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Profiles of Intimate Partner Violence and Their Differential Association With Gender Hostility Among Men Seeking Help

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Intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetrated by men has been associated with men's hostility toward women (HTW). However, no study that has examined HTW has considered every main form of IPV as well as the severity of the

acts perpetrated. The purpose of the present study was to identify distinct profiles of IPV perpetration based on the severity of physical, psychological, and sexual IPV and coercive control acts and to examine potential differences in HTW between the resulting profiles in a sample of 969 men seeking help for anger management or domestic violence. In addition, given the association previously found between HTW and IPV perpetration in women, we also investigated whether hostility toward men (HTM) could also be linked to men's profiles of IPV perpetration. The results of the latent profile analysis suggested four profiles of IPV perpetrators: minor psychological IPV and severe control, severe IPV and control, minor IPV and control, and no/minor psychological IPV. Results also indicated significant differences between the profiles in terms of both HTW and HTM. Specifically, greater HTW was observed among the profiles characterized by the highest proportion of physical IPV perpetration, whereas greater HTM was observed among the profiles characterized by the highest proportions of severe coercive IPV. Findings will contribute to guide intervention strategies tailored to these different subgroups of men.

KEYWORDS: hostility toward women; hostility toward men; perpetrators; coercive control; latent profile analysis; severity of violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV), referring to physical, sexual, and psychological violence against a current or former intimate partner, is a serious health and public policy issue (Capaldi et al., 2012). The prevalence of IPV varies greatly across studies, ranging from 7% to 43% (Savage, 2021; Straus, 2008) depending on samples, age, and forms of IPV. According to a 2018 Canadian statistics study, 12% of women and 11% of men reported experiencing some form of IPV in the past year (Cotter, 2021). When considering lifetime victimization, psychological IPV was the most common type for women (43%) and men (35%). Victims are at risk of physical injuries and long-term psychological impacts (Lysova et al., 2019), while children suffer psychological and developmental consequences when they are exposed to IPV (Lloyd, 2018). Although similar rates of IPV victimization have been found among men and women, women experience greater health consequences (Whitaker et al., 2007). This raises the need for more studies on male perpetrators since a better understanding of the correlates of men's perpetration is essential to intervene more efficiently and prevent future IPV (Butters et al., 2021). In this regard, several studies have found that gender hostility, more specifically men's hostility toward women (HTW), which refers to negative emotions and beliefs about women (e.g., women treat men badly), is associated with violence in men (Dutton-Greene & Straus, 2005; Parrott & Zeichner, 2003; Straus & Yodanis, 1996). However, most studies that have examined the association between HTW and IPV perpetrated by men considered only one form of IPV, most often physical violence, and did not

consider its severity. Yet, IPV ranges in severity from minor (e.g., push and grab) to more severe acts (e.g., punching, kicking, and using weapons). Also, studies suggest that coercive control, which refers to a pattern of control and manipulation of an intimate partner (e.g., excessive surveillance and social isolation; Kelly & Johnson, 2008), should be measured in addition to other forms of IPV as it increases the understanding of the abusive dynamics (Beck & Raghavan, 2010; Downs et al., 2007). Considering that the correlates and consequences of IPV vary by form and severity (Coker et al., 2000), it is important to examine the relation between HTW and IPV by taking all these aspects into account. The need to properly represent the complexity of IPV and the heterogeneity in patterns of perpetration has led researchers to examine IPV profiles in diverse populations (Anderson et al., 2017; Weiss et al., 2017), but this has never been done in relation to gender hostility. In addition, gender hostility can also translate into hostility toward one's own gender. Yet, only one study has examined the relationship between hostility toward men (HTM) and men's IPV perpetration, yielding inconclusive results (Straus & Yodanis, 1996). The current study, therefore, aimed at identifying profiles of perpetration based on the form and severity of IPV among men seeking help for IPV-related difficulties and examining if they differ in terms of HTW and HTM.

