

# Views and opinions of secondary school female learners on IPV in Maputo City, Mozambique

Nelisiwe Khuzwayo, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Maria Suzana, PhD<sup>1&2</sup>; Myra Taylor, PhD<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of KwaZulu-Natal, School of Public Health, College of Health Science.

<sup>2</sup> Instituto Superior de Ciências de Saúde, ISCISA-Maputo, Mozambique

## Background

Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains one of the most visible forms of violence against women. The negative impacts on women's well-being and health have made IPV a global public health concern. Due to the young age at which it typically occurs, intimate partner violence (IPV) among young women is a source of severe concern.

**Aim of the study:** The study explored young women's views and opinions about IPV in Maputo City, Mozambique.

## Method

An explorative, descriptive qualitative study design was employed. Using purposive sampling, six focus group discussions, each comprising 10–12 female secondary school participants (66 women), was held at three secondary schools to gather data. The data were analysed using a thematic content analysis approach.

## Results

The following four themes emerged from the data: 1) Individual-level risk factors influencing intimate partner violence, such as knowledge of IPV among young women; 2) Relational-level risk factors related to the influence of friends or exposure to IPV among young women; 3) Community-level risk factors such as the religious beliefs and 4) Societal level risk factors, related to social norms that promote acceptance of IPV among.

## Conclusion

There is a need to improve young women's skills to challenge the dominant male norms and enhance their autonomy to manage and end violent relationships. Community activities promoting gender egalitarian norms and highlighting the positive role of mothers as models against IPV are needed, as is optimising women's attitudes against acceptance of IPV.

**Advocacy message:** Structural and political improvements are required to enhance the opportunity to promote women's reproductive health and human rights to end gender-based violence and IPV in Mozambique.

**Keywords:** Gender; Women health; Violence;