

Original Paper

## Intimate partner violence during pregnancy in the Northern Iran (2010)

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### Abstract

**Background and Objective:** Pregnancy can not only protect mothers against intimate partner violence but even it may increase the rate and severity of intimate partner violence. This study was done to determine the intimate partner violence during pregnancy in the Northern Iran.

**Method:** This cross-sectional - analytical study was done on 1500 mothers whom attended the primary health centers of Mazandaran province, Northern Iran from Feb to Sep 2010. Mothers screened using modified standard world health organization intimate partner violence questionnaire via interview. The questionnaire included physical, emotional and sexual intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence was categorized to severe, moderate and mild. A multivariate logistic regression analysis was used to identify predictor of intimate partner violence.

**Results:** The most common intimate partner violence was restriction of mothers in terms of money, food, and clothing (88.8%). The prevalence of physical, psychological and sexual intimate partner violence was 14.1%, 69.9% and 10.8%, respectively. The adjusted odds ratio for physical intimate partner violence in mothers with low education and low socio-economic status were significantly higher in those mothers with high education and fair socio-economic status ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Mild psychological intimate partner violence is prevalent in Mazandran province, North of Iran.

**Keywords:** Pregnancy, Intimate partner violence, Iran

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