THE DIVERSITY OF IPV PROFILES

Given the social and financial impacts of IPV and the serious consequences for the victims, the treatment offered to perpetrators must be effective in preventing further victimization (Capaldi et al., 2012). In fact, Butters et al. (2021) studied the treatment of IPV perpetrators and recommended that interventions be based on individual needs and that practitioners be aware of the typologies of IPV perpetrators and their co-occurring problems. Within the scientific literature, several typologies of male perpetrators have been proposed (e.g., Gondolf, 1988; Gottman et al., 1995; Hamberger et al., 1996; Holtzworth-Munroe & Stuart, 1994; Johnson, 2008). Yet, most of these typologies have mainly focused on physical IPV (Ali et al., 2016; Anderson, 2008; Johnston & Campbell, 1993). However, it is equally important to consider other forms of abuse, such as psychological, sexual, and coercive control violence, to accurately identify profiles of IPV perpetrators (Ali et al., 2016). Few typologies include all these forms of violence and even fewer account for coercive control violence. One notable exception is Johnson's (2008) subtypes of violence, which proposes several types of IPV based on the dynamics of coercive control. Intimate terrorism and resistance to violence are IPV types where perpetrators use violence to control their partner. In the first type, IPV is more often perpetrated by a single partner, whereas in the second, victims will attempt to defend themselves from the perpetrator's control through violent acts. On the other hand, situational violence results from escalating conflicts rather than the need for control and is mostly perpetrated by both partners. This typology also shows

that different types of IPV perpetrators can be differentiated based on their IPV victimization, indicating the importance of examining IPV victimization alongside perpetrator types to better identify them.

Identifying valid profiles among men seeking help for IPV would allow us to account for the heterogeneity of IPV and inform well-tailored interventions for perpetrators from different profiles (Butters et al., 2021). In this regard, a recent study (Brassard et al., 2023) examined IPV profiles in a sample of 980 adult males consulting for IPV-related difficulties and found four distinct profiles. The first profile, called “no or minor IPV,” was composed of men who reported no or minor behaviors (e.g., insult, push, insist to have sex, or try to limit contact with friends) across all forms of IPV (i.e., physical, sexual, psychological, and coercive control). The second profile, called “severe IPV and sexual coercion,” included a high proportion of men reporting severe behaviors (e.g., punch, use force to have sex with their partner, or prevent access to family income) across all forms of IPV. This was the most severe profile and the one with the highest level of coercive control. The third and largest profile, called “minor IPV and control,” was characterized by men reporting minor behaviors across all forms of IPV as well as coercive control. The fourth profile, called “severe IPV without sexual coercion,” was composed of a high proportion of men reporting severe behaviors across all forms of IPV, except for sexual IPV. Since this study was the first to examine IPV profiles among this population, replication of these profiles is needed to increase confidence in their validity and generalizability (Hirschi & Valero, 2015). One objective of the current study was, therefore, to examine whether these profiles can be replicated. Furthermore, the previous study (Brassard et al., 2023) found no difference between the two severe IPV profiles (with or without sexual IPV) on a range of psychosocial factors, including attachment insecurities, childhood interpersonal trauma, undesirable personality traits, affect dysregulation, and psychological distress. Hence, it seems relevant to examine other factors, such as gender hostility, that may help further distinguish among the various IPV profiles.

GENDER HOSTILITY AND IPV

Gender hostility is a social construct that represents hostile emotions and beliefs toward a specific gender (Straus & Yodanis, 1996). HTW refers to negative attitudes and emotions toward women that may be expressed, for example, as feelings of irritation toward women in general, whereas HTM refers to the same hostile feelings toward men. According to Straus and Yodanis (1996), it could be considered a measure of gender stereotypes that may lead to relational issues with the stereotyped group members, thus resulting in hostile attitudes and acts of violence.

Research on gender hostility initially developed from a feminist perspective on sexual violence and attempted to examine variables that might predict men’s sexual

aggression toward women. Studies from this body of research revealed that single men's self-reported HTW was associated with the perpetration of sexual assault against women (Christopher et al., 1993; Malamuth, 1986). Research has subsequently investigated the role of gender hostility in the specific context of sexual IPV and found that HTW reported by men was associated with sexual IPV toward their female partners (Dutton-Greene & Straus, 2005; Forbes et al., 2006). Dutton-Greene and Straus (2005) found that the link between HTW and men's sexual IPV was stronger for more severe acts of IPV than for minor acts.

Other researchers have examined physical and psychological IPV, with most studies reporting a positive association with HTW. One study showed that compared to nonviolent adolescents, adolescents' IPV perpetrators reported more hostile attitudes toward girls (Makin-Byrd & Azar, 2011). In adulthood, similar findings were found where HTW was positively associated with the severity of physical IPV (Eades, 2003; Parrott & Zeichner, 2003). Robertson and Murachver (2007) examined the relation between HTW and both physical and psychological IPV committed by incarcerated men and women and found that HTW was strongly associated with the perpetration and tolerance of physical and psychological IPV in men.

