

Implications of domestic violence against women on family functionality: an integrative review

Implicações da violência doméstica contra as mulheres na funcionalidade familiar: revisão integrativa

Implicancias de la violencia doméstica contra las mujeres en la funcionalidad familiar: revisión integradora

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Abstract

Objective: to identify the implications of domestic violence against women on family functionality. **Method:** an integrative review carried out in the following databases: Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde; Medline US National Library of Medicine; Web of Science; Scopus; and Biomedical and Pharmacological Bibliographic Database. The bibliographic survey took place in January 2024, identifying 7,684 publications, with 20 articles selected for analysis with the support of the NVivo software. **Results:** women exposed to domestic violence face physical, emotional and social consequences, frequently replicating the aggression cycle. Children also suffer impacts on their physical, emotional and social health, becoming prone to perpetuating the pattern of violence and creating a trans-generational condition. **Conclusion:** the implications of domestic violence against women on family functionality are multiple and comprehensive and transcend generations. These aspects are essential for the implementation of interventions focused on family security.

Descriptors: Domestic Violence; Violence Against Women; Family Relations; Nuclear Family; Review

Resumo

Objetivo: identificar as implicações da violência doméstica contra as mulheres na funcionalidade familiar. **Método:** revisão integrativa, realizada nas bases de dados da Literatura Latino-

Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde; *Medline US National Library of Medicine*; *Web of Science*; *Scopus*; e *Biomedical and Pharmacological Bibliographic Database*. O levantamento bibliográfico ocorreu em janeiro de 2024, identificando 7.684 publicações, sendo 20 artigos selecionados para análise com apoio do *software NVivo*. **Resultados:** mulheres expostas à violência doméstica enfrentam consequências físicas, emocionais e sociais, frequentemente reproduzindo o ciclo de agressão. Os filhos também sofrem impactos na saúde física, emocional e social, tornando-se propensos a perpetuar o padrão de violência e criando uma condição transgeracional. **Conclusão:** as implicações da violência doméstica contra as mulheres na funcionalidade familiar são múltiplas, abrangentes e transcendem as gerações. Estes aspectos são essenciais para a implementação de intervenções com foco na segurança familiar.

Descritores: Violência Doméstica; Violência contra a Mulher; Relações Familiares; Núcleo Familiar; Revisão

Resumen

Objetivo: identificar las implicancias de la violencia doméstica contra las mujeres en la funcionalidad familiar. **Método:** revisión integradora realizada en las siguientes bases de datos: *Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde*; *Medline US National Library of Medicine*; *Web of Science*; *Scopus*; y *Biomedical and Pharmacological Bibliographic Database*. El sondeo bibliográfico tuvo lugar en enero de 2024, identificándose 7.684 publicaciones, entre los cuales se seleccionaron 20 artículos para el análisis con la ayuda del programa de *software NVivo*.

Resultados: las mujeres expuestas a violencia doméstica enfrentan consecuencias físicas, emocionales y sociales, y frecuentemente reproducen el ciclo de agresiones. Los hijos también sufren efectos sobre su salud física, emocional y social, volviéndose propensos a perpetuar el patrón de violencia y creando una condición transgeneracional. **Conclusión:** las implicancias de la violencia doméstica contra las mujeres en la funcionalidad familiar son múltiples y abarcadoras y trascienden las generaciones. Estos aspectos son esenciales para que puedan implementarse intervenciones enfocadas en la seguridad familiar.

