

## Intimate Partner Violence In College Students: Psychological Perspective

Maribell Xiomara Bejar Alegría<sup>1</sup>, Mario Humberto Taipe Cancho<sup>2</sup>,  
Graciela Esmeralda Carranza León<sup>3</sup>, Carmen Lucia Soriano Alva<sup>4</sup>,  
Julio Cesar Machaca Mamani<sup>5</sup> , Rosa Gabriela Coral Surco<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1.3.4</sup>César Vallejo University, Lima, Peru

[mbejaral1572@ucvvirtual.edu.pe](mailto:mbejaral1572@ucvvirtual.edu.pe)<sup>1</sup>, [mtaipe@undc.edu.pe](mailto:mtaipe@undc.edu.pe)<sup>2</sup>,

[gcarranza@ucvvirtual.edu.pe](mailto:gcarranza@ucvvirtual.edu.pe)<sup>3</sup>, [csorianoal1975@ucvvirtual.edu.pe](mailto:csorianoal1975@ucvvirtual.edu.pe)<sup>4</sup>,

[jcmachaca@unajma.edu.pe](mailto:jcmachaca@unajma.edu.pe)<sup>5</sup>,

[rgcoral@unajma.edu.pe](mailto:rgcoral@unajma.edu.pe)<sup>6</sup>

### Abstract

Intimate partner violence has previously been recognized as a major public health problem. This comprehensive systematic review aims to characterize existing research on actual or suspected infidelity with intimate partner violence and inform future research and programs. We systematically searched the databases of Scopus, SciELO, Web of Science, Dialnet, peer-reviewed research, published between April 2017 and 2022, which provided data on prevalence or a measure of association (quantitative) or pathway (qualitative), between actual or suspected infidelity. We included 38 articles from 28 countries and the evidence showed a consistent association between actual or suspected infidelity. Our findings identify three general mechanisms and six pathways between infidelity, considered as intimate partner violence in college students. These provide support for major theories in the field related to patriarchal culture, threatened masculinities and femininities, and lack of emotional regulation and conflict resolution skills, but not evolutionary theories. Our findings suggest that researchers should use standardized measurement tools that distinguish between actual infidelity and suspicions, confirmations, and accusations of infidelity. Policy and programming should aim to transform traditional gender roles, taking into account infidelity and improving communication and trust of partners in students. Threatened masculinities and femininities and lack of emotional regulation and conflict resolution skills, but no evolutionary theories. Our findings suggest that researchers should use standardized measurement tools that distinguish between infidelity and suspicions, confirmations, and accusations of infidelity. The results of this study may suggest that specific information seminars within the curriculum might be suitable to provide students with.

**Keywords:** Intimate partner violence, gender, infidelity, family violence, domestic violence, couple conflicts.

## I. Introduction

Currently, there is increased interest in investigating intimate partner violence against women (Lazarevich, Irigoyen-Camacho and Velázquez-Alva, 2017; López-Cepero, Estrada-Pineda, and Chan-Gamboa, 2018; Mendoza et al., 2019). In the same way, they focused their studies on quantifying the problem of intimate partner violence in comparison with other age groups. (Rodríguez, Riosvelasco and Castillo, 2018; Esquivel-Santoveña et al., 2020). Thus, the greatest risk of violence against women occurs with various manifestations and degrees of lethality. (Pan American Health Organization [PAHO], 2013; World Health Organization [WHO], 2013; Bonilla and Rivas, 2021).

Quantitative research preponderated to identify predictors of violence in relationships such as jealousy, emotional dependence, among others. (Lewis and Fremouw, 2001; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006; Corral, 2009; Matud, 2007; Espinoza, Vivanco and Vargas, 2019). They also reported that sexist attitudes in university students are very high, where they announced that violence in a relationship should be addressed in university education (García, Fernández, Bringas, Rodríguez, & Lana, 2020; Huerta, 2021).