Preliminary evidence indicates that HTM could also be associated with men's perpetration of IPV toward women. First, Robertson and Murachver (2007) found that incarcerated women's hostility toward the female gender was related to their perpetration of IPV toward their male partners. This suggests that hostility toward one's own gender can also be linked to violent acts toward another gender. The same association could not be examined in men given that HTM was not measured. Although Straus and Yodanis (1996) examined the association between HTM and men's IPV perpetration, they found no significant link between the constructs. It should be noted that this study was conducted among a small sample of high socioeconomic status university students; it is thus unclear whether their findings could be generalized to a more diverse population of male perpetrators. The lack of studies examining HTM and their perpetration of IPV may be explained by the fact that gender hostility is generally considered a form of sexism and, therefore, felt by men toward women (Roets et al., 2012). Although women have suffered most from gender inequalities, rigidity and gender stereotypes can also have an impact on men. Notably, new constraints associated with the traditional male role can lead to feelings of frustration and self-doubt among some men (Levant, 2011). For example, adherence to the traditional male role has been negatively associated with self-esteem in adolescents (Chu et al., 2005). Negative perceptions of their own gender may lead them to perpetrate IPV to alleviate these feelings. This suggests that HTM, like HTW, could be a valuable correlate of men's IPV perpetration and thus deserves more attention.

Taken together, the current studies indicate that men's HTW is associated with their perpetration of sexual, physical, and psychological IPV as well as the severity

of their IPV. However, no study has examined HTW in relation to coercive control violence, and none has simultaneously taken every main form of IPV and its severity into account. Also, given the tendency of individuals to report high levels of hostility toward their own gender when they report high hostility toward another gender (Straus & Yodanis, 1996) and the relation between HTW and IPV perpetrated by women (Robertson & Murachver, 2007), it seems relevant to investigate if HTM felt by men is also associated with their own IPV perpetration.

THE PRESENT STUDY

The purpose of the present study was to identify profiles of IPV perpetration among help-seeking men and to determine if these profiles would be differentially associated with gender hostility. Specifically, we first aimed to verify whether IPV profiles previously obtained (Brassard et al., 2023) can be replicated using a different sample from the same targeted population of men admitted for treatment in community-based domestic violence organizations. Based on previous results (Brassard et al., 2023), we expected that men would be grouped into four profiles with homogeneously low- or high-severity scores on four indicators of IPV (i.e., physical, sexual, psychological, and coercive control). Second, this study aimed to examine whether the identified profiles would differ in terms of both HTW and HTM. Based on available empirical evidence, it was expected that the profiles characterized by the occurrence of severe acts of IPV as well as those characterized by more forms of perpetrated IPV would show the highest levels of HTW and HTM. For descriptive and exploratory purposes, we also examined if profiles differ in terms of their report of sustained IPV.

METHODS

The present study is part of a larger research project in collaboration with 13 community organizations offering services to men seeking help for anger management or domestic violence in the province of Quebec, Canada. The primary goal of the project is to describe the personal and social characteristics of users and the correlates of violence. As profiles of perpetrated IPV have already been examined in a subsample of men from the larger research ($n = 980$ males recruited between April 2020 and March 2021; Brassard et al., 2023), we used a nonoverlapping subsample recruited at a different timeframe (April 2021 to November 2021) for the current study.

Participants

Among the 1,536 men seeking help in 1 of the 13 organizations, 1,267 agreed to participate in the research (82.5% participation rate), and 969 met the inclusion

criteria for the current study. Some of them (36.7%) were facing judicial process for domestic or family violence. Given the present study's focus on current- or past-year IPV, only men who were in a relationship or who had been in a relationship in the past year were included. Participants were aged between 18 and 88 years ($M = 37.56$; standard deviation [SD] = 11.30), with a majority speaking French (89.95%), 4.04% speaking English, and 2.18% speaking Spanish. Most participants were born in Canada (89.77%), and 10.22% were born in another country (e.g., France, Haiti, Morocco, and Algeria). Most respondents identified as heterosexual (95.25%). Across the sample, 2.27% of men were at the beginning of a new relationship; 9.61% were in a relationship without cohabiting; 35.64% were cohabitating with their partner; 13.64% were married; 20.25% were separated, divorced, or in the process of relationship dissolution; 16.53% were single but had been in a relationship in the past year; and 2.06% reported another type of relationship (e.g., polyamory and sexual partners only). Participants' median income was \$35,000 to \$39,999, which is slightly under men's median income of \$40,200 in the province of Quebec (Crespo, 2018). Finally, most respondents had a high school diploma or less (65.94%), and most of them were employed (64.12%).

