



The COHSAR Approach – measuring a comprehensive multidimensional definition of IPV

Professor Marianne Hester

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Centre for Gender & Violence Research

Frameworks

- *Love and intimacy*
- *Gender and Power*
- *Modelling incidence and prevalence*



COHSAR survey instrument

- Can compare abusive lesbian, gay male or heterosexual relationships – sensitive to sexuality
- Sensitive to gender and power
- takes into account a range of IPV behaviours
- Addresses context and impact
- Incorporates experiences of abuse from partners and use of such behaviour against partners.



Content – sections on:

- personal demographic information;
- decision making and conflict resolution in own relationship; [Renzetti]
- own experience of negative emotional/ physical/ sexual behaviours including impact; [BCS]
- own use of negative emotional/ physical/ sexual against partner including why did this,
- help-seeking;
- final section – specific question whether respondent had experienced IPVA.



🌿 Abuse scales – detailed & nuanced

- Experience of emotional abuse (27 items),
- physical abuse (13 items), and sexual abuse (9 items)
- within the last 12 months and earlier.
- Had they ‘never’, ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ experienced the behaviour in question; from a current or previous partner, or both.



🌿 Abuse scales – validity and reliability

- Three separate scales relating to emotional, physical, and sexual abuse were created,
- A combined scale including the three items was created.

- All were found to be reliable at $>.8$ using Cronbach's Alpha.



Impact measure

- Multi-response - 26 possible outcomes.

- Both positive and negative impacts possible:

Physical and psychological impacts, effects on relationship quality and partner interactions, and questions regarding self-defence or retaliation.



Impact measure

Questions devised to pick up coercive behaviours and types of harm

Questions included:

- Didn't have an impact
- Made me feel loved/wanted
- Worked harder to make partner happy
- ... As well as physical injury and wide range of emotional impacts



Impact scales

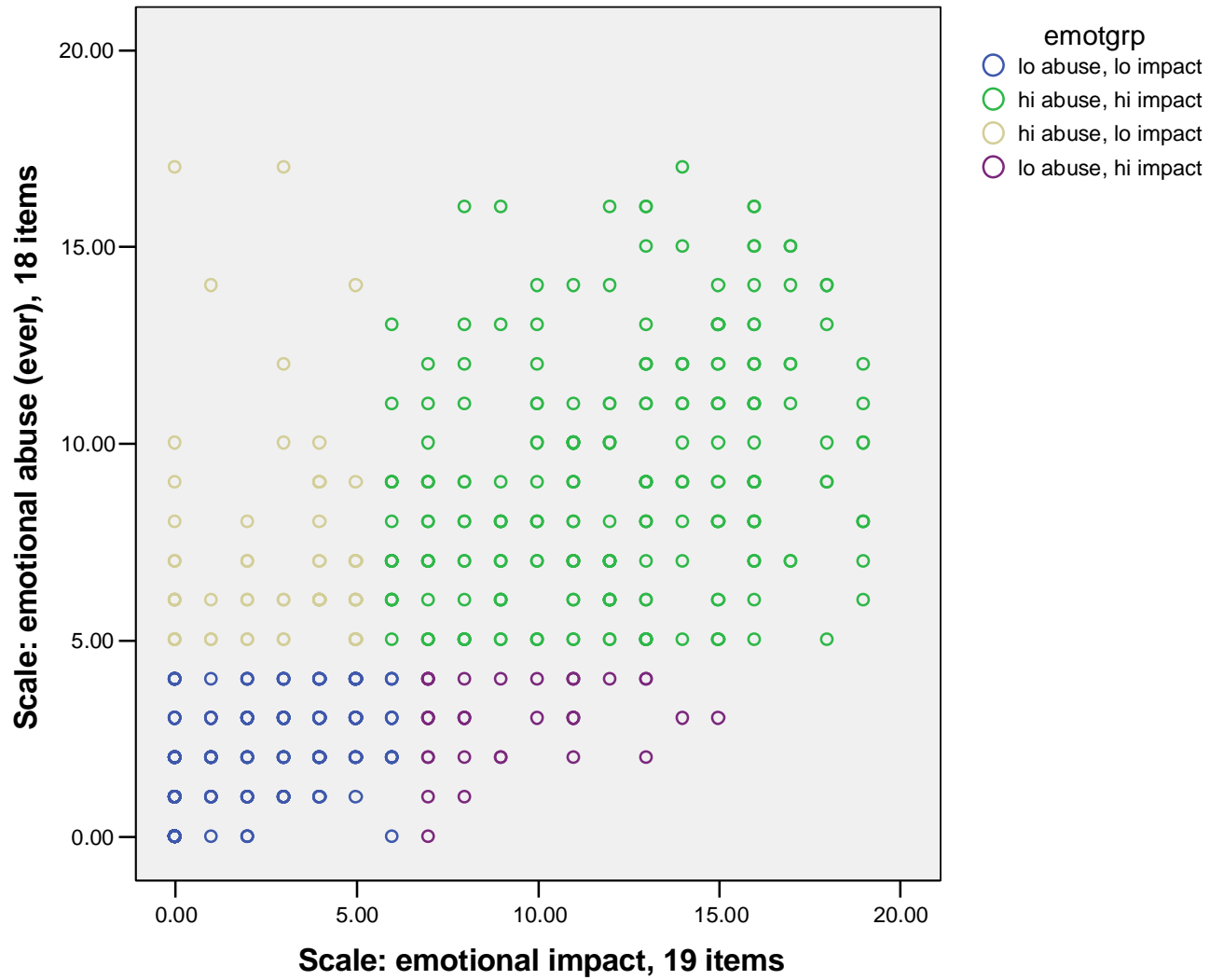
- three scales developed – emotional impact, physical impact, sexual impact
- high degree of Alpha (Cronbach's Alpha .933 emotional abuse impact, .959 physical abuse impact, .951 sexual abuse impact).



Abuse behaviour and impact

- Higher levels of abuse associated with a greater impact upon respondents.
- Supported by Spearman's rank correlation between scores on the impact scales and abuse scales for previous 12 months - strong correlations evident between impact and emotional abuse (.503, $p < .001$), physical abuse (.463, $p < .001$) and sexual abuse (.432, $p < .001$).





🔥 Abuse, impact & self-definition

- optimal fit between abuse and impact – at about 7 on the x-axis (impacts) and 4 on the y-axis (abuse).
- Respondents self-identified as experiencing IPV if they reported both high levels of abusive behaviour experience *and* that this had a significant impact upon their lives.
- i.e. impact important



Result

- Individuals in same sex relationships consider and apparently experience combinations of physical, sexual and emotional abuse as having the greatest impact.
- Combinations of abuse are also most closely allied to individuals' own definitions of IPV.



References

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marianne.hester@bristol.ac.uk

www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/genderviolence