Descriptor: Violencia Doméstica; Violencia contra la Mujer; Relaciones Familiares; Núcleo Familiar; Revisión

Introduction

The persistence of violence against women represents a worrying global epidemic with repercussions that affect access to fundamental rights, therefore representing a substantial barrier to quality of life. This phenomenon poses a direct challenge to achieving Goal Five of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations (UN), envisioning the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.¹⁻²

Worldwide, one out of three women has suffered some physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the course of their lives.²⁻³ In Brazil, despite the underreporting of violence, the Brazilian Public Security Forum identified that 33.4% of the Brazilian women aged at least 16 years old have experienced physical or sexual violence caused by an intimate partner throughout their lives.⁴

Data from 2009 to 2019 reveal that, although there was a decrease in urban violence against women, there was an increase in cases of domestic violence. In particular, in 2019, a 6.1% increase was recorded in the femicide rate in the home environment.⁵ In this context, the search for solutions given the complexity of the problem must follow an intersectoral path, with a view to strategies to support family functionality and break the cycle of violence.⁵⁻⁶

In view of such facts and in accordance with the National Policy for Combating Violence against Women, the current study is based on aspects related to domestic violence.⁷⁻⁸ However, in Brazil, in the legal sphere, the term adopted is domestic violence against women, as a result of the Maria da Penha Law (Law No. 11,340/2006), which creates mechanisms to curb and prevent domestic and family violence.⁹⁻¹⁰

Given the issue of domestic violence and the recognition of its occurrence within the family, it becomes imperative to understand the family and its functionality. A family is made up of people who live together over a period of time, united by blood ties of affection and/or interest, in which each of its members assumes certain positions, with functions linked to the rights and obligations they must exercise.¹¹ The family interactions influence construction of the individuals' identity throughout the life phases, enabling them to face stressful events or not.¹¹⁻¹²

Family functionality, understood as the set of interactions, communication patterns and affective relationships, when critically analyzed, reveals itself as a factor that can contribute to the perpetuation of domestic violence against women.¹³⁻¹⁵ Dysfunctional family relationships are conceptualized as factors that make the home an unstable, unsafe and violent environment, making it indispensable to have a broader approach to this context given the diverse evidence of co-occurrence of domestic violence against women and children.^{6-7,16}

Even considering the era of social communication, underreporting of violence against women persists due to factors such as impunity, silence, stigma and shame.¹⁷ Most episodes of violence against women are perpetrated by intimate partners in the domestic context with an emphasis on certain ongoing and cyclical abuse pattern. This violent experience tends to weaken the psychological structure, keeping these women in violent relationships, increasing the repercussions for them and their children, who

witness and, sometimes, become victims, with a tendency to reproduce the same behavior in interpersonal relationships.¹⁸⁻¹⁹

In view of the above, the objective is to identify the implications of domestic violence against women on family functionality.

Method

This is an Integrative Literature Review (ILR) structured in six stages. The first one refers to identifying the problem and preparing the review question using the PICO acronym criteria (P = Population, I = Phenomenon of Interest, Co = Context) – *Which are the implications of domestic violence against women for family functionality?* This stage was structured as follows: P – women; I – domestic violence; Co – family functionality. The second stage deals with the search and selection of primary studies, according to inclusion criteria. The third stage deals with data extraction and organization, corresponding to characterization of the research. The fourth stage refers to the analysis and critical evaluation of the studies included. The fifth stage includes a synthesis of the results, as well as data interpretation and discussion. The sixth stage presents a synthesis of the knowledge constructed through review.²⁰

The bibliographic survey was carried out in January 2024, accessed through the Journals portal of the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel: *Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde* (LILACS); Medline - US National Library of Medicine (PubMed); Web of Science (WoS), Scopus (Elsevier) and Biomedical and Pharmacological Bibliographic Database (Embase).

To search the databases, controlled descriptors present in the Health Sciences Descriptors (*Descritores em Ciências da Saúde*, DeCS) and their equivalents in the English language were selected using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) (Chart 1).

Chart 1 – Search strategies in LILACS, Medline/PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus and Embase, in English, Portuguese and Spanish, Marília-SP, 2023.

