Dark Triad and Sadism: Effects on Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence

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INTRODUCTION

IPV is a form of violence against women, or a type of gender-based violence, which includes physical, sexual, or psychological violence perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner (United Nations, 1993). Regional estimates of IPV prevalence over lifetime vary widely, ranging from a low prevalence of 16.3% (East Asia) to a high prevalence of 65.6% (Central Sub-Saharan Africa). It is estimated that the prevalence of IPV over lifetime, in Western Europe and North America, is approximately 20% (Devries et al., 2013). The literature has reported that personality traits such as Machiavellianism, Psychopathy, Narcissism and Sadism influence the practice of IPV.

AIM

Which instruments are most commonly used in the dark triad and in sadism?

How do specific personality traits influence the practice of IPV?

METHOD

Search expression used:

TX (psychopathy OR narcissism OR machiavellianism OR sadism) AND TI (domestic violence or domestic abuse or intimate partner violence or partner violence or spousal abuse) NOT TI psychopatho*.

Inclusion Criteria

- (a) Empirical study;
- (b) Sample older than 18 years;
- (c) IPV studies
- (d) One of the personality traits.

Exclusion Criteria

- (a) Review studies;
- (b) Theoretical essays;
- (c) Studies limited to children/adolescents;
- (d) Case studies.

CONCLUSIONS

MACHIAVELLIANISM

- Machiavellianism subscale
- Short Dark Triad

PSYCHOPATHY

- Psychopathic Personality Inventory
- Self-Report Psychopathy Scale
- Psychopathy Checklist
- Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scales

NARCISSISM

- Narcissistic Personality Inventory
- Short Dark Triad

SADISM

- Sadistic Impulse Scale
- Short Dark Triad

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Future interventions should consider the characteristics and risk factors underlying those personality traits.