

# **Factors Influencing Disclosure of Intimate Partner Violence among Young and Middle Aged Women (15-50 Years) in Selected Primary Health Centers, Oyo State**

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## **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

## **Article Information**

DOI: 10.9734/JESBS/2021/v34i1230391

### Editor(s):

(1) Redhwan Ahmed Mohammed Al-Naggar , Management & Science University, Malaysia.

### Reviewers:

(1) Stelios Zimeras, University of the Aegean, Greece.

(2) Dare Ojo Omonijo, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria.

(3) Mashat Mallo, Nigeria.

Complete Peer review History, details of the editor(s), Reviewers and additional Reviewers are available here:

<https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/80944>

**Original Research Article**

**Received 18 October 2021**

**Accepted 20 December 2021**

**Published 22 December 2021**

## **ABSTRACT**

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious global public health problem and contributes significantly to high rate of domestic violence. IPV remains the most prevalent form of violence against women (VAW) worldwide; and global estimates of VAW suggest that 35% of all women will experience either IPV or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Hence, this study aimed at assessing the factors influencing disclosure of intimate partner violence among women aged 25-50 years in selected Primary Health Centres, Oyo State. This study is a descriptive research survey design conducted among young and middle age women in selected primary health care centres, Ibadan North-West Local Government Area, Oyo State between August and September, 2021. Sample size

was calculated using Leslie Kish formula and the total number of sample used were three hundred and five (305) women. Facilities were selected using multistage sampling technique while the samples were selected using convenient sampling technique. A structured questionnaire on factors influencing intimate partner disclosure with reliability index of 0.75 was used for data collection. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics of frequencies, percentages, mean and standard deviation while inferential statistics of chi-square was used to test stated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed high prevalence of intimate partner violence among women, majority of women were willing to disclose intimate partner violence with their family, pastors or imam. However, reason for non disclosure were attributed to the fact that they have never experience intimate partners before, intimate partner violence has become normal things among couples, fear of being stigmatized and that disclosing the violence will not change anything. Factors influencing the disclosure of intimate partner violence include dependence on partner for financial support, societal views about intimate partner violence, level of education, years of relationship, presence of children, religious belief, fear of worse outcomes, social support, access to information about intimate partners violence, feeling of embarrassment/shame, taking intimate partners as normal and societal status of partners, were identified as factors influencing intimate partners disclosure among young and middle age women. This study concluded that many young and middle age women experienced intimate partner violence and many of them are willing to disclose it to others. Therefore, awareness about intimate partner violence and the dangers of non-disclosure should be created among women.

*Keywords: Factors; intimate partners; violence; women.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is serious public health problem and the most common type of violence against women which contributes significantly to social and economic costs globally. Although both males and females could be victims of IPV, however, evidence shows a disproportionate prevalence among women. IPV remains the most prevalent form of violence against women (VAW) worldwide; and global estimates of VAW suggest that 35% of all women will experience either IPV or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime [1]. World Health Organization report on global and regional estimates of violence against women found that the global lifetime prevalence of IPV among ever-partnered women was 30%, and for Africa 37% [2]. Also, reports from the Nigerian national population commission estimated women's lifetime exposure to IPV from their current husband or partner at 19% for emotional IPV, 14% for physical IPV, and 5% for sexual IPV [3]. IPV refers to any act of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological/emotional abuse or controlling behaviours by a current or former partner/spouse; and it includes any behavior within an intimate relationship that result in sexual, physical or psychologic harm [4]. IPV disclosure may result into positive impacts to the victims if the process of disclosure is well taken care of. The reported positive impacts of IPV disclosure include stop of further violence, safety

of pregnant women and their pregnancy and assisting in the creation of new interventions towards violence. Also, disclosure can be one of the means of survival from violence [5]. Most frequently mentioned factors in previous studies as the reason behind non disclosure of intimate partner violence to others were economic and socio-political discrimination of women, being dependent on partners' income, the severity of the violence, those who are severely violated more likely to disclose their experience to the formal social services, stress, accepting violence as normal, concerns about bringing bad name to the family, lack of confidence, shame/embarrassment/fear of getting blamed, fear for children's future life, women who were unemployed and pregnant, and lack of encouragement by family members and educational status [6].