Database	Search strategy	Publications
LILACS	<i>((mh:("Mulheres" OR "Mulheres Maltratadas" OR "Violência contra a Mulher")) OR (Mulher*)) AND ((mh:("Violência Doméstica")) OR ((Violencia* OR Maus-Tratos) AND (Familia* OR Domestica OR Lar OR Lares OR Casa OR Residencia* OR Conjug*))) AND ((mh:("Relações Familiares" OR "Família" OR "Núcleo Familiar")) OR ((Funcionalidade OR Dinamica OR Relacionamento* OR Relação OR Relações OR Nucleo*) AND Familia*))</i>	512
Medline/ PubMed	<i>((((((("Women"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("Battered Women"[MeSH Terms])) OR ("Violence against Women"[MeSH Terms])) OR ("Wom?")) AND (((("Domestic Violence"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("Violence")) OR ("Mistreatment")))) AND (((Family*) OR ("Domestic")) OR ("Home")) OR ("Residence")) OR (Conjug*)) AND (((((((("Family Relations") OR (Family)) OR ("Nuclear Family")) OR ("Functionality")) OR ("Dynamic")) OR (Relationship*)) OR ("Relations")) OR ("Nuclear Family")))) AND (Family*))</i>	341
Web of Science	<i>(wom?n) AND ("Domestic Violence") AND ("Family Relations" OR family OR "Nuclear Family" OR "family dynamics" OR "family relationship" OR "family relationships" OR "family functionality" OR "familiar functionality"))</i>	3360
Scopus	<i>(TITLE-ABS-KEY (wom?n) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Domestic Violence") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Family Relations" OR family OR "Nuclear Family" OR "family dynamics" OR "family relationship" OR "family relationships" OR "family functionality" OR "familiar functionality"))</i>	2113
Embase	<i>(wom?n) AND ("Domestic Violence") AND ("Family Relations" OR family OR "Nuclear Family" OR "family dynamics" OR "family relationship" OR "family relationships" OR "family functionality" OR "familiar functionality"))</i>	1358

The following inclusion criteria were adopted: primary articles, which corresponded to the review question, considering the time frame of 2011, due to the year when the National Policy for Combating Violence against Women was published,⁸ in English, Portuguese or Spanish. The exclusion criteria corresponded to review studies of any nature, dissertations, theses and manuals.

To organize the articles, the *EndNote Web Basic* (Clarivate Analytics®) and *Zotero*® bibliography management software programs were used, which allow archiving, removal of duplicates and viewing by peers. Selection of the articles was carried out in three stages: reading the titles; reading the titles and abstracts of the publications identified by the search; and evaluation of the pre-selected studies by reading them in full, applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria (Figure 1). Any and all divergences were analyzed by other reviewers.