Procedure

Men seeking help from 1 of the 13 participating organizations had to complete a series of questionnaires lasting approximately 30 minutes on the secure web platform Qualtrics. They could be completed in the language chosen by the user (French, English, or Spanish). The questionnaires were systematically filled out by all new users before beginning treatment, and practitioners received a summary of their responses to guide their interventions. However, it was clearly indicated that they were not obliged to consent to participate in the research, that this decision would have no consequences on the services they would be offered, and that their answers were confidential. This project has received ethical approval from the research ethics committees of the researchers' institutions.

Measures

Intimate Partner Violence. IPV in the past year was measured using the short form of the revised Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS2-S; Straus & Douglas, 2004) and the Coercive Control Scale (CCS; Johnson et al., 2014). The CTS2 is one of the most widely used scales to measure IPV (Capaldi et al., 2012). It uses matched items to assess perpetration (e.g., "I insulted or swore at my partner") and victimization (e.g., "my partner did this to me") on a frequency scale ranging from 0 (never) to 6 (more than 20 times in the past year). An additional answer choice, 7 (not in the past year, but it did happen before), was recoded 0 to account only for IPV in the past year. Each form of IPV (i.e., physical, psychological, and sexual)

was, respectively, assessed using two items, one representing a minor act of IPV (e.g., “I pushed or shoved my partner”) and one representing a severe act (e.g., “I punched or hit my partner with an object that could have injured her/him”). For the creation of the IPV profiles, only self-reported perpetration of IPV was used. IPV victimization scores were used to compare profiles for descriptive purposes. As directed by Straus and Douglas (2004), the two items (minor and severe) of each CTS2-S subscale were used to create a severity level score ranging from 0 to 2 (0 = no violence, 1 = minor only, and 2 = severe) for each of the three forms of IPV measured. Participants in the minor only category are those who endorsed (i.e., at least one instance in the past year) the minor IPV item but not the severe one, whereas participants who endorsed the severe IPV item are considered in the severe violence category. This helps manage the problem of overlap between minor and severe act scores as people who perpetrate severe acts also tend to perpetrate minor acts. The physical assault ($\alpha = .72$), psychological abuse ($\alpha = .77$), and sexual coercion ($\alpha = .65$) subscales have demonstrated adequate internal reliability (Straus & Douglas, 2004).

Two items of the CCS were included to assess coercive control violence (e.g., I tried to limit my partner’s contact with family and friends; Johnson et al., 2014). Items were rated on a frequency scale ranging from 0 (never) to 6 (more than 20 times in the past year) with an extra response choice 7 (not in the past year, but it did happen before), which was recoded 0. Following the guidelines of Straus and Douglas (2004), the same severity level score was created (0 = no coercive control violence; 1 = minor only; and 2 = severe). The CCS’s reliability was shown by Johnson et al. (2014) in a sample of ex-husbands ($\alpha = .91$) and current husbands ($\alpha = .75$).

Gender Hostility

Gender hostility was measured by the short version of Straus and Yodanis’s Gender hostility scale (Straus & Yodanis, 1996). This questionnaire measures HTW (e.g., “women irritate me a lot”) and HTM (e.g., “men treat women badly”) with five items per subscale. Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with each statement on a four-point scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). The score for each subscale was obtained by averaging its respective items, and a higher score indicated a higher level of HTW or HTM. The reliability of the questionnaire was demonstrated with Cronbach’s alphas of .85 for HTW and .72 for HTM. In the current study, omega reliability coefficients were, respectively, .85 and .74.

Statistical Analyses

The latent profile analysis (LPA) is a person-centered approach that identifies profiles of individuals with similar response patterns on continuous variables

(Bauer, 2022). The LPA allows to estimate the probability that an individual belongs to a profile by following three steps: the model specification and estimation, the model selection, and the interpretation of profiles. Nylund et al. (2007) concluded that a minimum sample size of 500 should lead to sufficient precision to identify the correct number of profiles. With respect to the study objectives, the LPA was conducted using the R package *mclust* (Scrucca et al., 2016) to identify groups of individuals based on their severity score for each form of IPV (i.e., physical, psychological, sexual, and coercive control). This package estimates all the different possible models by default and selects the best one based on the Bayesian information criterion (BIC; Schwarz, 1978) and the Integrated Complete-data Likelihood (ICL; Nylund et al., 2007). For both indices, the best solution is determined by the log-likelihood parameter: The solution with a value closest to zero is considered the best-fitting solution (Berlin et al., 2014). In addition to those fit indices, the entropy index was calculated where values $>.80$ indicate sufficient classification accuracy (Nylund-Gibson & Choi, 2018). Also, each profile should have a minimum of 5% of the sample, allowing for parsimony as well as sufficient statistical power for comparisons between profiles, and the average probability of participants belonging to that profile should be $\geq .70$ (Masyn, 2013).