Disclosure of abuse is a vital step in the process of finding a lasting solution and breaking the abuse chain. Therefore, screening for and eventual management of IPV may be seriously hampered unless victims are willing to disclose abuse and make use of available resources [7-9]. It is noted that factors such as ethnicity, culture, gender-role definitions, kin and friendship networks may influence a woman's perception of her options and the help she seeks, as well as the nature and scope of violence she experiences in an intimate relationship [7,10-11]. Societal, cultural and religious factors are not

only important in determining whether women will report abuse or not, but also to whom such abuse will be reported. In many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, marriage is considered a family and community affair rather than a private one [7]. Hence, this study aims to assess the factors that influence disclosure of intimate partner violence among young and middle age women attending selected primary health centres in Ibadan northwest local government.

### 1.1 Objectives

1. To establish socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.
2. To determine the prevalence of intimate partners violence among young and middle age women attending selected primary health centres, Ibadan Northwest Local Government, Oyo State;
3. To find out the level of women willingness to disclose intimate partners violence among young and middle age women attending selected primary health centres, Ibadan Northwest Local Government, Oyo State;
4. To determine the level of disclosure of intimate partners violence among young and middle age women attending selected primary health centres, Ibadan Northwest Local Government, Oyo State;
5. To identify factors influencing disclosure of intimate partners violence among young and middle age women attending selected primary health centres, Ibadan Northwest Local Government, Oyo State;

### 1.2 Hypothesis

1. There is no significant relationship between sociodemographic characteristics and willingness to disclose intimate partners violence.
2. There is no significant relationship between age and intimate partner violence.
3. There is no significant relationship between willingness to disclose intimate partners violence and disclosure intimate partners violence.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Research Design

This study utilized a descriptive research survey design and was carried out among young and middle age women between 25 – 50 years

attending four (4) selected primary health centre in Ibadan Northwest Local Government, Oyo State between August and September 2021.

### 2.2 Study Setting

The study was conducted among young and middle age women between 25 – 50 years attending antenatal, infant welfare and family planning clinics of four (4) selected Primary Health Centres (Ayeye PHC, Onireke PHC, Eleyele PHC and Ogunpain PHC) Ibadan North-West Local Government Area, Oyo State. Ibadan North-West Local Government Area was created in 1991 and has population of about 152,834 with eleven (11) wards. The selected primary health centres in the LGA offer antenatal services, delivery, immunization, family planning, health education/ promotion, nutrition and hydration therapy (ORT), growth monitoring, laboratory services and community medical outreaches. The clinics in all the selected PHC operate from 8:00am – 4:00am on week days however, the centres offer 24 hours services for deliveries and treatment of minor ailments and referral services. The study was carried out within the period of two (2) months from August to September 2021.

### 2.3 Study Population

The population for the study was three hundred and five (305) young and middle aged women between ages 25 and 50 years attending antenatal, infant welfare and family planning clinics at Ayeye PHC, Onireke PHC, Eleyele PHC and Ogunpain PHC, Ibadan North-West Local Government Area, Oyo State.

### 2.4 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample size was determined using Leslie Kish formula  $n = \text{sample size}$ ,  $z = 1.96$  which corresponds to 95% confidence level,  $P = \text{prevalence of intimate partner violence of } 23.6\%$  [12],  $e = 0.05$  margin of error,  $g = 1 - p$ . Facilities were selected using multistage sampling technique and samples were selected using convenient sampling technique for a period of eight (8) weeks using young and middle age women (25-50 years) that were present at the clinic during the time of data collection.

### 2.5 Data Collection Instrument

Data were collected using self developed structured questionnaire from literature review.