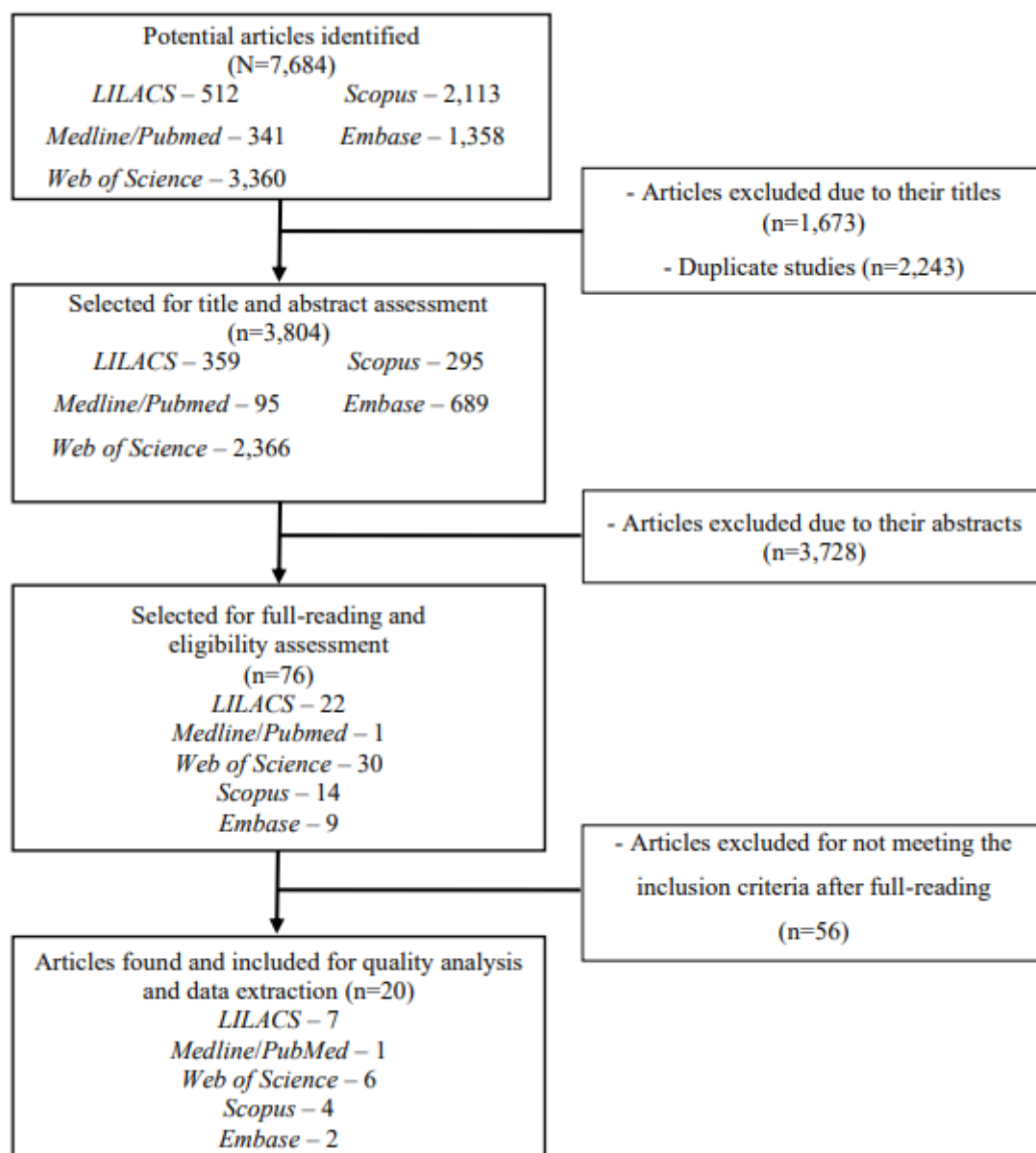


Figure 1 - Flowchart corresponding to selection of the primary studies, prepared by the authors. Marília-SP, Brazil, 2023

To extract the information, the records were linked to the *NVivo* software, which exports a spreadsheet with the “.xlsx” extension (*Microsoft Excel*[®]) containing the following data: authors; year of publication; country where the research was conducted; database; objective; method (type of study); level of evidence; participants; and main results. The studies were classified according to the Level of Evidence (LE): Level I – systematic reviews and meta-analysis; Level II – randomized controlled studies; Level III – controlled studies without randomization; Level IV – case-control or cohort study; Level V – systematic review of descriptive or qualitative studies; Level VI – qualitative or descriptive studies; and Level VII

– consensus and experts' opinion.²¹ The national and international principles of research ethics were respected in this integrative literature review.

The review findings were discussed. The theoretical foundation was built from a critical evaluation of the studies included and a qualitative results analysis tool (*NVivo Plus* software), creating codes that refer to the categories found in the articles and conceptual maps that helped organize the data and analysis.

Results

Chart 2 – Presentation of the articles according to year, country of publication, objective, method (type of study), level of evidence, participants and main results. Marília-SP, Brazil, 2023.