Regarding missing data, no variable exceeded 3%; participants who had missing data were excluded before performing the LPA. The proportion of men reporting minor and severe acts of each form of IPV was examined to determine the composition of the profiles. For descriptive purposes, the proportion of men sustaining minor and severe acts of IPV was also examined within the profiles. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was then performed to examine the mean differences between profiles on HTW and HTM. For these analyses, participants were assigned to their most likely profile using the posterior probabilities generated by the LPA. Wilcox's robust test (Mair & Wilcox, 2020) was used to perform posterior comparisons as it is robust to violations of the normality and homogeneity postulates.

RESULTS

Descriptive Analyses

Across the sample, 87.70% of men reported at least one act of any form of IPV in the past year. Specifically, 34.37% perpetrated physical IPV, 82.04% perpetrated psychological IPV, 14.76% perpetrated sexual IPV, and 64.71% perpetrated coercive control. Table 1 presents the proportion of participants reporting minor acts only and the proportion of those reporting severe acts for each form of violence. Regarding gender hostility, the mean score for HTW was 1.49 ($SD = 0.57$), and the mean score for HTM was 2.08 ($SD = 0.56$), with both variables ranging from 1 to 4. Overall, men in this sample reported significantly higher levels of HTM than

HTW, $t(968) = -29.51, p < .001$. A positive correlation was found between these two variables ($r = .38, p < .001$).

IPV Perpetration Profiles

Results of LPA based on perpetrated psychological, physical, and sexual IPV and coercive control suggest that a four-profile solution was most representative of the data. Compared to other solutions (see Table S1; available at <https://connect.springerpub.com/journals> in the PDF view), the four-profile solution showed BIC and ICL values closest to 0 and the highest entropy. In addition, the average probability of participants belonging to each of the profiles was very high (93%–100%), while the probabilities of participants belonging to other profiles were low (0%–1%), indicating good classification accuracy. Finally, all profiles have a sample size >5%. Figure 1 graphically displays, for each profile, the mean severity score for each form of IPV, where a score of 0 indicates no IPV, a score of 1 indicates minor IPV, and a score of 2 indicates severe IPV.

As shown in Table 1, the four profiles included (a) a profile of men who predominantly reported minor psychological IPV and severe coercive control (35.19%); (b) a profile with a high proportion of men reporting severe acts across all forms of IPV and control (21.67%); (c) a profile of men who predominantly reported minor acts of each form of IPV and control (12.69%); and (d) a profile of men who reported no or minor psychological IPV (30.44%).

The minor psychological IPV and severe control group included the highest proportion of men reporting minor psychological IPV and the second highest proportion of men reporting minor or severe control. Although physical (either minor or severe) and severe sexual IPV were virtually absent, men from this profile reported minor sexual IPV in a similar proportion to those from the severe IPV and control and the minor IPV and control profiles. The severe IPV and control profile showed the highest proportions of men perpetrating severe acts for each form of IPV. The minor IPV and control profile showed the highest proportion of men reporting minor physical IPV and minor control. Rates of minor psychological IPV were also high but similar to the other profiles. Finally, for the no/minor psychological IPV profile, men reported no acts of physical IPV and control and no acts of severe sexual IPV. This profile also has the lowest proportion of men reporting severe psychological IPV and minor sexual IPV, and the proportion of minor psychological IPV did not differ from the severe IPV and control and the minor IPV and control profiles.

Regarding self-reported victimization (see Table 1), a significant proportion of participants in the minor psychological IPV and severe control reported sustaining minor psychological IPV and minor or severe coercive control. For the severe IPV and control profile, we observed similar rates of severe IPV perpetration and victimization. In the minor IPV and control profile, men reported sustaining more

TABLE 1. Proportion of Self-Reported Perpetrated and Sustained Violence Across the Four Latent Profiles