The instrument consisted of four sections; section A: Socio-Demographic Data; Section B: Experience of Intimate Partner Violence; Section C: Disclosure of Intimate Partners; Section D: Factor Influencing Disclosure of Intimate Partners Violence. Questionnaire were administered to the respondents by the researcher and collected back immediately.

For validity of the instrument, the psychometric properties of the instrument was checked by the supervisor and approved after the necessary corrections were made. To reduce the response error a pilot study was carried out among 30 young and middle age women in another primary health centres different from selected primary health centres but with similar characteristics.

Internal reliability of the instrument was determined using Cronbach alpha coefficient and value obtained was 0.75.

## 2.6 Data Analysis

Data collected were analysed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 23 and the result was presented using descriptive statistics of frequencies, percentages, mean and standard deviation while inferential statistics of chi-square was used to test stated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

## 3. RESULTS PRESENTATION

### 3.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Study Participants

Table 1 revealed that majority 147(48.2%) were aged 31-35 years, followed by age 36-40 years 62(20.3%), married 210(68.9%), Yoruba 201(65.9%), Muslim 160(52.5%), with tertiary level of education 246(80.7%). Majority 133(43.6%) were Business Owners with two (2) children 105(34.4%).

### 3.2 Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence

Table 2 revealed that more than half 162(53.1%) of the respondents have been hit, threatened, slapped and hurt by their intimate partners or ex-partners, 173(56.7%) were currently in a relationship that make them afraid and threatened, more than half 123(52.3%) were being pushed, slapped or shoved, 133(56.6%) while slightly below half 114(48.5%) have been

forced to have sex or other sexual things coercion. Majority of the participant 94(30.8%) have been violated by their partners for at least twice while more than half 143(56.3%) of the respondents' partners were under the influence of drugs. Fig. 1 showed the summary of prevalence (53.1%) of intimate partners violence.

### 3.3 Willingness to Disclose Intimate Partners Violence

Fig. 2 revealed that majority 183(60%) of the respondents were willing to disclose Intimate Partners Violence, while 122(40%) were not willing to disclose the experience with intimate partners violence.

### 3.4 Disclosure of Intimate Partner Violence

Table 3 revealed that majority 143 (78.1%) of the respondents were willing to disclose intimate partners violence with their family, 93(50.8%) with their pastors, Imam and any other religious leader. Half 153(50.2%) of the respondents have ever disclosed intimate partners violence with someone especially with their family 72(47.4%). Reasons for disclosure indicated were to stop the violence 62(40.8%), to feel better emotionally 29(20.0%), because the violence was no longer tolerable 24(15.8%) and to get professional help 20(13.2%). The reasons for not disclosing intimate partners violence were attributed to the fact that they have never experience intimate partners before 51(33.3%), normal things among couples 29(20.0%), fear of being stigmatized 25(16.3%) and that disclosing the violence will not change anything 24(15.7%).

### 3.5 Factors Influencing the Disclosure of Intimate Partner Violence

Table 4 revealed that majority 225(73,8%) of the respondents indicated dependence on partner for financial support as factors influencing intimate partners violence. Likewise, societal views about intimate partner violence 234(76.7%), level of education 224(73.5%), occupation 203(66.6%), years of relationship 235(77.0%), presence of children 235(77.0%), religious belief 182(59.7%), fear of worse outcomes 266(87.3%), social support 234(76.7%), access to information about intimate partners violence 276(90.5%), feeling of embarrassment/shame 265(86.9%), taking intimate partners as normal 246(80.6) and societal status of partners 246(77.4%) were also

identified as factors influencing intimate partners disclosure among young and middle age women.

### 3.6 Relationship between Sociodemographic Characteristics and Willingness to Disclose Intimate Partners Violence

Table 5 revealed that there is a statistically significant relationship between age ( $x^2=14.645$ ;  $df = 4$ ;  $P\text{-value} = 0.005$ ), level of education ( $x^2=26.510$ ;  $df = 3$ ;  $P\text{-value} = 0.000$ ), ethnicity ( $x^2=30.110$ ;  $df = 5$ ;  $P\text{-value} = 0.000$ ), and willingness to disclose intimate partner violence. However, no statistically significant relationship were observed between occupation ( $x^2=5.731$ ;  $df = 2$ ;  $P\text{-value} = 0.057$ ), religion ( $x^2=0.223$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P\text{-value} = 0.636$ ) and willingness to disclose intimate partners violence.

