

The nurse and the impact of COVID-19 on the increase in intimate partner violence

La enfermera y el impacto de la COVID-19 en el aumento de la violencia de pareja

O enfermeiro e o impacto da COVID-19 no aumento da violência contra parceiro íntimo

Bruno Martins Pinto¹

ORCID: 0000-0001-8222-8970

Cristiane Maria Amorim Costa^{1*}

ORCID: 0000-0003-1089-2092

Michelle Amorim Ferreira²

ORCID: 0000-0001-5585-4925

Barbara Cristina Gonçalves dos Santos³

ORCID: 0000-0002-0053-5713

Raphaella Nunes Alves¹

ORCID: 0000-0001-6779-1685

Manoela Braga Alves Pinto⁴

ORCID: 0009-0000-2509-1410

¹Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

²Instituto D'Or de Ensino e Pesquisa. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

³Universidade Veiga de Almeida. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

⁴Universidade Federal Fluminense. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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*Corresponding author:

cmacosta1964@gmail.com

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Abstract

The aim was to identify the relationship between Social Determinants of Health and the worsening of intimate partner violence during the pandemic. This is an integrative, descriptive review, carried out in SciELO and VHL databases, from September to October 2021. It made it possible to identify the scarcity of productions that address the role of nurses in reception. From eight selected studies, economic instability, unemployment, low income, and insecurities related to the contagion of COVID-19 are highlighted as the main factors generating tension within the family. It was also possible to identify behaviors such as alcohol consumption present in situations of violence and black women, with low education, who have more children, and who are financially dependent as the main risk groups for experiencing aggression in the marital context. It is worth mentioning that, as this is a topic intrinsic to taboos, fear, and lack of credibility concerning victims' complaints, much of the data obtained through research may have its results "camouflaged" by underreporting, impediments to complaints - such as threats to women, or even more aggression.

Descriptors: Social Determinants of Health; COVID-19; Violence by Intimate Partner; Social Isolation.

Resumen

El objetivo fue identificar la relación entre los Determinantes Sociales de la Salud y el agravamiento de la violencia de pareja durante la pandemia. Se trata de una revisión integradora, descriptiva, realizada en las bases de datos SciELO y BVS, de septiembre a octubre de 2021, que permitió identificar la escasez de producciones que aborden el rol del enfermero en recepción. De ocho estudios seleccionados, la inestabilidad económica, el desempleo, los bajos ingresos y las inseguridades relacionadas al contagio por la COVID-19 se destacan como los principales factores generadores de tensión en el seno de la familia. También fue posible identificar conductas como el consumo de alcohol presente en situaciones de violencia y las mujeres negras, con baja escolaridad, que tienen más hijos y que son económicamente dependientes como los principales grupos de riesgo para experimentar agresión en el contexto conyugal. Cabe mencionar que, al tratarse de un tema intrínseco a los tabúes, al miedo y a la falta de credibilidad en relación a las denuncias de las víctimas, muchos de los datos obtenidos a través de las investigaciones pueden tener sus resultados "camuflados" por subregistro, impedimentos a las denuncias -como amenazas a las mujeres, o incluso más agresiones.

Descriptor: Determinantes Sociales de la Salud; COVID-19; Violencia de Pareja; Aislamiento Social.

Resumo

Objetivou-se identificar a relação dos Determinantes Sociais de Saúde com o agravamento da violência por parceiro íntimo na pandemia. Trata-se de uma revisão integrativa, de caráter descritivo, realizada na SciELO e bases da BVS, de setembro a outubro de 2021, que possibilitou identificar a escassez quanto a produções que abordem o papel do enfermeiro no acolhimento. A partir de oito estudos selecionados, aponta-se a instabilidade econômica, desemprego, baixa renda e inseguranças relacionadas ao contágio pela COVID-19 como principais fatores geradores de tensão no âmbito familiar. Ainda foi possível identificar comportamentos como o consumo de álcool presente nas situações de violência e mulheres negras, com baixa escolaridade, que possuem mais filhos e que sejam dependentes financeiramente como principais grupos de risco para vivenciar agressões no âmbito conjugal. Vale ressaltar que, por se tratar de um tema intrínseco a tabus, medo e falta de credibilidade em relação as denúncias das vítimas, muitos dados obtidos pelas pesquisas podem ter seus resultados "camuflados" por subnotificações, impedimentos quanto às denúncias - como ameaças à mulher, ou até mesmo mais agressões.

