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INTIMATE PARTNER RAPE: HEALTH EFFECTS FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN  
Rape, Women, Children

**PURPOSE:** Intimate partner rape is the most common form of rape, outnumbering both stranger and acquaintance rape, with 14% to 25% of women reporting rape by their partners at some time during the relationship. Although much information exists on the health and emotional effects of intimate partner physical abuse, little to no information is available on intimate partner rape. Additionally, not all physically abused women are raped. The characteristics that distinguish the raped and physically abused women from the physically abused-only or raped-only are unknown. **METHODS:** A cohort of 150 physically abused Hispanic, African American, and white women were followed for two years. Two women died during the two year study. The remaining 148 women completed six interviews. Most Hispanic women were first generation immigrants from Mexico and did not speak English. Rape was defined as forced vaginal, oral, or anal sex. A detailed account of perpetrator behaviors at the time of the first rape as well as victim helpseeking following the rape and agency responses was documented. Sequencing of the first episode of rape relative to the start of the relationship, sexual relations, and physical abuse was chronicled. Scored instruments measured frequency and severity of violence and norm referenced instruments measured health indices of depression, post traumatic stress syndrome and suicidality for both raped and non-raped women. Aggressive and depressive behaviors of children of raped mothers were compared to behaviors of children of physically abused but not raped mothers. **FINDINGS:** Among the 148 women who completed the two year study, 68% reported rape. Thirty percent of the women had not been physically abused prior to the first episode of rape. Almost one third (31%) of the raped women had experienced the first episode of rape within one year of meeting the perpetrator. Most (79%) of the raped women reported multiple rapes. Fifty-five percent of the women reported the second rape occurred within one month of the first rape. The women sought help in a variety of ways. The most common person with whom the women shared the rape was a friend or family member. Fourteen percent of the women sought justice services following the first rape and 27% after the second rape. Although

61% of the raped women who applied for a protection order received the order, only 28% of contacts with the police resulted in an arrest. Only 10% of the women received medical care following the rape and fewer received counseling. Scores on depression, post traumatic stress, and suicidality will be presented at the conference as well as patterns of sexual decision making and behavior problems of the children of raped women compared to non-raped but physically abused mothers. **DISCUSSION:** Intimate partner rape is frequent and severe among physically abused women with associated elevated levels of violence, risk factors for femicide, depression and suicidality. Standard health and justice programming must include assessment and treatment strategies for intimate partner rape.