### 3.7 Relationship between Age and Intimate Partner Violence

Table 6 showed a statistically significant relationship between age of the respondents and intimate partner violence ( $x^2 = 17.619$ ;  $df = 4$ ;  $P\text{-value} = 0.001$ ). Intimate partner violence is more prevalent among young women aged 31-35 years 93 (57.4%).

### 3.8 Relationship between Intimate Partner Violence and Willingness to Disclose the Violence

Table 7 revealed a statistically significant relationship between intimate partner violence and willingness to disclose the violence among young and middle age women age ( $x^2 = 28.517$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P\text{-value} = 0.000$ ) as majority 120(39.3) of women who experience intimate partner violence are willing to disclose their experience.

**Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents**

Socio-demographic data	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age</b>		
25-30	46	15.1
31-35	147	48.2
36-40	62	20.3
41-45	42	13.8
46-50	8	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Mean Age</b>	<b>34.96± 5.1</b>	
<b>Marital status</b>		
Single	86	28.2
Married	210	68.9
Divorced/separated	7	2.3
Widowed	2	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Religion</b>		
Christianity	145	47.5
Islam	160	52.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Level of education</b>		
No formal education	9	2.9
Primary education	11	3.6
Secondary education	39	12.9
Tertiary education	246	80.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Ethnic group</b>		
Yoruba	201	65.9
Hausa	2	0.7
Igbo	83	27.2
Ebira	9	2.9
Efik	7	2.3
Edo	3	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Socio-demographic data</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Occupation</b>		
Unemployed	131	43.0
Civil servant	41	13.4
Business owner	133	43.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Number of children</b>		
0	101	33.1
1	54	17.7
2	105	34.4
3	35	11.5
4	7	2.3
5	2	0.7
6	1	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 2. Prevalence of intimate partners violence**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Within the past year, have you been hit, threatened, slapped, or otherwise hurt by your intimate partner or ex-partner?</b>		
Yes	162	53.1
No	143	46.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Are you currently in a relationship where you feel afraid or threatened?</b>		
Yes	132	43.3
No	173	56.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>During the last year, have you ever experienced one or more of the following types of violence from your current partner or ex-partner?</b>		
	<b>N=235</b>	<b>*</b>
Being pushed, slapped, grabbed or shoved	123	52.3
Being kicked, bitten or hit	92	39.1
Being beaten up	80	34.0
Burnt or scalded on purpose	41	17.4
Being forced to have sex or other sexual things you did not want to	114	48.5
Being threatened of being hurt: you, your children or someone close to you	93	39.6
Being threatened with knife, gun or any other weapon	51	21.7
Actually, being injured with knife, gun or any other weapon	52	22.1
Being stalked, followed or watched	133	56.6
Being sent back to your parental home	30	12.8
<b>In the past 12 months, how often has your partner/ ex-partner been violent to you?</b>		
Never	51	16.7
Once	49	16.1
Twice	94	30.8
3-5 times	19	6.2
6-10 times	51	16.7
More than 10 times	41	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>During the violent episodes, was your partner under the influence of any substance (alcohol, drugs, etc)?</b>		
Yes	111	43.7
No	143	56.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>100</b>

