

3. Género e condições de vida

OC - (23177) - INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A QUALITATIVE STUDY ABOUT DYNAMICS AND HELP-SEEKING EXPERIENCES OF IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN PORTUGAL

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The COVID-19 Pandemic disproportionately increased risks and costs for immigrants and their children, particularly for women and girls with pre-existing vulnerabilities, namely the experience of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Through semi-structured interviews with 17 immigrant victims of IPV residing in Portugal during the COVID-19 Pandemic, this study aims to explore the IPV dynamics and help-seeking experiences of immigrant women since the COVID-19 Pandemic, through an intersectional and comprehensive perspective lens. The results show COVID-19 brought changes in violence dynamics, perpetrated violence, and coping mechanisms used. In most cases, there was an increase in violence, a diversification of the types of violence experienced, and the ineffectiveness of the coping mechanisms (e.g., accepting extra work) developed during this period. Relatedly to the barriers to help-seeking, there were five identified categories: psychosocial barriers, economic barriers, cultural barriers, legal barriers, and lack of knowledge of community resources and support services. Overall, victims reported multiple barriers to seeking help and difficulty identifying them, particularly cultural barriers and isolation. This study reinforces the transversal impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Immigrant Women's lives and the need to adopt an intersectional perspective in the support and intervention with this population.

Palavras-chave : Immigrant Women, COVID-19 Pandemic, Intimate Partner Violence, Help-Seeking Experiences