Globally, they reported that records of VRP reports increased by up to 60% during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic by their abusers (Rubio et al., 2020; [WHO], 2020; Mella et al., 2021). Mexico (2019) also reported that 43.9% of women between 20 and 34 years old are the most vulnerable groups in terms of being raped by their partners during their cohabitation. (Guillén Verdesoto et al., 2021; Carranza and Galicia, 2019).

According to the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics [INEI, 2017]; and the Demographic and Family Health Survey [ENDES]) reported "that women between 15 and 49 years old experienced at some point in their lives a type of violence by their partners. (Ponce et al., 2019). Likewise, the INEI (2019) reported during 2018 58.9% for psychological violence, 30.7% physical violence and 6.8% sexual violence. She added that the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) through the Women's Emergency Centers (CEM) in 2020; warned that VAW cases were increasing disproportionately, as shown "2017 = 81,009 cases; 2018= 133,697 cases; 2019=181,885 of 2019. (Raiser & Manzanares, 2021). Finally, a study was found in 2019 with university women, that 63.36% were victims of some type of violence by their partners. (Solano et al., 2019).

From what has been expressed, and there are gaps with respect to this age group in the university context and seeing the multiple components that are associated with this construct, the intention is born to carry out this study and to be able to identify roles, stereotypes, that is presented in a heterosexual relationship in the university context linked to social expectations, seeing that this phenomenon is a cause for concern for the damages and consequences it causes in the person who suffers it. So too by a hierarchy of power that often ignores and ignores people's rights. For this reason, the study will aim to systematize the documentary content on Violence in relationship relationships in the university context between 2017 and 2022 Specific objectives: to identify theories, types, consequences, effects, factors, vulnerability, on VRP in a university context. So the next question arises. What studies were systematized on the documentary content of intimate partner violence in university students between 2017 and 2022?

## **II. Method**

For a good search, the systematic review has followed the principles and guidelines suggested by the PRISMA Statement, (Moher et al., 2009; Urrútia and Bonfill, 2013). Type of study: The study carried out the updated review of the literature on intimate partner violence in university students in different databases, from 2017 to 2022 that allowed to group different studies in a detailed, critical, retrospective and well-defined way with the purpose of identifying, analyzing and interpreting the results found to the subject under study. (Garcia, 2017).

**Inclusion criteria:** Publications in journals indexed between 2017 and 2022 in the languages (English, French and Spanish); which have an impact on the Scimago classification table. Studies related to violence in a relationship in the university context.

**Exclusion criteria :** Studies published before 2017 are omitted; restricted access articles; monographs, undergraduate and postgraduate theses, essays, books, newspaper articles, studies that are not related to the sample group and the variable.