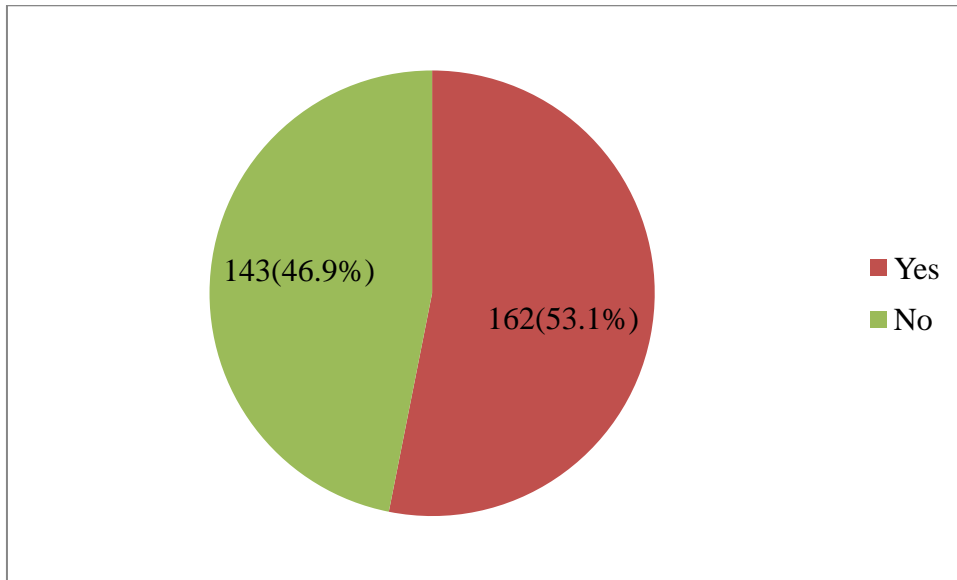


Fig. 1. Showing the prevalence of intimate partner violence

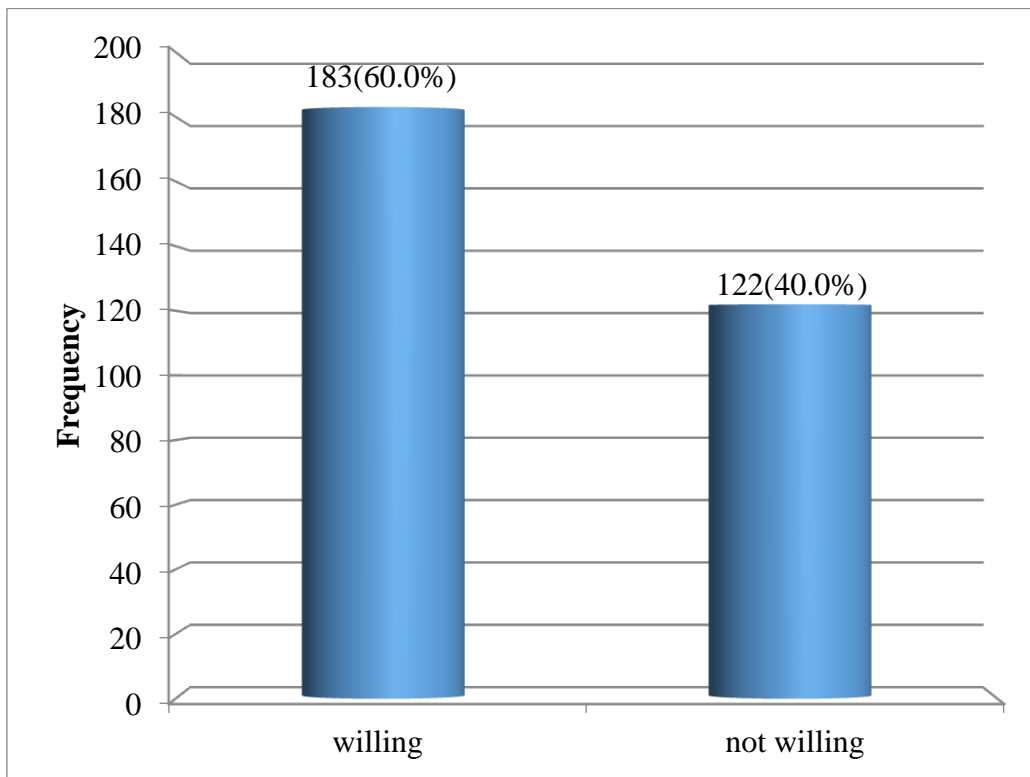


Fig. 2. Showing willingness of women to disclose intimate partner violence

#### 4. DISCUSSION

This study assessed the factors affecting the disclosure of intimate partner violence among women in Ibadan North Local Government. Majority of the respondents were between 21 to 30 years old and the mean age of the

respondents was  $34.95 \pm 5.1$  years and was slightly lower when compared to a study conducted among in different parts of Nigeria [7,13]. Majority were married, Muslims, from Yoruba ethnic group with tertiary level of education and were business owners.