Descritores: Determinantes Sociais da Saúde; COVID-19; Violência Por Parceiro Íntimo; Isolamento Social.



Introduction

The Social Determinants of Health (DSS), according to the 62nd World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO)¹, "are structural determinants and conditions of everyday life, responsible for most health inequities between countries and internally". Included are the distribution of power, income, goods, and services, people's living conditions, and their access to health care, schools, and education; their working and leisure conditions; and the state of your home and environment.

The factors mentioned above are also supported by the National Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CNDSS), created in 2006, through which we can mention other agents that influence human life, such as psychological, behavioral, and gender aspects; expanding the spectrum of analysis of a given reality, society or social group. Through the DDS, in some way, countless realities are reported that the subject will experience and define health conditions that exceed solely clinical care².

Researcher³ exemplifies this when addressing the relationship between more developed levels of education, housing, and job offers. The author also mentions the segregation concerning social groups in certain peripheral neighborhoods. Bringing this context to the present day, one can easily correlate the DSS with the new Coronavirus pandemic, which, after just over a year, has already changed the global health scenario and impacted different determinants.

The history of COVID-19 began in December 2019, when the first cases of transmission were recorded in Wuhan, China. After the high transmissibility rate (estimated at 4.08) was confirmed, several studies were initiated to propose actions to combat the spread of the disease throughout the world^{4,5}.

The association of the condition of the virus, added to the phenomenon of globalization, generated a rapid spread of the microorganism and on March 11, 2020, the WHO declared a state of Pandemic, as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome of the New Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) had already affected more than 118 thousand people in more than 114 countries^{6,7}.

Inevitably, the developments of SARS-CoV-2 present themselves in different ways, especially in more unequal countries, given the conditions we find in places like Brazil, which is in contrast to New Zealand, for example, proving the need to discuss this subject. Brazil can be considered one of the countries most affected by the pandemic and its consequences, given that just over a year after the first confirmed case in Brazilian territory, we broke a new record for deaths in 24 hours, with 3,650 deaths on March 26, 2021. On the other hand, according to a study carried out by the Australian Lowy Research Institute, the New Zealand population was the one that best dealt with the pandemic and its consequences, totaling approximately 2299 cases of the disease until January 2021⁸⁻¹⁰.

Regarding the impact of the pandemic on the DDS, according to a bulletin from the Ministry of Health, carried out with data up to January 2, 2021, a percentage of 74.2% of deaths were found in people over 60 years old compared

to the total number of deaths. Furthermore, there are other impacts regarding DSS, mainly those related to income, unemployment, housing, and gender vulnerability during quarantine. The survey carried out by the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) identified that informal workers were those who suffered most from the pandemic, in addition to highlighting that the impact on the job market is not homogeneous between age groups, genders, and education levels. With data from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and microdata from the ongoing National Household Sample Survey (PNAD) from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), it was verified that, still in 2019, among 64 countries analyzed, Brazil 55.8% of its working-age population were employed. After one year, the country had its lowest rate (48.8%). It was also found that after this drop, Brazil started to have lower occupancy levels than 76.2% of the 63 other countries participating in the compilation. It is essential to analyze the influence of the changes that occurred in the income of Brazilian families during the quarantine period, as with social isolation, many individuals lost their jobs or were unable to perform them fully. This fact generates lower family income which, together with the concern caused by fear of the disease, anguish arising from distance, and stress caused by living together 24 hours a day, creates a cascade effect, directly impacting family relationships and can become a trigger for cases of domestic violence, for example^{11,12}.

Bringing this concept into a more specific form, we arrive at the term "intimate partner violence", which is defined as acts of physical, sexual, or psychological aggression, also including controlling behaviors, both from current and past partners¹³.