Self-reported perpetrated IPV (%)	Total	1: Minor psychological IPV and severe control (N = 341)	2: Severe IPV and control (N = 210)	3: Minor IPV and control (N = 123)	4: No/minor psychological IPV (N = 295)	χ^2
Physical IPV: minor	24.6	0.0 _a	59.0 _b	92.7 _c	0.0 _a	1,094.24***
Physical IPV: severe	9.8	0.0 _a	41.0 _b	7.3 _c	0.0 _a	
Psychological IPV: minor	56.3	62.8 _a	50.5 _b	57.7 _{ab}	52.5 _b	221.43***
Psychological IPV: severe	25.7	24.6 _a	47.6 _b	36.6 _b	6.8 _c	
Sexual IPV: minor	11.9	13.8 _a	18.1 _a	12.2 _a	5.1 _b	104.06***
Sexual IPV: severe	2.9	0.6 _a	11.9 _b	0.8 _a	0.0 _a	
Coercive control: minor	25.3	44.0 _a	9.0 _b	61.8 _c	0.0 _d	1,083.25***
Coercive control: severe	39.4	56.0 _a	91.0 _b	0.0 _c	0.0 _c	
Self-reported sustained IPV (%)	Total	(n = 340)	(n = 206)	(n = 122)	(n = 292)	χ^2
Physical IPV: minor	15.6	10.0 _a	24.9 _b	40.2 _c	5.1 _d	379.00***
Physical IPV: severe	19.8	8.8 _a	53.1 _b	27.9 _c	5.5 _a	
Psychological IPV: minor	54.7	65.6 _a	48.1 _b	50.0 _b	48.6 _b	183.87***
Psychological IPV: severe	21.5	13.2 _a	45.1 _b	35.2 _b	8.6 _a	
Sexual IPV: minor	6.4	6.5 _{ab}	9.6 _b	7.3 _{ab}	3.8 _a	56.25***
Sexual IPV: severe	3.6	1.2 _a	11.5 _b	2.4 _a	1.4 _a	
Coercive control: minor	17.1	20.2 _a	17.6 _a	30.1 _b	7.8 _c	189.99***
Coercive control: severe	34.8	37.5 _a	62.4 _b	22.8 _c	16.9 _c	

Note. Different lowercase subscript letters indicate significant proportion differences between profiles regarding IPV forms. IPV = intimate partner violence.

*** $p < .001$.

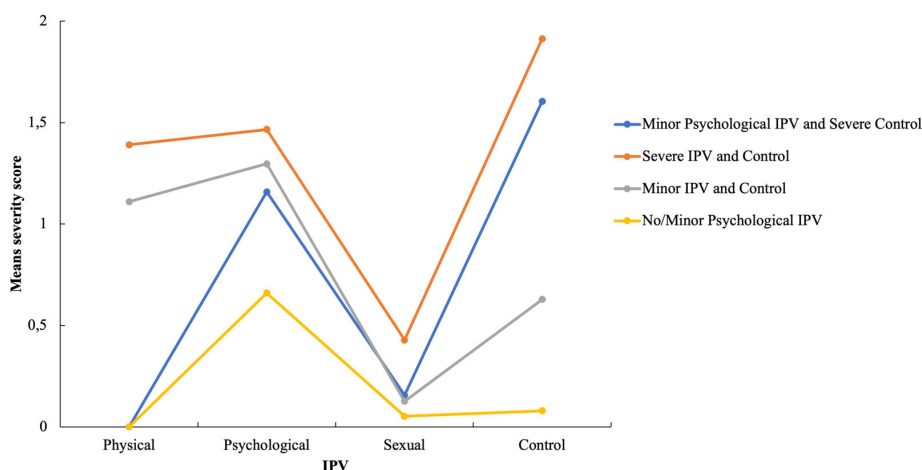


Figure 1. Mean severity score of IPV perpetration type by latent profile.

Note. IPV = intimate partner violence.

minor physical IPV and control compared to the other profiles. Finally, the no/minor psychological IPV profile was composed of the lowest proportions of men who reported sustaining all forms of IPV and control.

Differences in Gender Hostility Between Profiles

Regarding HTW, results of the ANOVA (Table 2) revealed significant differences among the profiles, $F(3,965) = 16.85, p < .001, \epsilon^2 = .05$. Wilcox post-hoc comparisons indicated that all profiles differed significantly, except for the minor psychological IPV and severe control and the no/minor psychological IPV profiles, which showed the lowest levels of HTW. In contrast, men in the severe IPV and control profile showed the highest level of HTW, followed by men in the minor IPV and control profile. Significant differences between profiles were also found for HTM, $F(3,965) = 12.83, p < .001, \epsilon^2 = .04$. Wilcox post-hoc comparisons indicated differences between all profiles except for the minor IPV and control and the no/minor psychological IPV profiles, which showed the lowest levels of HTM. In contrast, participants in the severe IPV and control profile showed the highest levels of HTM, followed by those in the minor psychological IPV and severe control profile.