**Table 3. Disclosure of intimate partner violence**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Who are those you willing to disclose to?</b>	<b>N=183</b>	<b>*</b>
My family	143	78.1
My partner's family	51	27.9
My close friends	51	27.9
My partner's friends	10	5.5
Pastor/Imam or any other religious leader	93	50.8
Police	29	15.8
Health care professional	72	39.3
Community leader	10	5.5
<b>Have you ever disclosed intimate partner violence to anyone before?</b>		
Yes	152	49.8
No	153	50.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>If yes, who did you disclose the violence to?</b>		
My family	72	47.4
My partner's family	19	12.5
My close friend	40	26.3
Pastor/Imam	21	13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>What was your reason for disclosing the violence?</b>		
In order to feel better	31	20.4
To stop the violence	62	40.8
The violence was no longer tolerable	24	15.8
To get professional help	20	13.2
Someone encouraged me	15	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>What was your reason for not disclosing the violence?</b>		
It is a normal thing among couples	29	20.0
I'm afraid that the violence will get worse	19	12.4
Disclosing the violence will not change anything	24	15.7
I don't want others to be involved	5	3.3
I would be stigmatized	25	16.3
I have never experienced intimate partner violence	51	33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 4. Factors influencing the disclosure of intimate partner violence**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Agree</b>		<b>Disagree</b>	
	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>
Dependence on partner for financial support	225	73.8	80	26.2
Societal views on intimate partner violence	234	76.7	71	23.3
Level of education	224	73.5	81	26.5
Occupation	203	66.6	102	43.4
Years of the relationship	235	77.0	70	23.0
Presence of children	235	77.0	70	23.0
Religious beliefs	182	59.9	123	40.1
Fear of worse outcomes	266	87.3	39	12.7
Social support	233	76.4	72	23.6
Access to information about intimate partner violence	276	90.5	29	9.5
Feeling of embarrassment/shame	265	86.9	40	13.1
Taking intimate partner violence as normal	246	80.6	59	19.4
Societal status of partner	247	80.9	58	16.1



**Table 5. Relationship between socio-demographic characteristics and willingness to disclose intimate partner violence**

Variables	Willingness		Total	X <sup>2</sup>	df	p-value
	Yes	No				
<b>Age</b>	<b>F (%)</b>	<b>F(%)</b>	<b>F(%)</b>			
25-30	22(12.0)	24(19.7)	46(15.1)			
31-35	99(54.1)	48(39.3)	147(48.2)			
36-40	29(15.8)	33(27.0)	62(20.3)			
41-45	27(14.8)	15(12.3)	42(13.8)			
46-50	6(3.3)	2(1.6)	8(2.6)	<b>14.645</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.005*</b>
<b>Level of Education</b>						
No formal education	0(0)	9(7.4)	9(7.4)			
Primary education	11(6.0)	0(0)	11(3.6)			
Secondary Education	30(16.4)	10(8.2)	39(12.9)			
Tertiary Education	142(77.6)	103(84.4)	246(80.7)	<b>26.510</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.000*</b>
<b>Occupation</b>						
Unemployed	70(38.3)	61(50.0)	<b>131(43.0)</b>			
Civil servant	30(16.4)	11(9.0)	41(13.4)			
Business owner	83(45.4)	50(41.0)	133(43.6)	<b>5.731</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.057</b>
<b>Religion</b>						
Christianity	85(46.4)	60(49.2)	145(47.5)			
Muslim	98(53.6)	62(50.8)	160(52.5)	<b>0.223</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.636</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Yoruba	130(71.0)	71(58.2)	201(65.9)			
Hausa	1(0.5)	1(0.8)	2(0.7)			
Igbo	52(28.4)	31(25.4)	83(27.2)			
Ebira	0(0)	9(7.3)	9(2.9)			
Efik	0(0)	7(5.7)	7(2.3)			
Edo	0(0)	3(2.6)	3(1.0)	<b>30.110</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.000*</b>