That said, we can highlight some factors that allowed for centuries, the perpetuation of women as the main target of these forms of oppression, despite the possibility of men or same-sex couples being victims.

There are so-called ideologies of the male right to sex, which, through countless cultural beliefs - already rooted in our society -, mean that men do not consider women's wishes; or simply do not understand it as a female right to abstain from any relationship, whether sexual or not¹⁴.

Another crucial point, that helps to maintain this scenario of inequality between genders, is the issue of Family Honor. In several cultures, not very far from us, they ensure that men are not punished for sexual acts without consent. However, for women, what is perceived is judgment, blaming, and even cases of murder to cover up any trace of that unwanted relationship¹⁴.

Furthermore, the literature highlights the scarcity of data that substantiates the harm caused by the pandemic in cases of intimate partner violence. This reality contrasts with organizational reports and media coverage, which show a considerable increase in domestic violence committed by intimate partners¹⁵.

Likewise, it is clear that, in parallel with the pandemic, cases of femicide have increased year after year. In a comparison between 2017 and 2019, there was an



increase of 22.9% in 2017; 28.1% in 2018, and 35.1% in 2019¹⁶.

Making a connection between the explanations above and the current Brazilian situation, it is possible to verify, through social media and national and international publications, a substantial increase in the number of women who have suffered some type of violence - physical, verbal, sexual or mental - and started to feel even more submissive during the quarantine period. This population, who previously could still go out for their workdays, now face daily journeys facing their biggest challenge: living with their potential aggressors.

According to the Brazilian Public Security Forum, in 2020, there was a 22.2% increase in the number of femicide cases between March and April of the same year. Regarding calls to 190, there was an increase of 37.6% in April. Another alarming fact is the underreporting of rape cases, which can be related to the scenario of social distancing and the difficulty in accessing the police station. It is data like these that fundamentalize discussions in this field, as they highlight the gravity and how society, despite undergoing changes over the years and evolving in certain aspects, still maintains gender inequalities and female submission¹⁷.

The present study is important given the current Brazilian and global situation, and although it is not a new problem, the implementation of quarantine was a possible increase in cases of intimate partner violence. To achieve this, it is necessary to study the Social Determinants of Health, which include several agents that can increase or decrease the risks of experiencing cases of intimate aggression. Furthermore, there must be broad knowledge of the characteristics that constitute relationships predisposed to suffering some type of violence so that more effective methods of welcoming and actively searching for possible victims or perpetrators can be created.

In this way, we seek to understand how nurses should work in places where they care for victims, knowing how to evaluate signs of danger, in addition to the appropriate referral to other areas of health care, such as psychological and social. Based on the introductory contextualization outlined above, the objective was to identify the relationship between Social Determinants of Health and the worsening of intimate partner violence during the pandemic.

Methodology

This is an integrative review, which arises due to the increasing quantity and complexity of productions in the health area. This method provides the synthesis of knowledge and the incorporation of evidence for the applicability of its results in light of advances in health. Furthermore, integrative research has its origins in the combination of concepts and ideas from existing research^{18,19}.

It is highlighted that this study method consists of five stages: 1st stage (identify the topic and select the research question for preparing the review); 2nd stage (establish the inclusion and exclusion criteria for searching

the literature); 3rd stage (define the information to be synthesized from the materials selected and filtered in the previous stage); 4th stage (allows the categorization of selected studies); 5th stage (analysis and interpretation of results is carried out) and 6th stage (all collected information is summarized)²⁰.

Following the scheme presented above, in the first stage the following theme was defined: the impact of COVID-19 on social determinants of health, focusing on analyzing the influence of social isolation on the increase in violence against intimate partners; and the following research question: "What are the DSS, behaviors and habits, highlighted in the literature, that are related to the worsening of intimate partner violence during the pandemic?"

In the second stage, the selection criteria for the materials to be analyzed were defined. Including: publications from the last three years, in Portuguese, which are registered in the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) and Virtual Health Library (VHL), available in full; and by exclusion: theses, books, dissertations, conference annals, duplicate articles and those that do not answer the research question.

