



LISBON  
ADDICTIONS  
2022

# Validity of a Screening Instrument for Intimate Partner Violence in Men with Substance Use Disorders seen in addiction specialist services

Geldschläger H<sup>1</sup>, Segura Garcia L<sup>2</sup>, Sanchez Codern A<sup>2</sup>,  
Ibar Fañanás A.I.<sup>2</sup>, Espelt A<sup>3</sup>, Arechavala T<sup>3</sup>, Colom  
Farran J<sup>2</sup>

Programme on Addictions, HIV, STI and Viral Hepatitis  
Agency of Public Health of Catalonia



Generalitat  
de Catalunya

Salut/Agència de  
Salut Pública de Catalunya

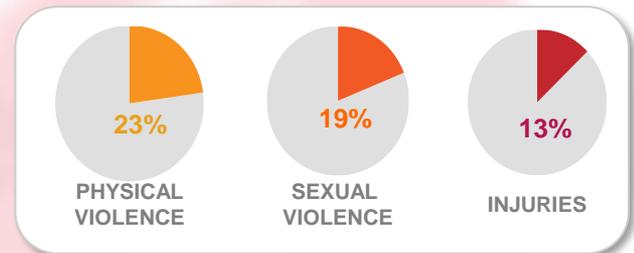
# Background

The **majority** of the users of the drug addiction centers are men, between 58% and 78% depending on the drug (SGD, 2016)

Between 1/3 and 2/3 perpetrate **intimate partner violence** against their partner

## Study in Catalonia (2015):

- **34% (75/219)** of the men had committed **acts of physical and/or sexual violence** against their partners in the last year
- **68% (148/219)** of the men had perpetrated **psychological abuse** against their partners in the last year.



# Background

---

The **majority** of the users of the drug addiction care network are men, between 58% and 78% depending on the drug (SGD, 2016)

Between 1/3 and 2/3 perpetrate **intimate partner violence** against their partner

**There are no validated instruments in our context** for the screening of intimate partner violence in men, and even less in the context of drug addiction

**Continuous demand** from many professional in the Catalan Addiction treatment and Care Network (XAD)

**Need to create/adapt and validate a specific screening instrument for male drug users.**

# Objectives

---

- The main objective of the study was to test and validate the screening instrument adapted to the context XAD aimed at early identification of intimate partner violence perpetration among male patients with substance use disorders.
  
- The specific objectives are:
  - find out the prevalence of violence perpetrated by men treated at the XAD towards their (ex-)partners.
  - find out professionals and participants' perspectives on the usefulness and acceptability of the tool

# Methods: Tool development

## Instrument de cribatge de la violència contra la parella exercida per homes consumidors de substàncies (atesos a la XAD)

Aquesta entrevista anònima conté onze preguntes de cribatge que s'han de fer als homes participants de l'estudi. Per a cada pregunta s'ha de registrar si la resposta és afirmativa, negativa o si l'home no sap o no vol respondre.

DATA: CODI PARTICIPANT:

1. ¿Ha ocurrido en el último año que la situación con su pareja se fue tanto de las manos que su pareja le amenazó, por ejemplo, con hacerle daño?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
2. ¿Ha ocurrido en el último año que la situación con su pareja se fue tanto de las manos que su pareja le agredió físicamente, por ejemplo, dándole un golpe o una patada?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
3. A la inversa, ha ocurrido en el último año que la situación con su pareja se fue tanto de las manos que Ud. actuó de forma amenazante con su pareja o amenazó con hacerle daño?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
4. ¿Ha ocurrido en el último año que la situación con su pareja se fue tanto de las manos que Ud. se volvió violento físicamente contra su pareja, por ejemplo, dándole una bofetada, un empujón, un golpe o una patada?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
5. ¿Siente que necesita tener siempre el control sobre su pareja?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
6. Cuando se enfada, ¿su pareja le tiene miedo?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
7. ¿Piensa que hay momentos en los que está justificado hacerle daño físicamente a su pareja?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
8. ¿Piensa que su pareja debería tener sexo con usted siempre que usted quiera?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
9. ¿Alguna vez ha sido denunciado por violencia contra la pareja?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
10. ¿Alguna vez ha sido condenado por violencia contra la pareja?	SI	NO	NS/ NC
11. ¿Ha recibido alguna vez tratamiento psicológico por este tema?	SI	NO	NS/ NC

Com a violència contra la parella s'entén tota violència que s'exerceix sobre les dones per part de qui siguin o hagin estat els seus conjuges o de qui estiguin o hagin estat lligats a elles per relacions similars d'afectivitat, tot i no conviure junts. Aquesta violència comprèn tot acte de violència física i psicològica, incloses les agressions a la llibertat sexual, les amenaces, les coaccions o la privació arbitrària de llibertat.