Year/Country/Objective	Type of research/ Level of evidence/ Participants	Main results
2014 ²² / Brazil/ To identify associations between types of violence in the family.	Case-control study/ Level IV/ 480 women.	There was an association between living with violence in a couple's relationship (whether the woman is the victim or the aggressor) and adopting similar behavior with her children, especially the woman's behavior being reproduced with her children. Considering the family context, the same person can be a victim and aggressor depending on different family relationships. Depending on the duration, frequency, continuity and intensity with which they occur, they can affect development and generate dysfunctions in the people involved.
2019 ²³ / Brazil/ To deepen understanding of women's psychodynamics in the cycle of violence considering aspects of psychological trauma.	Qualitative study – content analysis/ Level VI/ 10 women victims of domestic violence.	It is verified that the participants who grow up in a violent environment can repeat parental patterns. In situations of stress and crisis, the participants evidenced difficulties making significant changes and breaking the cycle, demonstrating a less structured personality associated with insecurity, which explains trans-generational characteristics, even when choosing partners. Constant violence hampers the thinking and understanding capabilities.

2017 ²⁴ / Brazil/ To understand the meanings that women attribute to the repercussions of domestic violence.	Qualitative study, Grounded Theory method/ Level VI/ 38 participants in two domestic and family violence courts against northeastern women, in 2 sample groups.	The study indicates that the physical and mental health of women and their children in situations of violence is compromised, presenting physical signs such as bruises and cuts, and veiled by somatization of the traumatic experience, such as low self-esteem, sadness, fear and depression. In children and adolescents, signs suggestive of family conflicts are evidenced by aggression, introspection, low academic performance and drug use.
2019 ²⁵ / Brazil/ To understand the phenomenon of conjugal violence based on women's experience in legal proceedings and professionals in the network.	Qualitative study – Grounded Theory/ Level VI/ 38 participants, who made up 2 sample groups: women in situations of violence and network professionals.	The cyclical and progressive nature of violence is evident. In women, it presents serious consequences for physical and emotional health, such as cuts, lacerations, bruises, fractures, depression, acute stress, anxiety, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, social repercussions of deprivation of family and social life and difficulties achieving financial independence. As for the children, there is social isolation, low school performance and aggressive behavior, in addition to showing a trans-generational nature.
2020 ²⁶ / Italy/ To examine the role of a wide range of childhood maltreatment, family and social dysfunctions in predicting Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).	Case-control study/ Level IV/ The sample included 78 women.	Exposure to interpersonal traumatic events during childhood is considered a crucial explanatory variable for IPV in adulthood. There was an association between victimization of women in the context of an intimate relationship and child abuse, understood as trauma perpetrated by childhood attachment figures, which impairs emotional regulation and promotes maladaptive models for life. It proved to be a predictor of violence during childhood and, later on, by an intimate partner.
2015 ²⁷ / Brazil/ To identify associations between conjugal violence and experiences of the family of origin and their predictive power in the perpetration of conjugal violence.	Study without randomization/ Level III/ Sample of 300 subjects: 150 men and 150 women.	Correlations were observed between experiences in the family of origin and marital violence, specifically in the dimensions of physical and sexual abuse and psychological adjustment. In the female sample, physical neglect, sexual abuse and abuse of psychoactive substances by the father proved to be predictors of violence perpetrated by women. In the male sample, the predictor of violence was paternal physical abuse. Either as a victim or as a witness, experiencing family violence in childhood offers a model or legacy that generates pain and suffering for adult life.