Significant at 0.05

**Table 6. Relationship between age and prevalence of intimate partner violence**

Variables	Intimate partner violence		Total	X <sup>2</sup>	df	p-value
	Yes	No				
<b>Age</b>	<b>F (%)</b>	<b>F(%)</b>	<b>F(%)</b>			
25-30	17(10.5)	29(20.3)	46(15.1)			
31-35	93(57.5)	54(37.8)	147(48.2)			
36-40	24(14.8)	38(26.6)	62(20.3)			
41-45	22(13.6)	20(13.9)	42(13.8)			
46-50	6(3.7)	2(1.4)	8(2.6)	<b>17.619</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.001*</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>162(53.1)</b>	<b>143(46.9)</b>	<b>305(100)</b>			

**Table 7. Relationship between intimate partner violence and willingness to disclose the violence**

Variables	Willingness		Total	X <sup>2</sup>	df	p-value
	Yes	No				
<b>Intimate partner violenc</b>	<b>F (%)</b>	<b>F(%)</b>	<b>F(%)</b>			
Yes	120(39.3)	42(13.8)	162(53.1)			
No	63(20.7)	80(26.2)	143(46.9)			
	183(60)	122(40)	305 (100)	<b>28.5172</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.000</b>

Key findings indicate that more than half of the respondents were victims of intimate partner violence (have been hit, threatened, slapped, pushed and hurt) and almost all the respondents were reported to be victims of multiple forms of intimate partner violence. This study was in tandem with the study conducted in Ethiopia as more than half (51.4%) of the respondents were victims of intimate partners violence [14]. Also, study conducted in Uganda showed high occurrence (70.3%) of intimate partner violence [15]. Furthermore, this study also showed that majority of the respondents was willing to disclose the experience of intimate partner violence to others. This is higher as compared to other studies conducted in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Nigeria [14,15-17]. In support of the findings from the study, [16] further reported that more than half of their respondents experienced intimate partners violence as the women were said to have been subjected to various forms of verbal derision, physical violence like beating, flogging, spitting and having hot water pour on them, some experienced sexual violence, temporary abandoned and sent back to their paternal homes, as well as financial neglect and religious abuse.

Finding from the study revealed that majority of the respondents were willing to disclose intimate partners violence especially with their family than their pastors, Imam and any other religious leader. This is findings is in tandem with report from several evidences that majority of the young and middle age women were willing to disclose their experience of violence to their family and religious leaders like pastors and Imam [14,7,18-19].

As this study indicates, the reasons for not disclosing intimate partners violence were attributed to the fact that they have never experience intimate partners before, intimate partner violence has become normal things among couples, fear of being stigmatized and that disclosing the violence will not change anything. This finding is in line with the findings of [14] that fear of revenge, not wanting to get the perpetrator into trouble, the feeling that the situation is not worth reporting and to keep the situation more private were the reasons for not disclosing intimate partner violence. Moreso, in support of the findings, [7] reported that one of the reasons for non disclosure was the fact that intimate partner violence is a normal thing among couples [12]. Reported that most women will not disclose intimate partner violence because of

consequences of further beating by their partners.

The outcomes on the factors influencing the disclosure of intimate partner violence revealed more than half of the respondents reported that dependence on partner for financial support, societal views about intimate partner violence, level of education , years of relationship, presence of children, religious belief, fear of worse outcomes, social support , access to information about intimate partners violence , feeling of embarrassment/shame, taking intimate partners as normal and societal status of partners, were identified as factors influencing intimate partners disclosure among young and middle age women. This is consistent with the findings from sub-Saharan African studies that revealed unemployment , education level, unplanned pregnancy , nature/type of the IPV, severity of IPV, having children, personal factors and normalizing violence experiences as an expression of love, thus, are considered significant factors for non disclosure of intimate partners violence among women [17,20]. Furthermore, [21] reported that the most frequently mentioned reasons female victims withhold disclosure of Intimate Partner Violence were the highest categories of embarrassment or shame and the fear they would experience as well as fear of threat and further violence.

