

Domestic violence and alcohol

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Susanne Köhler

Attorney at Law, Germany

German Women Lawyers Association

domestic violence and alcohol

- **definition of domestic violence
(intimate partner violence, IPV)**
- **effects of IPV**
- **risk factors for IPV**
- **prevention: IPV - IPV and alcohol**

intimate partner violence and alcohol

- IPV a very important social and also health problem.
- Multiple definitions
- Differing concepts of IPV reflect national and socialisation differences
- Most reported IPV is perpetrated by men towards women
- Human rights documents long lacked terms specifically protecting women from male violence.

IPV and alcohol

- Violence between partners and/or members of the family and/or ex-partners
- Behaviour causing
 - physical, incl sexual health
 - psychological
 - or economic harm to those in that relationship

effects of IPV

- countless and very expensive, both in economic terms and life years.
- costs for the psychological disorders of concerned children.
- costs of health care, judicial systems, loss of safe housing and lost earnings, to name just a few parameters.

economic costs of IPV

- Estimations in fact sheets of the WHO 2006:
- United States: \$ 12.6 billion year,
 - perpetrators consumed alcohol in 55 % of the cases
- England and Wales: 22,7 billion pounds in 2004
 - perpetrators under alcohol influence à 32 %
- Canada: US \$ 1.1 billion a year direct medical costs to women
 - Perpetrators in one Canadian community had consumed alcohol in 43% of the cases

risk factors for IVP

- well known single and combined factors
- no automatism between risk factors and perpetration, but strong links between perpetrators drinking and IPV
- societal beliefs, gender roles and violent behaviour
- perpetrator's alcohol use increases risk of physical injury, incl. more severe injury

surveys, studies, initiatives

- On IPV
 - United States:
 - National violence survey 1985
 - National Victimization Survey (2 x/year)
 - European countries
- On alcohol and IPV: few studies and surveys
 - National Alcohol and Family Violence Survey 1992
- Global and European initiatives:
 - World health report on violence and health (2002)
 - Europe: Daphne Initiative & Programme since 1997

prevention

- Fast und efficient intervention responses to acute IPV
- Networking
- Measures include addressing societal tolerance towards IPV, alcohol the acceptance of excessive drinking
- Reducing alcohol availability
- Regulating alcohol prices
- Treatment for alcohol use disorders
- Screening and brief interventions

prevention

- Necessary steps:
 - collect and disseminate information on the prevalence of IPV, alcohol consumption levels and drinking patterns in the population
 - research on the links between alcohol consumption and IPV
 - evaluate and promote effective and cost effective prevention strategies for reducing levels of alcohol-related IPV

Thank you for
your
attention !

Susanne Köhler
German Women Lawyers Assoc