DISCUSSION

The present study investigated whether IPV profiles obtained from a subsample of a larger study (Brassard et al., 2023) could be replicated and examined whether the profiles differed in terms of gender hostility. Results indicate that IPV perpetrators can be grouped into different profiles with respect to the severity of their

TABLE 2. Differences on Gender Hostility Between the Four Profiles

Gender hostility		1: Minor psychological IPV and severe control	2: Severe IPV and control	3: Minor IPV and control	4: No/minor psychological IPV
		(N = 341)	(N = 210)	(N = 123)	(N = 295)
Hostility toward women	<i>M</i> ^a (<i>SD</i>)	1.49 _a (0.58)	1.69 _b (0.60)	1.50 _c (0.57)	1.33 _a (0.48)
Hostility toward men	<i>M</i> ^a (<i>SD</i>)	2.13 _a (0.56)	2.24 _b (0.53)	1.97 _c (0.52)	1.96 _c (0.55)

Note. Profiles with different lowercase subscript letters differ significantly regarding mean gender hostility. IPV = intimate partner violence.

^aObserved means are reported, but significant differences were examined using the Wilcoxon test with 20% trimmed means and 1,000 resampling.

perpetration of physical, psychological, sexual, and coercive violence. Four IPV profiles emerged from the sample and shared similarities with the initial study (Brassard et al., 2023). Significant differences were found between the profiles in terms of gender hostility, with the most severe profiles with respect to physical IPV and coercive control showing the highest levels of HTW and HTM.

Profiles of IPV Perpetration in Men Seeking Help

Regarding the first aim of the study, as expected, men were grouped into four profiles with differential proportions of minor and severe acts on four forms of IPV. The first profile, minor psychological IPV and severe control, was similar to the “minor IPV and control” profile found in the initial study (Brassard et al., 2023), both also being the largest profiles extracted in each study. Findings replicate the existence of a profile of men who perpetrate minor forms of IPV with substantial coercive control toward their partner. Our second profile, severe IPV and control, was found to mirror the “severe IPV and sexual coercion” profile in the initial study, with both profiles showing high proportions of men reporting severe acts across all forms of IPV. The replication of this profile supports the presence of a subgroup of severely violent men across all forms of IPV and control. Our third profile, minor psychological IPV and control, was composed of men reporting minor acts on each form of IPV and was found to be similar although less severe to the “severe IPV without sexual coercion” from the initial study. Our fourth profile,

no/minor psychological IPV, was found to correspond to the “no or minor IPV” profile, both showing low rates of perpetration across all forms of IPV. Overall, our findings largely support the profiles observed within a subsample of the larger study (Brassard et al., 2023) and suggest the presence of homogenous IPV subgroups of men seeking help for anger management or domestic violence.

Parallels can also be drawn with Johnson’s (2008) typology, whose IPV types are largely distinguished by coercive control. First, the severe IPV and control and the minor psychological IPV and severe control profiles could be compared to Johnson’s intimate terrorism, which is defined by more severe IPV and the desire to control one’s partner. The high proportions of coercive control and IPV sustained by men in these profiles are in line with the fact that their partners might resist and fight back, consistent with the violent resistance type of IPV, especially in cultures that value equality (Kelly & Johnson, 2008). Second, the minor IPV and control and the no/minor psychological IPV profiles are similar to Johnson’s situational couple violence, which is defined by less control and minor IPV acts that result from escalating conflicts rather than a need for power. Yet, parallels to Johnson’s (2008) typology are limited as we did not investigate the intentionality of IPV.

Gender Hostility According to IPV Profiles

Regarding the second aim of the study, as hypothesized, males showing higher scores on HTW also perpetrated more forms of IPV and more severe IPV. More specifically, the two profiles with the highest HTW were the only ones that included physical IPV, and the profile most strongly associated with HTW stood out for its higher proportions of severe sexual and coercive IPV compared to the other profiles. These results are consistent with the existing literature indicating that HTW is related to physical (Eades, 2003; Parrott & Zeichner, 2003; Robertson & Murachver, 2007) and sexual IPV (Dutton-Greene & Straus, 2005; Forbes et al., 2006). Since the original study (Brassard et al., 2023) did not find psychosocial factors that could differentiate between its two most severe IPV profiles (with and without sexual coercion), our results suggest that HTW could constitute such a relevant factor. Furthermore, our findings are in line with those of Robertson and Murachver (2007) who found that HTW was the strongest predictor of physical IPV. It should also be noted that men in the two profiles with the highest HTW scores are also those reporting the highest rates of victimization. All things considered, results indicate that IPV victimization is important to consider when identifying IPV profiles and that the degree of HTW among men differs according to the severity of IPV perpetrated and whether they perpetrate several forms simultaneously.