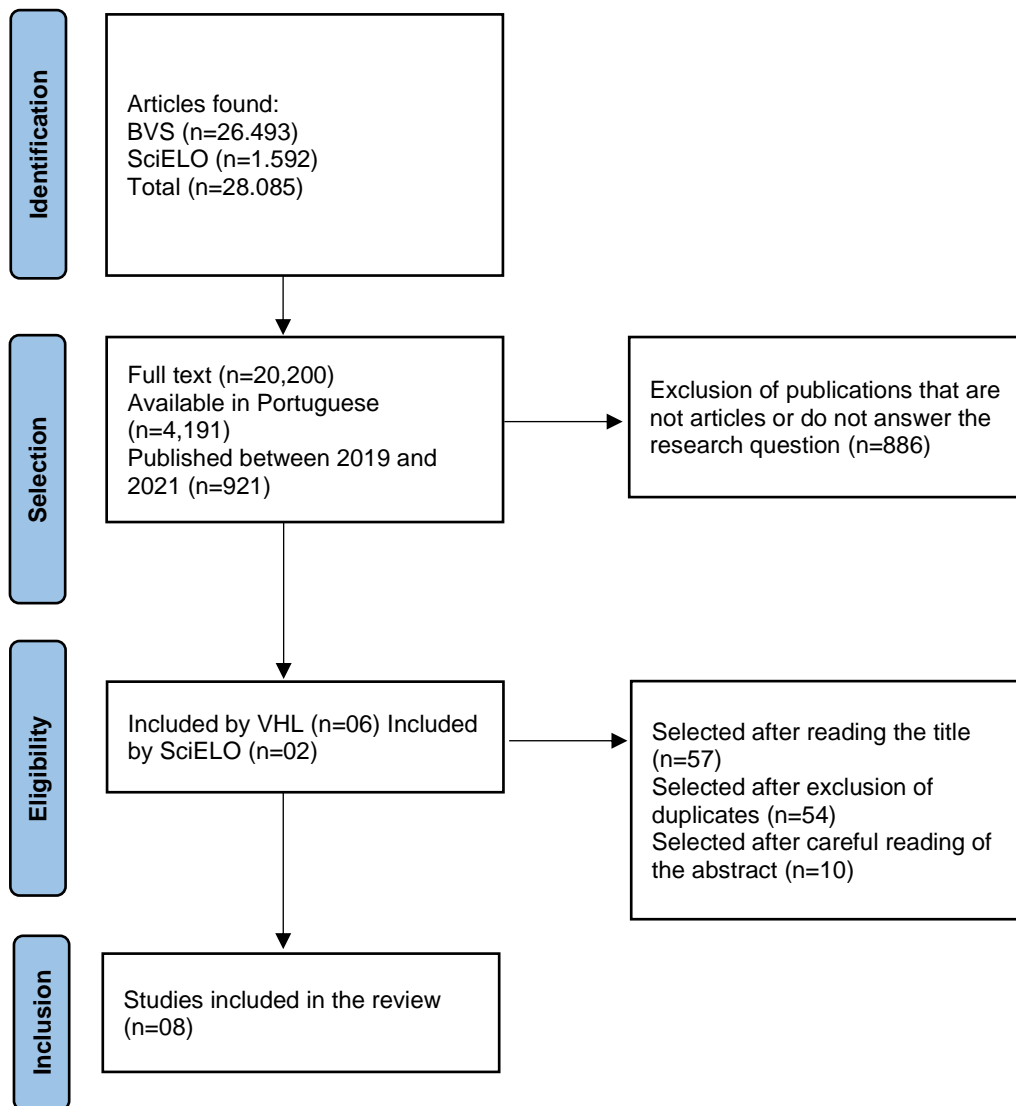
In the third stage, to select the material that was analyzed, the following descriptors registered on the Health Sciences Descriptors (DECS) website were used: "Social Determinants of Health"; "COVID-19"; "Betacoronavirus"; "Violence against Women"; "Intimate Partner Violence" and "Role of the Nursing Professional". Furthermore, to enable a more comprehensive search around the research question, the Boolean operators "AND" and "OR" were used: "Social Determinants of Health" AND "Violence Against Women" OR "Intimate Partner Violence", "Social Determinants of Health" AND "COVID-19" OR "Betacoronavirus", "Violence Against Women" OR "Intimate Partner Violence" AND "COVID-19" OR "Betacoronavirus" "Social Determinants of Health" AND "Violence Against a Woman" OR "Intimate Partner Violence" AND "COVID-19" OR "Betacoronavirus" AND "Role of the Nursing Professional", "Violence Against Women" OR "Intimate Partner Violence" AND "Role of the Nursing Professional". These data were described in a table and the selected articles were separated for analysis.

