

## **Evaluation of domestic violence prevalence in Ardabil city families in covid 19 pandemy from march 2020 to march 2021**

Abstract

**Background:** The Covid pandemic has caused many disorders around the world. To prevent the spread of this quarantine virus, distance. Social restrictions, travel restrictions, and stay-at-home laws have been enforced. While many states enforce stay-at-home laws differently, they are still expected to do so except for essential activities or jobs. Although these measures are effective in preventing the spread of the disease, they have had many devastating effects on society socially, financially and psychologically. Quarantine is associated with alcohol abuse, depression and PTSD symptoms. Domestic violence occurs when one person dominates another. Domestic violence is a general term, and violence against spouse is violence against the elderly and child abuse. For the purposes of this study, our focus will be on spousal violence. Domestic violence in developing and developed countries accounts for about 5% and 19% of the total disease burden in women aged 15 to 44, respectively. According to the World Health Organization, the prevalence of violence against women is global and about 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence, while in some studies in Iran the prevalence of physical violence against women is 46 or 15%, sexual violence 42 Percentage and psychological violence is reported at 82%. With the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, 19 trends related to domestic violence have increased. According to the United Nations, domestic violence in France has risen by 30 percent since the quarantine began on March 17. In our country, reports of domestic violence have rarely been reported since the implementation of the Social Distance and Intelligent Distance Plan in March 2017.

**Aim:** The aim of this study was to investigate the prevalence of violence in urban families in Ardabil during the Covid 19 pandemic.

**Materials and Methods:** From 5 health centers of Hatami, Bahonar, Bakri, Javid Mohseni and Pileh Rudi, 530 samples were randomly selected from the list of covered people in proportion to the number of covered population. In addition to the demographic questionnaire, these individuals completed the HURT, INSULT, THREATEN, and SCREAM Tool questionnaire to screen for domestic violence.

**Results:** A total of 530 participants including 266 men (50.2%) and 264 women (49.8%) were screened for violence during the Covid 19 period using the HURT, INSULT, THREATEN, and SCREAM Tool questionnaire. The mean age of participants was  $11.72 \pm 38.22$  years. In terms of number of spouses, almost all participants, including 529 (99.8%) had a single spouse and only one male (0.2%) reported 2 spouses. Participants did not have children in 63 cases (11.9%) but in 203 (38.3%), 168 (31.7%), 64 (12.1%), 18 (3.4%), 12 (2.3%), 2 (0.8%) had one, two, three, four, five and eight children, respectively. All participants mentioned living with their spouse during the Covid 19 era. Experience of violence during the Covid-19 era was reported in 12 participants (2.3%), of whom 9 were female (3.4% total female) and 3 were male (1.1% total male). According to the results of the HURT, INSULT, THREATEN, and SCREAM Tool questionnaire in the study participants 493 cases (93%) never, 22 cases (4.2%) rarely, 14 cases (2.6%) sometimes and 1 case (0.2%) often experience physical abuse during Covid had 19. 447 cases (84.3%) never, 49 cases (9.2%) rarely, 28 cases (5.3%) sometimes, 5 cases (0.9%) often and 1 case (0.2%) always experienced swearing or humiliation. 501 cases (94.5%) never, 21 cases (4%) rarely, 6 cases (1.1%) sometimes and 2 cases (0.4%) often experienced threats or injuries. 388 cases (73.2%) never, 75 cases (14.2%) rarely, 58 cases (10.9%) sometimes and 9 cases (1.7%) often experienced screaming and cursing, and finally 500 cases (94.3%) never, 21 cases (4%) rarely, 8 cases (1.5%) sometimes and 1 case (0.2%) always had sex.

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of violence during covid-19 in Ardabil urban households was low and equal to 2.3%.

**Keywords:** Domestic Violence-Covid disease19-Spousal violence