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Abstract Title

Health and Social Outcomes of Mothers Diagnosed with an Intimate Partner Violence-Related Traumatic Brain Injury: A Systematic Review

Authors

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Background

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a public health issue that affects nearly 30% of women globally. Traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) are one of the most common injuries but are underdiagnosed. Many women who sustain an IPV-related TBI are likely mothers. However, the health and social outcomes of mothers who experience IPV-related TBI remain underexplored.

Objective

The objective of this review was to determine the health and social outcomes of mothers diagnosed with an IPV-related TBI.

Methods

Eight databases (Ovid MEDLINE, Embase, CINAHL, Cochrane Library, PsycINFO, Scopus, Web of Science, and Social Work Abstracts) were searched from inception until June 2025, using subject terms and keywords. Title and abstract screenings were completed independently by two reviewers. Full-text screening was completed independently by three reviewers. Studies that specified mothers as the population, examined IPV-related TBI, and reported at least one health or social outcome were included and relevant data were extracted. Methodological quality assessment was assessed independently by two reviewers. Results were described narratively.

Results

The search produced 3,109 unique articles. After screening, the a priori inclusion criteria were applied to the full manuscript of 421 manuscripts. Three studies met the inclusion criteria. The studies were conducted in Australia, Canada, and the United States. The prevalence of IPV-related TBI in mothers ranged from 10% to 71%. Mothers with IPV-related TBI experienced many negative physical and psychological outcomes, including anxiety, depression, nightmares, insomnia, memory problems, dizziness, and visual impairments. No study assessed social outcomes. The studies were heterogenous, which prevented meta-analysis.

Conclusion

Few studies examined the health and social outcomes of mothers with an IPV-related TBI. The findings demonstrate that mothers experience adverse health outcomes following IPV-related TBI. Future research is needed to better understand the scope of short- and long-term outcomes, including social outcomes, that mothers with IPV-related TBI experience.

Table/Figure File

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