In the fourth stage, the inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied to define the selected articles. Afterwards, they were analyzed regarding the title, abstract and full text to check whether they answered the question of the integrative review. It was also exposed through the study search and selection flowchart (Figure 1), with the step-by-step selection of articles, containing the identification, selection, eligibility and inclusion processes. All data was organized in a table based on the following elements: year, state, title, authors, database, type of study and main results. The search for studies took place in September and October 2021.

In the fifth stage, the analysis of the information was carried out, where quantitative data were presented from the Table. As well as qualitative analysis, following Bardin's Content Analysis²¹.



Figure 1. Flowchart according to the PRISMA checklist. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil, 2021



Results

The search process, outlined through the flowchart (Figure 1), culminated in a total of 28,085 articles, 26,493 of which were found in the VHL and 1,592 in SciELO. In this way, 7,885 publications were excluded because they did not contain full text, 16,009 because they were not available in Portuguese, 3,270 because they were published outside the period of the last three years (2019 – 2021), and 35 publications were not articles or did not respond to the research question. Next, another 829 articles were excluded after reading the title, three for being duplicates, and after a careful reading of the abstract, another 44 publications were excluded for deviating from the proposed theme. Finally, 10 articles were selected, which underwent reading and analysis regarding their content, with two more materials being excluded. In the end, eight articles were included for the review, six from the VHL and two from SciELO.

Initially, it was possible to notice a shortage of productions that address this topic, especially when descriptors were crossed with the “Role of the Nursing Professional”. Furthermore, many of the results obtained using the descriptor “Social Determinants of Health” were related to a theme that went beyond the proposal of the

research question. Therefore, the main materials, including those selected to participate in the integrative review, originated through research using descriptors directly related to IPV/ MCV and COVID-19/ Betacoronavirus. Furthermore, it was also possible to observe that no materials address the research theme about nursing actions, action plans, or protocols specific to this situation.

Of the selected articles, one is configured as a scoping review, providing an analysis of the situation of IPV in times of COVID-19, aiming to relate the numerous factors that can contribute to the increase in cases of aggression in this scenario. Much of the other material deals with domestic violence in times of pandemic, addressing intensification/perpetration relationships, as well as the importance of establishing care protocols that aim at comprehensive and multidisciplinary care. Furthermore, it can be seen that there is a discussion around sociocultural aspects, linked to patriarchy and female submission. Some articles provide data on the profile of victims and their sociodemographic and marital characteristics, addressing alcohol consumption and situations of violence. Therefore, the eight articles selected for the study object were described in a chart, containing the main results (Chart 1).



Chart 1. Main variables of selected articles. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil, 2021

