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The relationship between intimate partner violence and alcohol consumption among young adults in the US and Uganda: a comparative analysis

Aissa Sylla

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a significant human rights issue that is highly prevalent internationally and has serious health consequences. Alcohol consumption may be related to elevated IPV risk. The risk of both IPV and excessive alcohol use may be greater among young adults when compared with older adults. Further, the relationship between IPV and alcohol may differ internationally. The AUDIT scale was used to measure alcohol consumption, and the CAS-R was used to measure IPV perpetration. Data were stratified by country and sex, and Fisher's exact tests were used to assess whether there was a statistically significant relationship between alcohol consumption and IPV perpetration. The final data set contained 198 US participants and 210 Ugandan participants. Among 110 Ugandan men, 28 scored in the harmful drinking or AUD range and 47 perpetrated IPV. Among 100 Ugandan women, 13 scored in the harmful drinking or AUD range and 14 perpetrated IPV. Out of 93 American men, 42 had problem drinking or AUD and 54 perpetrated IPV. Out of 105 American women, 30 had problem drinking and 42 perpetrated IPV. Ugandan women were the only group for whom there was not a statistically significant relationship between drinking and IPV. Problem drinking, and AUD range were associated with greater IPV prevalence among US men, US women, and Ugandan men. Alcohol consumption may be a risk factor for IPV perpetration, and this relationship may be consistent internationally. However, this relationship may also differ by gender depending on cultural context.