# Intimate Partner Violence during Pregnancy among Young Women in Low-and Middle Income Countries: Literature Review

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## Background

**Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) during pregnancy among young women is a hidden issue in low-and middle income countries. The strength of this intersection has been inconsistent across studies. The purpose of this review was to better understand this intersection.**

## Methods

**A comprehensive literature review was conducted, using databases, PubMed, Medline (OVID), CINAHL, and OVID. Inclusion criteria included: publications in English; publication dates ranging between 2007 and 2016; conducted in low and middle-income country; age of participants under 25 years (i.e. at least 20% of participants under age 25 years).**

## Results

**Sixteen independent articles and one case study were included. IPV during pregnancy in young women is prevalent, particularly physical and sexual violence. Less education of husband, low income of family, alcohol consumption, preference for a son, and dowry payment were associated with higher risk for IPV. Maternal and child negative consequences included PROM, preterm, and low birth weight. Education for girls, youth services, and reducing gender imbalance were shown to prevent IPV.**

Figure 1 Flow diagram of papers through the study

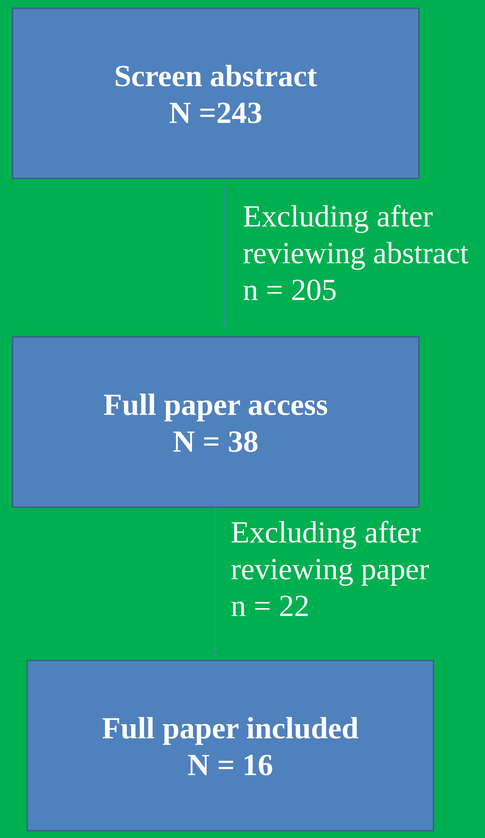



Table 1 Countries included in review by World Bank Classification

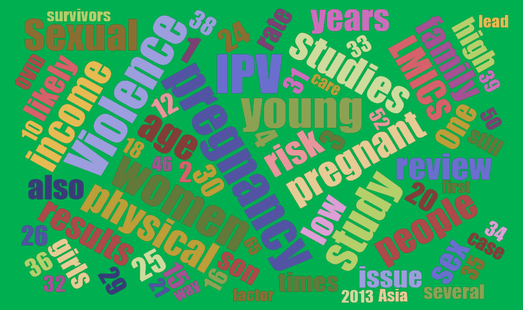
| Type of Country by Income | Gross Income Per Capita | Number of Countries Represented in Review | Example |
|---|---|---|---|
| Low Middle Income | $1,035 or less | 4 | Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia |
| Lower Middle Income | $1,035 to $4,085 | 5 | India, Myanmar, Kenya, Ghana, Bangladesh |
| Upper Middle Income | $4,086 to $12,615 | 4 | Iran, Jamaica, Colombia, Thailand |

Table 2. Key findings of IPV during pregnancy among young women in LMICs

| Finding | Description |
|---|---|
| Type of violence | - Physical assault and sexual coercion were more common. |
| *Risk factors* | - socioeconomic status, low level of husband's education, living with husband family member, alcohol consumption, prefer a son, dowry. |
| *Complications of IPV during pregnancy* | - PROM, abortion, and preterm birth |
| *Negative consequences* | - *Physical violence* -- pain, cuts, bruises, vaginal bleeding or early labor.<br>- *Psychological violence*--Verbal insults, constant humiliation, threat, fear of spouse.<br>- *Sexual violence*--deception, transactional sex and followed by physical violence, unwanted sexual acts |
| *Prevention strategies* | - Sex education for girls less than 16 years of age<br>- youth friendly services |

## Conclusions

Most of risk factors identified were influenced by culture and were unique to LMICs. Without intervention to reduce gender inequality, the problem of IPV in this population is likely to continue. More culturally tailored research that addresses the problem of IPV in LMICs among young pregnant women is needed.

## Acknowledgement

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