easily verifiable nature. In a study conducted by Gümüş et al., it was found that between 30.4% and 62% of women in Turkey were subjected to physical violence by their partners (20). In our study, the highest prevalence was observed in physical violence (98.4%) and verbal abuse (86.8%) among partners, sexual violence being the least common form of abuse (16.4%). This pattern may be associated with women's hesitancy to disclose instances of sexual violence, potentially driven by the fear of stigma influenced by societal and cultural norms. In addition, the

higher frequency of physical violence in our study was expected due to the fact that the participants presented to emergency and forensic medicine services for physical injuries.

Within the scope of this study, the predominant reasons for violence between partners were jealousy (38.6%), followed closely by economic reasons (37.6%) and involvement of the families (37.3%). The underlying causes of violence exhibit variations influenced by the distinctive characteristics of societies. While alcohol use by the aggressor has been recognized as a significant risk factor for violence (25). Although our study shows a relatively lower rate of violence attributed to alcohol and substance use (19.3%), appearing considerably lower than other causes. This disparity suggests that the solutions to addressing violence should be contextually tailored to the unique dynamics of the local environment.

It was evaluated that some women perceived violence as an acceptable behavior because they perceived violence as a normal part of marriage, a private problem to be solved within the family and did not seek social support for violence (20). In evaluating the responses of victims of violence in our study, it was noteworthy that 65.6% of the victims chose to “accept violence,” and 61.7% sought law enforcement assistance. This contrasts with a study in Bangladesh that reported that 60% of women did not seek help from others, with only 2% turning to officials, primarily in perceived life-threatening situations or when they felt their children were in danger. In the same study, 66% of women were found to have remained silent about incidents of IPV, attributing their silence to the fear of accepting violence and apprehensions about potential escalation (26). In our study, the elevated rates of both accepting violence and seeking law enforcement assistance among the victims may be attributed to an initial perception that the violence was a one-time occurrence, with the hope that it would cease or not escalate further. However, as the pattern of violence persisted, seeking assistance from law enforcement might have been seen as a viable means of escaping the violent environment and separating from the perpetrator. Moreover, the notable high rate of reporting to official institutions in our study may be linked to recent legal regula-

tions addressing domestic violence in Turkey and an increased societal awareness of this issue.

Acts of violence often encompass a combination of common attack actions, aggressive behaviors, and verbal threats and insults (27). In our study, none of the cases reached a life-threatening situation, and injuries of a manageable nature, requiring simple medical Intervention, were observed in 95.2% of the cases. Notably, 64% of those subjected to the attack received blows to the face, 48.9% to the upper extremities, and 39.5% to the head region. A study conducted in Singapore revealed that lesions detected in women were found to be 73.6% in the head and neck, 26.3% in the extremities, and 47.2% in the trunk (28). In a study conducted in Iran, it was determined that only 2.6% of women subjected to physical violence were traumatized to the extent of requiring hospitalization (29). The results of our study are consistent with these literatures. It is presumed that individuals resort to violence not with the intention of seriously injuring their spouses, rather to assert themselves or fulfill a request.

The incidence of economic violence was significantly higher among women with low income, and simultaneously, the rate of seeking law enforcement assistance was significantly lower. Financial independence for women is reported to be protective against IPV (30).

#### **Future research directions**

Intimate partner violence is one of the most important issues for society. It is thought that multidisciplinary studies should be conducted on this subject, including fields such as psychiatry, forensic medicine and sociology. In Turkey, there are very few studies examining the perpetrators and victims of intimate partner violence together. It is thought that studies should be conducted on the effects of Turkish culture on perpetrators and victims of violence. A multicenter study should be conducted on a larger case study. Additionally, follow-up of the cases should be ensured.

Our study is cross-sectional and a face-to-face survey interview was conducted with the victims. One



of the limitations of the study is that people's subsequent reactions to violence could not be followed.

In conclusion, our study reveals that violence is most frequently perpetrated by the official spouse. The most common form is physical violence. Jealousy emerges as the most common reason for violence, and the victims often respond by accepting the situation. The physical traumas that occur are more often in the form of mild injuries. As the educational level of the victim decreases, violence is more frequently associated with economic reasons. Conversely, as the education level increases, violence is more commonly linked to jealousy and family-related factors. Additionally, it was observed that the victims of violence with lower education levels tend to seek law enforcement assistance more frequently.

Legal regulations and state institutional mechanisms regarding violence are often limited in their scope, primarily addressing actions that can be taken after a violent incident has occurred. These measures typically lack noticeable preventive effects beyond removing the victim from the violent environment and imposing sanctions on the perpetrator. Indeed, various studies and observations highlight that elevating the educational level of women, raising awareness about violence, increased participation in the workforce, and achieving economic independence play pivotal roles in greatly reducing the occurrence and acceptance of violence among female victims. The study

suggests that widespread implementation of psychological support practices, including pre-marital education programs and family counseling focused on addressing issues related to jealousy, and holds the potential for substantial benefits in mitigating IPV.

#### Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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