2021 ²⁸ / Brazil/ To analyze the meanings attributed to family dynamics in childhood by men who reproduced the domestic violence suffered.	Qualitative study – content analysis/ Level VI/ 5 men in criminal proceedings for domestic violence.	The study revealed that men's experiences in childhood guided family relationships in adulthood and generated domestic violence. Experiences of physical and psychological aggression, neglect and testimonies of experiences of domestic violence between parents in childhood guided the construction of meanings of family dynamics, especially gender inequality.
2021 ²⁹ /Brazil/ To analyze the association between exposure to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against women with behavioral maladjustment and school problems among children.	Cohort study/ Level IV/ 790 women living with children aged from 5 to 12 years old.	The study points out that exposure to severe IPV is associated with the occurrence of behavioral problems in children, such as aggression and school dropout, regardless of the mother's mental and academic condition. However, maternal mental health status was a mediating factor in the relationship between exposure to IPV and behavioral problems, such as aggression. Therefore, domestic violence alters the maternal care capacity due to the psychological problems faced by these women, with consequent repercussions for the children's mental health.
2017 ³⁰ / Brazil/ To investigate the perception of mothers regarding their relationships with their adolescent children and how they evaluate the relationship between their children and their father in the context of exposure to the father's situation of violence against their mother.	Qualitative study – content analysis/ Level VI/ 5 women who have been/were in a situation of violence, mothers of adolescents aged between 12 and 17 years old.	Conflicts and violence in the family affect all relationships, whether between mothers and children or between fathers and children. However, there is significant frailty in the child-father relationship, with emotional distance. On the other hand, teenage children sometimes feel protective of their mothers, sometimes torn between their father's and their mother's love.
2018 ³¹ / Finland/ To describe the prevalence of family violence and to evaluate the association between family functioning, health and social support, considering the patients as perpetrators or victims of violence.	Study without randomization/ Level III.	There was a considerable association between parenting stress and high levels of post-traumatic stress symptoms in the children. Adolescent violence has also been strongly linked to parental conflicts and related to post-traumatic stress and subsequent delinquency. Participants with experiences of family violence showed poor health, whereas exposure to violence in adulthood was associated with worse physical and mental health.

2019 ³² / Finland/ To describe the continuation of domestic violence and to evaluate changes in the association between family functioning, health and social support for participants who did or did not experience violence between 2012 and 2015.	Study without randomization/ Level III/ 188 patients who visited a Finnish central hospital and whether or not they suffered violence between 2012 and 2015.	It is evidenced that living with domestic violence in childhood and adolescence predisposes partners to domestic violence. Specifically in adolescence, this experience of parental violence strongly influences social conflicts and conflicts with siblings. Poor economic conditions, low schooling, poor relationships with parents and being raised by a single parent are significant risk factors for becoming a perpetrator or victim of domestic violence.
2018 ³³ / USA/ To evaluate and validate a tool to predict the Chronic Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms; to identify the association of the mothers' chronic PTSD with children's behaviors 48 months after they sought safe shelter or a protection order due to domestic violence.	A 7-year prospective cohort study/ Level IV/ 300 mother-child dyads.	Of the women that sought help because of intimate partner violence, within four years more than half had high levels of symptoms related to chronic post-traumatic stress disorder, such as repeated victimization, threats of harms and being in danger, which can increase the toxic effects of the initial trauma. As a result, there is a greater intergenerational impact on children's functioning, such as behavioral and borderline changes.
2017 ³⁴ / Uganda/ To understand the intersection of intimate partner violence and violence against children in families.	Qualitative research/ Level VI/ 106 participants including adults and children.	Girls who have witnessed IPV may become more vulnerable to violence. On the other hand, boys become vulnerable to perpetuating violence. In children, there is certain emphasis on emotional anguish, feelings of hatred and sadness, a desire for revenge and a feeling of injustice when they witness violence against their mothers. Violent family dynamics culminate in polyvictimization (physical and emotional) with greater expression in women and children; bystander trauma, from witnessing violence; and negative role modeling, in which violence is normalized as generational.
2015 ³⁵ / Brazil/ To analyze the family relationships, in childhood and adolescence, of women who live with domestic violence.	Qualitative study/ Level VI/ 19 women who live with domestic violence.	Women who witnessed physical and moral violence between their parents in childhood and adolescence showed a feeling of indignation at their mother's submission to the situation. However, there were similarities in their reproduction of violence as adults. It was observed that these women were conditioned to repeating the same practices.