Year and State	Title	Authors	Database	Type of study	Main results
2019, Paraná	Diminuição no uso de bebidas alcoólicas e a violência pelo parceiro íntimo	Juliano Kazuo Yoshizawa; Lucas Nascimento; Pedro Iora; Sandra Marisa Pelloso; Maria Dalva de Barros Carvalho	BVS	Research Article	Identified a direct relationship between periods of alcohol abstinence and a substantial reduction in cases of violence suffered by women.
2020, Rio Grande do Sul	Desafios na proteção às mulheres em situação de violência no Contexto de pandemia da COVID-19	Laura Ferreira Cortes; Jaqueline Arboit Rubia; Geovana Smaniotto Gehlen; Taís Tasqueto Tassinari; Letícia Becker Vieira; Stela Maris de Mello Padoin; Maria Celeste Landerdahl	BVS	Reflection Article	It identified risk factors related to women remaining socially distanced in the context of intimate partner violence. He pointed out instabilities, mainly economic and social, as possible reasons for an increase in cases of violence against women.
2020, Rio de Janeiro	Elementos precipitadores/intensificadores da violência conjugal em tempo da COVID-19	Andrey Ferreira da Silva; Fernanda Matheus Estrela Caroline Fernandes Soares e Soares; Júlia Renata Fernandes de Magalhães; Nayara Silva Lima; Ariane Cedraz Moraes; Nadirlene Pereira Gomes; Vera Lúcia de Azevedo Lima	SciELO	Research Article	Relationship between economic instability, use/abuse of alcohol and other drugs, and weakening of women's support network, taking into account the pandemic scenario. It also pointed out an increase in cases of domestic violence in periods of major disasters and economic crises.
2019, Ceará	Fatores associados ao uso do álcool entre homens autores de violência por parceiro íntimo no Ceará	Marcos Silva dos Santos, Raimunda Hermelinda Maia Macena, Rosa Maria Salani Mota, Willian Menezes de Souza José Edir Paixão de Sousa, Francisco Wesley de Souza Cavalcante, Kaytianne Jennifer da Costa Câmara	BVS	Research Article	It found a relationship between alcohol abuse among men living in Ceará and the increase in cases of intimate partner violence. It also determines possible characteristics of these men concerning drinking, such as being residents of rural areas. Furthermore, it associates smoking and alcoholism, and the reasons that enable consumption, such as low cost and social permissibility.
2020, São Paulo	Isolamento social e o aumento da violência doméstica: o que isso nos revela?	Pâmela Rocha Vieira; Leila Posenato Garcia; Ethel Leonor Noia Maciel	BVS	Research Article	Data obtained by the press from different countries were analyzed, along with a literature review in which the role of women in society is discussed.
2020, Lisbon	Violência por parceiro íntimo em tempos da COVID-19: scoping review	Wanderlei Oliveira; Juliana Magrin; André Andrade; Denise Michele; Diene Carlos; José Fernández; Marta Silva; Manoel Santos	SciELO	Research Article	It was found that measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as social isolation, favor an increase in cases of domestic violence. Socioeconomic variables, health risk behaviors, and psychological aspects as potential causes of cases are also analyzed. Furthermore, it highlights important factors such as the "social role of women" and the unequal division of domestic tasks as reasons for overload within the family.
2019, Rondônia	Perfil da vítima e características da violência contra a mulher no estado de Rondônia - Brasil	Caio Alves Barbosa de Oliveira Lucas Noronha de Alencar Rebeca Ribeiro Cardena Kátia Fernanda Alves Moreira Priscilla Perez da Silva Pereira Daiana Evangelista Rodrigues Fernandes	BVS	Research Article	It addresses the main characteristics related to violence against women, according to age group, race/skin color, education, and marital status in the state of Rondônia. It also addresses the types of violence that occur most, as well as providing data related to how they are carried out and their relationship with sexual abuse.
2019, Juiz de Fora	Características sociodemográficas e conjugais de mulheres com história de violência conjugal	Gilvânia Patrícia do Nascimento Paixão; Nadirlene Pereira Gomes; Normélia Maria Freire Diniz; Álvaro Pereira; Dália Maria de Sousa Gonçalves da Costa; Rosana Santos Mota	BVS	Research Article	The results showed that the interviewees were characterized predominantly as black, with low education, and economically dependent on their spouse. Most women have lived with their partners for an average of 11 years, and the use/abuse of legal/illicit substances was considerable among those interviewed, with greater reference to alcohol.

Discussion

The literature presents certain aspects as possible intensifiers of cases of intimate partner violence in the domestic sphere and, mainly, affecting women in the context of social isolation. Despite being considered a chronic public health problem, and which did not arise during the pandemic, some authors point to certain factors

as possible aggravating factors in these cases. The need to adopt non-pharmacological methods, such as social distancing, in order to contain the advances of COVID-19, creates a scenario where many women are forced to remain full-time alongside their aggressors, which increases periods of exposure /contact with the perpetrator. Another factor pointed out by the authors is the breakdown of the support



network of these women, who found themselves unable to seek any type of help, either from family members or close friends²².