### **Design and procedure:**

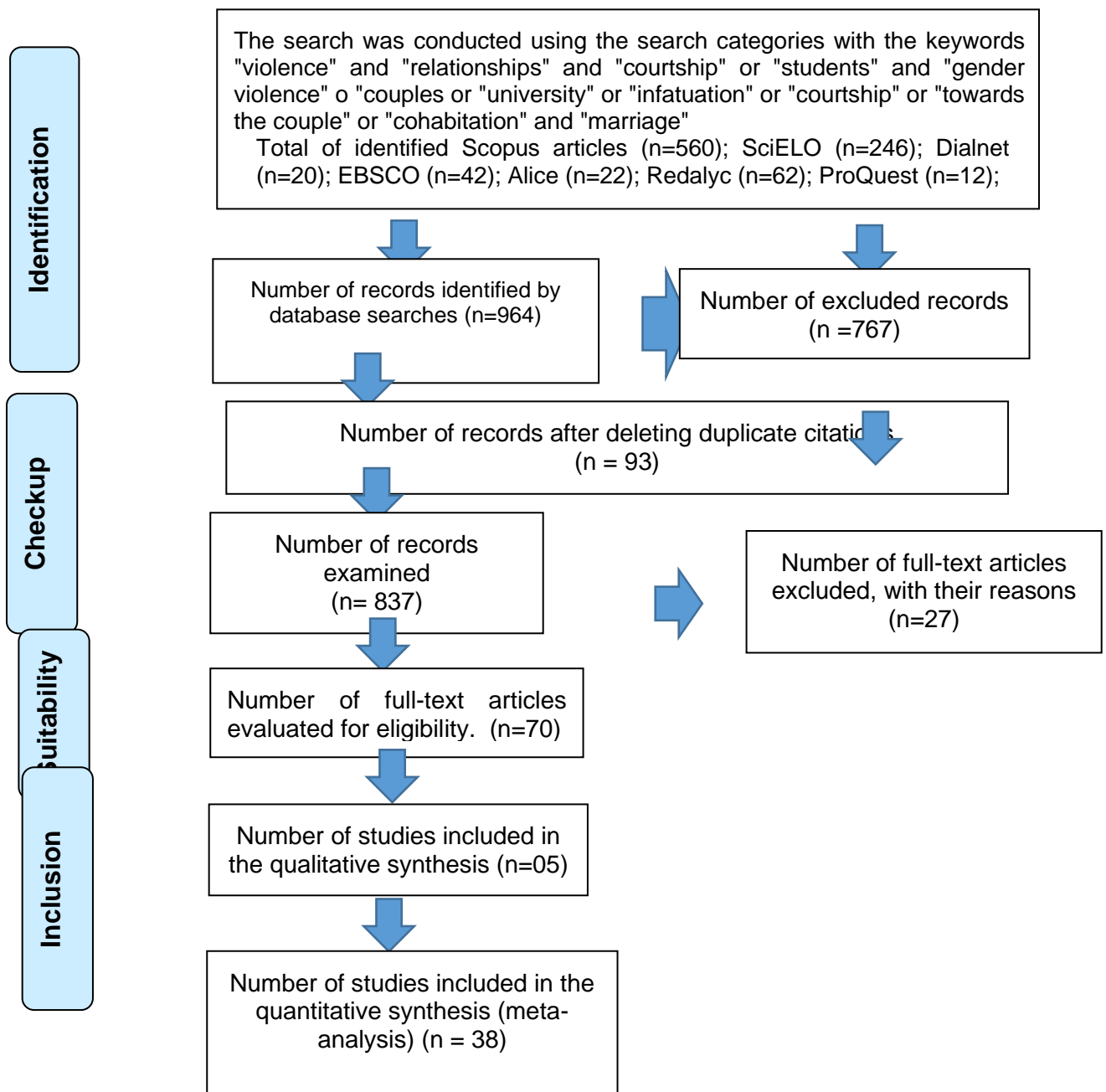
#### **Find initial information**

The search for information was carried out through the qualitative analysis of the original documentation by ordering it in a working folder, in the different databases "Scopus, SciELO, Web of Science, Dialnet". The state of the art has followed a flow chart according to the strategies and procedures carried out during the search for information. (Figure 1).

### **Search procedure**

The search procedure was through the elaboration of a data systematization table, in order to record the information extracted from the different data sources, and see the fulfillment of the inclusion criteria, through a list of comparisons that served to record the queries found in the search documents, and accurately analyze the information collected by specifying data such as; "Title, names and surnames, year of publication, country, author, objective, type of study, design, population, sample, instrument used, among other data that served to describe in detail the variable under study". Similarly, for categorization, the combination of Boolean operators using "AND, OR, NOT" separators was used to define and extend the descriptors of violence in relationships in university students. "combining the descriptors with capital letters, in their equivalent expression of "English, Spanish and French.