2011 ³⁶ / Brazil/ To analyze the family relationship, in childhood and adolescence, of women who experience marital violence; to characterize the impact of violence on family relational dynamics and its trans-generationality in families of women who have suffered physical aggression.	Qualitative study – Grounded Theory/ Level VI/ 10 women.	As a result of maintaining violent relationships, there is weakening of the parental relationship, in which children appear as direct and indirect victims of a marital/family relationship. Living with violent parents harmed their social profile, academic performance and psychological condition. The same pattern of abusive and violent relationships was reported by the interviewees when observing their families, up to two, three and four generations.
2019 ³⁷ / Iran/ To evaluate the effectiveness of Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) in reducing marital violence and improving family functioning.	Randomized study/ Level II/ 32 married women with family problems, referred to counseling centers and a Control Group.	It was observed that the impact of violence on family functionality is linked to control behaviors, power struggles and role definition, rooted in the feeling of security/insecurity. The inflexibility of people and couples leads to insecure relationships, which result in conflicting family interactions. The therapy proved to be effective in improving family functioning and reducing violence.
2018 ³⁸ / Poland/ To examine resilience in women living with domestic violence.	Cohort study/ Level IV/ 52 women aged between 30 and 65 years old.	The women in the study, victims of domestic violence, obtained significantly lower scores on the resilience scale, and they reported paternal violence. In this way, generational violence reduces the resilience of these women with significant impacts on their lives. The violence suffered, inflicted by the father, exerted the greatest adverse impact on resilience.
2022 ³⁹ / Canada/ To learn about shared parenting arrangements for women with young children who have experienced domestic violence.	Qualitative study – Thematic Analysis/ Level VI/ 20 mothers with young children who suffered intimate partner violence and were in shared parental arrangements.	It is noted that shared parenting can expose women and children to possible revictimization. Mothers face significant impacts on their mental health, including post-traumatic stress disorder, due to ongoing feelings of fear and anxiety. In addition to that, the perpetrators' coercive power persists through their children, controlling their mothers' activities. The legal system can silence and revictimize these women. As for the children, emotional and behavioral changes are observed, such as stress and aggression, in addition to harms resulting from differences in parenting, routine and feelings of insecurity.

2022 ⁴⁰ / USA/ To conduct a thematic analysis of the parental strengths and concerns of women exposed to IPV.	Qualitative study - Focus Group/ Level VI/ 53 participants: 22 women exposed to IPV and 31 health service providers.	Three themes related to resilience and the challenges of parenting were identified, covering women's positive parenting practices: intimate partner violence, which affects the mothers' psychosocial and physical well-being and the need for social support; the second theme, which addresses abandoning a violent partner, considering the barriers to leaving this relationship; and the third theme, which includes intergenerational processes, covering stories of violence against the mothers of women exposed to IPV, resilience in coping and concern for children's development.
2022 ⁴¹ / Taiwan/ To explore women's and children's experience of domestic violence (DV) to gain insights for their health or social care.	Phenomenological study/Level VI / 5 women and 5 children victims of domestic violence.	The women faced many specific DV episodes, such as physical and psychological harms after violence, including low self-esteem, insecurity and a sense of loss. The children also had to deal with specific DV episodes, in addition to the consequences of abuse and the family dynamics that accompany this type of violence, such as limitations in learning, monotony, humiliation and pessimism.

In relation to the 20 studies included in the research, 11 have level of evidence VI, with Brazil as the country with the largest number of publications. The analysis allowed synthesizing the discussions into three categories: Repercussions of domestic violence,^{30, 34, 36, 39-41} portraying the impacts on physical and mental health; Family dynamics or functionality,^{22,24-25, 29, 31, 33-34, 36-38, 41} considering the challenges of parenting in experiencing violence, the effects on relationships and personal coping strategies, such as resilience; and Inter- or trans-generationality (Reproduction of Violent Behavior),^{22-23, 26-28, 32, 35, 37-38} reported in the transmission of violent behaviors through repeated patterns, from childhood and across generations, which shape responses.