The intensifying elements may be related to the economic instability arising from the situation characterized by reduced wages, unemployment, and female economic dependence. This fact is highlighted as a possible trigger for violent scenarios. This is because, in times of economic recession, there are greater chances of losing one's job, favoring and enhancing more aggressive behaviors as unemployment implies a reduction in family income and leads to a more stressful daily life. Furthermore, it is mentioned that the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that approximately 25 million people will lose their source of income due to the pandemic, corroborating the relevance of the subject²³.

Study²⁴ also addresses this issue, citing it as one of the main difficulties in tackling the increase in IPV cases during the pandemic. She also relates the context of distancing with the increased possibilities of acts of aggression. This is because, with social isolation, women remain in a situation of isolation about their support networks, in addition to living full-time with aggressors and emotional instability arising from insecurities regarding COVID-19. The author also cites the "critical route", defined by Sagot, which is established at the moment when the woman decides to stop the aggression, and defined by making the situation public and resorting to support – whether social or specialized health care services. woman.

According to the literature, it is still possible to relate periods of major catastrophes and economic instability with the increase in the number of cases of violence. Nine months after Hurricane Katrina hit the United States, it was possible to identify that the number of IPV tripled and rape incidents increased 16 times²³.

Still, on the topic of factors that contribute to the increase in cases of violence, some studies address the intrinsic relationship between alcohol consumption and episodes of violence. A study²⁵ allows us to visualize the interference caused by drinking in contrast to the effects arising from reduced consumption. According to the author, around 64% of partners of men who practiced some type of violence reported that they stopped suffering it during the period of abstinence. Regarding the use of alcoholic beverages, a study²⁶ found that there are higher and lower risk factors associated with alcohol consumption, such as: "men of rural origin, who smoke, claim to be jealous and report having had other fixed relationships before the current one." This relationship is established because alcohol is a relatively low-cost and psychoactive substance that, among other effects, causes behavioral disinhibition. The same author also identifies the prevalence of cases related to IPV in countries and regions where the culture of patriarchy is more evident, due to greater gender inequalities.

The theme of gender divisions is also addressed, identifying inequalities that overwhelmingly burden married women and women with children. The same study also identifies problems regarding the lack of public policies

aimed at assisting these women and the impact of home office-style work on the increase in domestic service as tasks increase as there are more people at home²⁷.

Another study, related to the characteristics of victims of IPV, characterizes the predominance of black women in the context of victimization and vulnerability to experiences related to violence and death. In the same study, a relationship was also addressed between the increase in the homicide rate affecting black women (+19.5%) and the reduction concerning white women (-11.9%). Regarding socioeconomic aspects, it is pointed out that women with less education become more vulnerable to IPV, thus configuring a potential risk factor. Still, on economic factors, it is considered that there is a relationship between low education and low-paying jobs, due to low market qualifications. Based on this aspect, many women may find themselves in a reality of financial dependence, despite whether they are working or not²⁸.

The same study also makes a comparison between financially independent and dependent women, establishing a risk factor as there is greater marital dependence concerning income. Factors are also mentioned that corroborate the permanence of women in situations of risk of violence, such as fear, shame, emotional dependence, and anguish regarding child custody or insecurity regarding the ability to support them. In the same study, it was found that 90% of these women had children, and also related the increase in dependence with the increasing number of children²⁸.

Study²⁹ allows viewing the Basic Network as the main referral location for women victims of aggression, followed by specialized police stations. However, despite the relevance of Primary Care in reception, there is a greater difficulty in maintaining care at its fullest. This occurred because, with the pandemic, many services and resources – financial and human – needed to be redirected, and even those specialized in caring for women needed greater focus on other lines of care, such as prenatal consultations. Furthermore, women's demand for women was reduced, mainly due to fear of contagion from themselves or their family members^{24,27}.