Figure 1  
Flowchart



Source: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Declaration. PLoS Med 6(6): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.PMED1000097

Number of additional records  
identified through other sources  
(n = 34)

Number of additional records  
identified by other sources (n  
= 34)

**Table 1 Key Boolean operators database terms**

DATABASE	ESPAÑOL	SPANISH	OPERATORS	YEAR
Scopus. Scielo. Redalyc EBSCO Dialnet. ProQuest Alicia Redalyc	Intimate partner violence	Intimate partner violence		2017
	Violence in university students	Violence in university students		
	Violence in adolescents	Valencia in teenagers		
	Violence in the relationship	Intimate partner violence	Or	to the
	Violence in love	Violence in falling in love	And	
	Violence against women	Violence against women	NO	2022
	Gender-based violence	Gender-based violence		
	Dating violence	Dating violence		
	Coexistence of violence	Cohabitation violence		
	Violence in marriage	Violence in the Marriage		

Source: Authors.

### III. Result

The articles reviewed were a total of 43 "38= quantitative and 5= qualitative", published between 3 in 2022, 13 in 2021, 11 in 2020, 6 in 2019, 5 in 2018, 5 in 2017. Made up of 36 university studies, 2 in adolescents with lovers and courtship between 17 and 19 years, 01 in pregnant and puerperal university women, 02 in studies in housewives of reproductive age, 01 in married couples over 18 years, 01 in pregnant women in Primary Care. Similarly, Mexico, Spain and Peru represent larger studies, visualizing in greater detail in Table 2 where the database from which the study was obtained, title, author, year, country, general objective of the study, methodology and results is indicated. URL.

The findings found in the present systematic review were as follows.

First, the analysis of the data of the information collected emphasized the age group under study, as the source of the first documentary filter, where the abstract was reviewed, and then proceeded to the full text. In the documentary analysis, it took into consideration the content and contributions of the selected articles, taking into account the similarity of the search for review on violence in a couple relationship, identifying large relative metacategories such as: "Types of violence, effects or consequences, factors, theories of violence in a couple relationship, other associated variables such as; emotional dependence, resilience, jealousy, psychological well-being, life satisfaction, among others." Ponce-Díaz et al., 2019; Espinoza Moraga et al., 2019; Rojas et al., 2020).

With reference to its structure, it was found that the most used instrument was the Questionnaire on Violence between Boyfriends (CUVINO) (Rodríguez et al., 2010), followed by the Inventory of Conflict in Dating Relationships of Adolescents - CADRI version of CADRI (Wolfe et al., 2001) translated into Spanish by Fernández Fuertes, Fuertes Martín and Fernández Pulido (2006 ). finally the Inventory of distorted thoughts about women and the use of violence, reviewed by (Echeburúa et al., 2016). It is also important to note that high percentages of cases of psychological violence (57.7%) were evidenced in a study conducted in Peru, of the population surveyed, 80% were women. (Zeña et al., 2022). Another study reported that 52.8% of women experienced psychological violence, 29.5% physical violence, and 7.1% sexual violence. (Tiravanti et al., 2021).

Similarly, Spain found similar percentages in university women abused by their partners, where 90% said they had suffered sexual violence due to coercion, 82.6% physical violence, 63.4% psychological violence (Trujillo & Contreras, 2021). Cuba, conducted a study in university students, where it found that the students of the faculty of medicine, reported presenting violence during their courtship, 85.8% described various degrading and threatening manifestations, 14.2% could not do so, 87.5% presented negative consequences (cognitive-affective-behavioral). (Ramos et al., 2021). Likewise, Colombia found that verbal violence is the most frequent in young university couples, followed by sexual violence, accompanied by control behaviors exercised by their partners, using violence

as a method to resolve conflicts in the relationship, resulting in control behaviors and jealousy. (Garrido et al., 2020).

Regarding the history of violence in childhood, 49.6% of women over 18 years of age reported having suffered violence during their childhood, of this percentage 25.3% suffered physical violence, 16.5% psychological violence and 7.8% sexual violence. Of the total, 64.2% of women were victims of violence by their partner. (De la Cruz & Alarco, 2021).