The findings from the study also revealed a statistically significant relationship between socio-demographic characteristics and intimate partner violence. This is supported [18] that religion is a significant factors for failure to disclose abuse from intimate partners. [22] also established a statistically significant relationship between socio-demographic characteristics of age and intimate partner violence, however, [23] reported aa significant relationship between level of education and intimate partner violence. Age at marriage, number of children, working status, justified wife beating and husband consuming alcohol were found to be independent significant factors associated with domestic violence as women who married early were 37% more likely to experience domestic violence from their partners as well as women whose husbands were drug addicts [19,24]. Furthermore, [25-26] reported a significant association between IPV and socio-demographic structure of age less than 40 years, unemployment, low education, husband addiction and rented house holders. In addition to this, [27-29] found out that age, husband smoking habits, inadequate family

income, consensual marriage, husband first marriage were significant predictors of IPV.

The findings from the study further revealed a statistically significant relationship between age of the respondents and intimate partner violence, in support of this finding, [30] stated that IPV was common among women in their mid-20s to early 30s and women aged 26-30 years had the highest risk of any IPV and the risk decreased with age. The study also revealed a statistically significant relationship between intimate partner violence and willingness to disclose the violence. In other words, women who experience intense violence with their partners were willing to disclose their experiences as found out from the study.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Intimate partner violence is one of the most common forms of violence against women and occurs in all settings and among socio-economic, religious and cultural groups. This usually includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse as well as controlling behaviours by an intimate partner. This study investigated factors influencing disclosure of intimate partner violence among young and middle aged women. The findings from the study revealed high prevalence of intimate partner violence and majority of women were willing to disclose their experience of intimate partner violence. The reasons for non disclosure include the fact that they have never experience intimate partners before, intimate partner violence has become normal things among couples, fear of being stigmatized and that disclosing the violence will not change anything. Factors influencing the disclosure of intimate partner violence include dependence on partner for financial support, societal views about intimate partner violence, level of education , years of relationship, presence of children, religious belief, fear of worse outcomes, social support , access to information about intimate partners violence , feeling of embarrassment/shame, taking intimate partners as normal and societal status of partners, were identified as factors influencing intimate partners disclosure among young and middle age women. There is also a statistically significant relationship between socio-demographic characteristics and willingness to disclose IPV as well as between willingness to disclose IPV and IPV occurrence. Therefore, it is recommended that the fact that they have never experience intimate partners before, intimate partner violence has become normal things among couples, fear of being

stigmatized and that disclosing the violence will not change anything. Factors influencing the disclosure of intimate partner violence include dependence on partner for financial support, societal views about intimate partner violence, level of education , years of relationship, presence of children, religious belief, fear of worse outcomes, social support , access to information about intimate partners violence , feeling of embarrassment/shame, taking intimate partners as normal and societal status of partners, were identified as factors influencing intimate partners disclosure among young and middle age women. There is also a significant relationship between socio-demographic characteristics and willingness to disclose IPV, age and intimate partner violence as well as intimate partner violence and willingness to disclose the violence. Therefore, it is recommended that awareness about intimate partner violence and the dangers of non-disclosure should be created among women.

## CONSENT

Inform consent was obtained from the study participants and they were given right to make informed decision and freedom to withdraw from the study without any penalty. The participants gave their consents by signing a form attached to the questionnaire.

## ETHICAL APPROVAL

Permission was obtained from the ethical committee of LAUTECH Open and Distance Learning Centre which was presented to Ibadan-Northwest local government area office for approval to conduct the study among women attending selected PHC where the study was carried out.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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