There is a more in-depth study regarding the characteristics that predominate among women who are victims of violence. In some 1,696 cases reported to SINAN (Porto Velho/RO), in the period from 2007 to 2015, the majority of victims belonged to the age group between 19 and 39 years of age (57.72%); followed by teenagers (17.75%). Regarding race /color, self-declared black women were predominant (63.80%), and considering the level of education, (40.63%) had only completed primary education. Turning our eyes to aspects related to the types of violence committed, (47.36%) it was physical violence - beatings being the predominant form of this form of aggression (52.17%) - accompanied by sexual violence (23.58%) and psychological (20.23%). It is also worth highlighting that, among the percentage related to sexual violence, (85.99%) were committed through rape²⁹.

The research also addresses that episodes of aggression occur mostly in homes (65.21%) and at night -



from 6 pm to 11:59 pm - (18.81%), despite a transition being found over the years of study for a higher prevalence in the afternoon and morning periods. The presence of alcohol in moments of aggression was also presented at a percentage of 38.80%. Furthermore, it was possible to notice that the largest percentage of victims belonged to the group of single women (47.64%). This data goes against what some authors discuss about the risks of women suffering any type of violence. However, in the same article, it is said that this result may indicate that single women have more courage and encouragement to report their attackers. On the other hand, the valorization of the marriage union and women's religion can be considered important risk factors to prevent complaints and, in this way, camouflage reality²⁹.

A booklet issued by the Federal Government also contains a compilation of information about actions related to women's self-care during the period of social isolation and informs about the signs that may indicate the beginning of a situation of violence. It also highlights some attitudes of potentially violent partners that emerge during the pandemic, such as hindering access to hygiene products such as soap and alcohol gel, blocking the woman's support network, including family and close friends, controlling access to the telephone, preventing access to women's health care networks, intensifying isolation measures, among others. It is worth noting that these measures can commonly be associated with a false concern on the part of the partner, under the pretext of protecting the woman from a possible COVID-19 infection³⁰.

It is also stated that elderly women or women with some health problems are at greater risk of contamination in public places, which would make it possible to ask for help. There was also a perception regarding territorial blocks and their influence on the greater difficulty for women to execute the escape plan when in situations of violence. It is essential to highlight the importance of the Maria da Penha Law as the main form of legal guarantee for these victims of aggression, as it is their right to obtain access to social support services, judicial guidance, health assistance, and request for protective measures. Likewise, other devices are available and are important in creating a security plan, such as the Police number (190) or the specialized service number for women (180)³⁰.

Final Considerations

The present study made it possible to interpret that there are certain factors associated with lifestyle, as well as biological issues, such as race/color, and mainly gender, which are related to greater chances of experiencing intimate partner violence. Furthermore, some aspects such as low education, the greater number of living children, and financial dependence on the spouse are directly related to the increase in cases of aggression.

Associated with these elements, the pandemic appears to intensify intra-family tensions as it is possible to identify greater economic instability in the affected countries. This leads to a scenario with increasing unemployment rates and, consequently, reduced family income. The drop in family income appears to be an important factor when we analyze the influences on cases of IPV, as it makes moments of marital tension more frequent, whether due to uncertainty about the future or stress caused by demands such as the purchase of health products, hygiene and protection during the pandemic (soap, alcohol gel, masks). It is also clear that alcohol consumption is directly related to cases of IPV, with studies that analyze periods of aggression related to previous alcohol consumption and, on the other hand, the considerable reduction when partners experience alcohol abstinence.

Regarding the characteristics of the attacks, it was possible to verify that the most frequent cases were physical aggression, followed by sexual violence, in which rape was, for the most part, the most recurrent method. It was also identified that the home is the place where most aggressions are committed, with there still being a transition concerning the period in which they occur most. It is worth mentioning that, as this is a topic intrinsic to taboos, fear, and lack of credibility to victims' complaints, much of the data obtained through research may have its results "camouflaged" by underreporting, impediments to complaints - such as threats to women, or even more aggression.

It was still possible to identify, through this review, the scarcity of productions related to nursing and its role in combating IPV. Therefore, this topic must be increasingly disseminated, especially in the health/nursing field, addressing the professional's need for qualified listening, reception at the SUS entry points, and perception regarding women's factors or their partners that constitute possible environments favorable to violence.

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