#### **IV. Discussion**

This study aimed to systematize the documentary content on violence in relationship relationships in the university context between 2017 and 2022. As for the quantitative and qualitative results, we found more publications in the Scielo database, followed by Scopus. The results found respond to the grouping of articles of similarity of review search, reaching the following categories:

First, we found experiences of university women who live in situations of violence in a relationship and who are influenced by demographic, family, personal, sociocultural factors. (Solano et al., 2019; Espinoza et al., 2019; Ponce-Díaz et al., 2019). On the other hand, when the person has a history of violence in childhood, they are more likely to suffer violence from their partners (De la Cruz & Alarco, 2021). They also mention that they have an impact on youth and adulthood and that their consequences are depression, anxiety, stress, emotional dependence, suicide attempt, difficulties in regulating emotions and low levels of psychological well-being, among others, often due to the low self-esteem they present. (Solano et al., 2019; Espinoza et al., 2019; Ponce-Díaz et al., 2019). All these inadequate situations can lead to defense mechanisms to be able to face difficult situations, therefore, resilience is a key factor. (Solano et al., 2019; Espinoza et al., 2019; Ponce-Díaz et al., 2019). In the same way as in the university stage, academic performance is affected. (Muñoz & Benítez, 2017). In addition, it was revealed that violence in a relationship is related to alexithymia. Burgos and Maldonado (2021).

At the national level, high percentages of psychological violence were evident, followed by physical and sexual violence. (Zeña et al., 2022; De la Cruz & Alarco, 2021) Burgos



and Maldonado (2021); Tiravanti et al., 2021). While at the international level, high percentages of sexual violence due to coercion were identified, followed by physical and psychological violence in university women (Trujillo & Contreras, 2021; While in Ecuador it was reported that physical violence is the most predominant in university women. Guillén, et al., (2021). Another similar study in university medical students presented higher percentages of verbal violence by their boyfriends, where they described various degrading and threatening manifestations, followed by sexual and physical violence. (Ramos et al., 2021; Garrido et al., 2020).

It is also noteworthy that young university students who suffer violence from their partners, reported not considering government institutions as a social bond of protection against the violence they receive from their aggressor, creating distrust in the services they provide at the time of complaints, seeking protection from their friends, as a support network, Even so, they do not dare to leave their relationship, for fear of the threats of violence that their friends receive from the aggressor. (Huerta, 2021)

Regarding the significant differences in the control factor according to their semester and career, it was found that the social, political, economic and cultural system is a means to justify and carry out some type of violence. (Carranza & Galicia, 2019). On the other hand, there are studies that reveal that the woman suffers the most violence and that the aggressor is the man as a result of behavior patterns within the family, accompanied by behavioral problems, causing the man to be violent with his partner and that these become a circle of violence towards their children. (Solano et al., 2019; Algarate, 2021)

With respect to the perceptions that students have in the face of behaviors such as jealousy, indifference, emotional manipulation, harassment, they refer that it is the result of the false ideas of romantic love that the aggressors have and that this induces them to think of a relationship of domination. (Rubio, et al., 2020; Almansa, Arense and Bravo 2020)

In the same way, it was found that there is a significant association between the relevance for the larger group of

violence and behavioral jealousy and the stress they suffer during intimate partner violence. (Guillén et al., 2021)

Finally, the study favored a better knowledge about the subjectivity of people who present intimate partner violence and about the aggressor, in the same way it can be concluded that violent relationships depend on learning processes, which are reflected in education, often translating through jealousy, insults, sexual coercion, isolation, among others and that is where, On this basis, preventive and protective measures should be applied.

## **V. Conclusions**

We found few investigations considering the research variables (sexual abuse, children, adolescents, consequences, impact).

It is necessary to train health professionals in the protocol for dealing with cases of abuse and sexual violence against minors, and to develop specialized intervention protocols at the national level.

There are no studies that address the impact and repercussions of sexual abuse in minors, researchers who have an interest in this field can carry out longitudinal and / or experimental studies to have a greater amount of knowledge about it.

As for the follow-up of these cases in our country, there is no updated information, which would imply that specialists could identify these characteristics, as well as the screening of aggressions against women and / or members of the family environment, thus generating the need to be able to carry out a longitudinal study of minors with a history of abuse.

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