1

Literature review and expert consensus (working group)

2

Instrument development by assessing different tools and finally combining:

- "Jellinek inventory to assess intimate partner violence" (J-IPV) by Kraanen et al. (2013), created specifically for drug addiction services: 4 questions
- "Screening tool for the exercise of violence in the sphere of the couple" by Rhodes et al. (2009), created for the detection of men who assault in a hospital context: 4 questions
- 3 questions arising from the discussion of the WG

**2 golden standard instruments:** Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS-2) and Psychological abuse scale which includes "Non-Physical Abuse of Partner Scale" (NPAPS) and Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory –short version"

# Methods: Study design and sample

**Cross-sectional** study combining **quantitative and qualitative** methods

**Sample needed of 337 men from 20 CAS (33%)** stratified by main drug

Main drug	Universe	%	Total sample	Sample by centre
Alcohol	4831	49,5	167	10-15
Cocaine	2020	20,7	70	4-6
Cannabis	1519	15,6	52	3-5
Heroine	1383	14,2	48	3-4
<b>Total</b>	<b>9753</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>20-30</b>

## Inclusion criteria

- Male older than 18 years of age
- being seen in a addiction specialist center (CAS) in Catalonia
- to be or have had a heterosexual relationship during the last year

## Exclusion criteria

- having severe mental or cognitive problems
- being intoxicated during the administration of the questionnaires
- Not fully understand the language

# Methods: study design and ethics

---

**Pilot phase:** 2 centers. Feedback to test feasibility of the study and include possible improvements for its implementation

**Implementation phase:** 18 centres from December 2018 to March 2019

## Ethics standards

1. **Approved by the ethics committee of Parc de Salut Mar.**
2. **Participants' Informed Consent.**
3. **Data anonymization**
4. If **signs of serious violence**, the necessary **security measures** would be taken and the users in question will be advised of their options.

# Methods: Data analysis

---

- Data analysis was conducted following the “Standards for educational and psychological testing”.
- Validity evidence was gathered for content, response processes, and relationship with other variables and internal structure
- A **descriptive analysis** of the sample was carried out.
- The data collected through the screening instruments was analyzed to determine the **reliability** (internal consistency) and the **validity of the instrument** (correlation with the scales of the CTS-2 and the NPAPS and the PMWI Psychological Abuse Scale).
- The sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV) and negative predictive value (NPV) of the instrument were also calculated and the optimal cut-off point for future application was determined using the ROC curve.
- With regard to user and professional assessment, a statistical analysis of the **Likert scales** (1 - not at all to 4 - very much) and another **qualitative and thematic analysis** of the content of the responses were carried out

# Results: validity

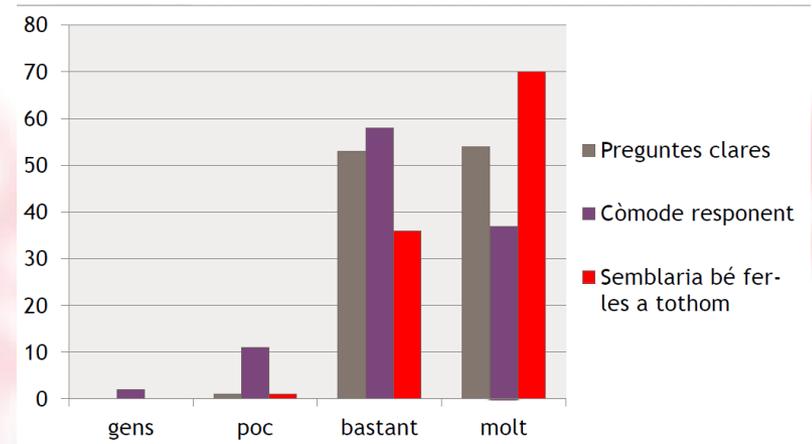
- **345** participants were enrolled in the study
- The instrument showed 3 factors and an **acceptable consistency** (0.76).
  - **Moderate / high specificity** (> 62.5)
  - **sensitivity** indicators were **moderate** (between 49.5 and 68.7) and **higher when violence was suspected** (82.4 and 87.8).
  - **Response validity evidence**: the proportion of no-response was below 1.5% in all questions except in one where it is 4.06%.
- Regarding its relationship with the gold standards, it showed:
  - **moderate to weak correlations** (r=0.47-0.57)

**Table 1. Validity evidence of the relationship with other variables. Spearman correlations and p-values between VSI and the gold Standards dichotomized.**

Golds Standard	VSI_total		VSI1		VSI2		VSI3	
	rho	p	rho	p	rho	p	rho	p
CTS_perpetrator	<b>0.53</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.55	<0.001	0.31	<0.001	0.18	<0.001
CTS_severe	<b>0.52</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.51	<0.001	0.24	<0.001	0.23	<0.001
CTS2_physical	<b>0.57</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.58	<0.001	0.33	<0.001	0.21	<0.001
CTS2_sexual	<b>0.32</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.30	<0.001	0.21	<0.001	0.14	0.01
CTS2_psycological	<b>0.47</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.49	<0.001	0.30	<0.001	0.13	0.01
NPAP_perpetrator	<b>0.49</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.42	<0.001	0.43	<0.001	0.15	0.01

# Results: tool usefulness

- 99% of CAS users declared that the questionnaire was clear and understandable, and that most of them felt at ease when answering it
- Most of the users and professionals considered it “quite well” or “very” appropriate to extend the questionnaires to all users. In addition, more than 95% of the professionals found the questions of the SVI suitable.



*“Detected some cases that I did not expect, one asked for help. When you explain the theme it seems good to them. Many men are in favor of detection”*

*“If the objective, voluntariness and confidentiality is clearly explained. Surprise: the patients have liked participating and contributing to something. Freedom (to participate or not).”*

# Conclusion

---

- The ICVMH-XAD screening tool with 11 questions has shown sufficient evidence of validity for the detection of gender-based violence perpetrated by men seen in centres in the Catalan Addiction treatment and Care Network (XAD)
  - good acceptability by professionals and participants

**Limitations:** Minimization of violence by users

- Its generalized use can:
  - allow early detection of men who perpetrate gender-based violence and thus aid in assessing risk and intervening in a comprehensive way, including referral to specialist settings if necessary.
  - allow better protection of victims (women and children)
  - It shows better results in addiction/consumption recovery process
  - improves intervention skills and the therapeutic relationship with the male population