Regarding HTM, as hypothesized, results indicate that profiles of males showing higher scores on HTM also perpetrated more severe IPV toward their intimate partner. As for HTW, the severe IPV and control profile (i.e., the most severe) was

also the one with the highest level of HTM, followed by the minor psychological IPV and severe control profile where severe coercive control was also high. These findings suggest that the profiles showing the greatest scores on HTM are those with the most men having reported severe coercive control acts. Since coercive control appears to be an important correlate of HTM, it is possible that Straus & Yodanis (1996) did not find an association between HTM reported by men and perpetration of IPV toward their intimate partner because they did not include coercive control in their study. The current findings could be explained through previous research among women indicating that more HTW is related to lower self-esteem (Cowan et al., 1998), which in turn could lead to IPV perpetration (Robertson & Murachver, 2007). Men with greater hostility toward their own gender may have lower self-esteem and be more insecure. This sense of self-rejection may lead them to engage in coercive control IPV to alleviate or compensate for their insecurities and regain a sense of control. These findings are the first to highlight the association between HTM and IPV perpetration and more specifically coercive control among men seeking help.

Practical Implications

The observed profiles having distinct proportions of IPV forms and severity are in line with evidence supporting heterogeneity in IPV perpetrators and the possibility that different profiles require distinct interventions (Kelly & Johnson, 2008). However, most current treatments are based on a one-size-fits-all approach, which may explain their mixed results (Clements et al., 2022). Recent recommendations to improve these programs include helping perpetrators understand the causes of their IPV (Pappas, 2023). The associations revealed between gender hostility and IPV profiles in the present study highlighted a potential intervention target that could help improve treatment outcomes. It might be relevant for practitioners to have a better understanding of gender roles and tensions since it could particularly help men in profiles where coercive control and physical violence are high. Findings from this study also suggest a high proportion of victimization among men in various profiles. As current community-based treatments focus only on male perpetration, interventions might be less effective for men who are also victims of IPV within their relationships. Although couple therapy is not recommended in case of severe IPV, it can be an advantageous option when IPV severity is moderate and when both partners are willing to commit to the therapeutic process (Lussier et al., 2008). As Karakurt et al. (2016) pointed out, accurate classification and identification of IPV profiles could help in determining the most appropriate treatment.

Limitations and Future Research

The present study has some limitations. First, the use of self-reported data limits our confidence in the reported acts of IPV by men who may be prone to desirability bias. Indeed, past studies have shown that participants tend to underreport their own perpetration of IPV (LaMotte et al., 2014). Therefore, it would be relevant to use dyadic data in future studies to examine whether the partners' item responses are consistent. Also, the IPV measures used did not consider the interpersonal context in which the violent acts occurred, thus limiting the understanding of IPV (Cook & Goodman, 2006). Although quantitative measurement of IPV is traditional in the field, it would be wise to consider each partner's experience with the dynamics of IPV, allowing us to better understand this complex phenomenon. In addition, since we did not control for general hostility, it is not possible to rule out the possibility that the association found between HTM and IPV profiles is due to this overarching construct. Furthermore, the fact that the replication was performed on a subsample of the same larger study (Brassard et al., 2023) allows us to increase confidence in the results but limits the generalizability of the profiles to other populations. It would be important to explore whether replication is possible in a completely independent sample. Last, this study included almost exclusively men in heterosexual relationships, limiting generalizability to same-sex relationships. Nevertheless, this study provides valuable and novel information regarding IPV perpetration, including the identification of potential IPV profiles in a clinical sample of male perpetrators.

CONCLUSION

In summary, our findings provide insight into the prevalence of various forms of IPV and attitudes toward genders in men seeking help. Overall, using a person-centered approach uncovered four profiles and highlighted differences in gender hostility among these subgroups. This research alludes to the possibility that HTW and HTM impact the form and severity of IPV perpetrated by men. These findings may sensitize therapists working in organizations for men perpetrating IPV to further consider gender hostility in their treatments and allow for the development of interventions tailored to these different subgroups of men. More specifically, some interventions may work better with some groups of male perpetrators. It could be relevant for practitioners to explore not only users' perception of women but also their self-esteem and self-perception, especially with those who perpetrate severe coercive control acts. Furthermore, considering that various factors interact to determine whether IPV will be perpetrated, future research is needed to better identify the link between HTW, HTM, and IPV by taking into account the situational and relational context of IPV in both partners.

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Table S1. Latent Profile Analysis Model Fit Indices for the Three Best Profile Solutions Extracted by Mclust

Model	ICL	BIC	Entropy
1-profile	7619.19	7619.19	-
2-profile	7186.72	7022.69	0.81
4-profile	6420.23	6338.86	0.93

Note. BIC, Bayesian information criterion; ICL, Integrated Complete-data Likelihood. The selected model is in bold.