Discussion

Violence against women manifests itself in different places, cultures and social strata, highlighting the magnitude of this cross-cultural problem. Some studies highlight the physical, psychological and social repercussions, portraying visible signs such as bruises, cuts and other physical traumas, in addition to more veiled signs, such as low self-esteem, sadness, fear and depression.^{22, 24, 26, 38} In this sense, maintaining the cycle of violence reduces women's resilience to other life contexts, making them vulnerable to

escaping the relationship, as they tend to continually seek the same functioning pattern. It is worth noting that psychological violence is present in any form of violence suffered and, therefore, corroborates the high levels of symptoms related to Chronic Post-Traumatic Stress.³⁵⁻³⁸

Thus, it points to the predisposition to mental ailments such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, together with the social repercussions arising from the deprivation of family and social life, making it difficult to establish emotional bonds and altering psychological functioning in all other social relationships.²⁶⁻³⁸ In this context, psychological weaknesses take away from these women one of the basic needs of human beings: autonomy.^{31-34, 42} The longer the exposure to violence in adulthood, the greater these symptoms will be. These findings are confirmed by evidence that, even after 48 months of breaking intimate partner violence, these women still presented symptoms related to PTSD and repeated victimization, manifested by constant feelings of threat and danger.^{23, 43-44}

There are several motivations for staying in relationships permeated by violence. Their cyclical and progressive character interferes with bonding and social functioning, limiting requests for help.³⁵ Furthermore, there are social and cultural barriers to this disruption, regardless of the country's socioeconomic condition. The reasons considered as internal arise from feelings of fear, guilt, impotence, humiliation and embarrassment, added to low schooling, low socioeconomic conditions and lack of perspectives outside the relationship, considering violence tolerable.³⁶ The external reasons are stigmas in terms of rigid gender norms, economic dependence, use of alcoholic beverages or other drugs by the aggressor, and social appreciation of the family.^{34, 45-46}

These internal motivators are influenced by external ones and are usually modified by continuous exposure to violence. It is noted that economic deprivation and social marginalization lead such women to spend more time in the search for security for themselves and their children, the causes of which may be absenteeism or difficulties maintaining formal jobs, but also make them susceptible to the most serious form of violence: femicide.³⁴ The search for formal support can take years⁴⁴ and is generally preceded by informal support, which becomes ambiguous, as it depends on external motivators.^{32,46}

The consequences for family relationships and the lives of children are discussed, as they suffer from lack of affection and are prone to reproducing the violence experienced. In this panorama, it is noted that such women tend to repeat the violent behaviors learned from their parental and/or marital relationships through polyvictimization, an expression used to portray the varied repercussions of physical and psychological violence, such as displaced aggression, when children are used as protection or targets of retaliation by these women and their partners.^{22-24, 29, 34, 39-40}

It is remarkable that violent family functioning culminates in weakening of the parental role, making children direct or indirect victims of domestic violence, whereas the repercussions are usually physical and psychological, such as anxiety, fear, low self-esteem, low academic performance, social isolation and psychological weaknesses, in such a way that they generate conflicting feelings because they feel victims like their mothers and suffer for them, while they suffer for their fathers through legal repercussions and difficulties dealing with their presence at some moments and with their absence at others.^{27-29, 31, 33, 35, 37}

This negative modeling of paternal and maternal roles justifies normalization of violence and gender differences. In this context, it is worth mentioning that, as a result of childhood parental relationships, more inflexible people are prone to insecure marital relationships, which result in conflictual family interactions, in such a way that they perpetuate the cycle of violence, with repercussions on society.^{33, 42, 47-49}

Such repercussions are more evident during the children's adolescence, in a way that they are related to social and sibling conflicts. These factors exert an influence throughout their lives and on their later parental practices, making them significantly vulnerable and perpetrators or victims of domestic violence. Exposure to interpersonal traumatic events during childhood represents an explanatory variable for domestic violence in adulthood. On the contrary, the parents' positive attachment to their children is a factor in breaking the inter-generationality of violence.^{37,49}

Inter-generationality, or trans-generationality, offers contributory mechanisms for the family relationship, corroborating studies which suggest that a violent paternal bond creates risks for the perpetration of violence in daughters, even above psychosocial factors.^{28, 35, 37-38, 50-51} The intergenerational risk of domestic violence plays a

significant role in terms of paternal socioeconomic problems, whereas precarious socioeconomic conditions point to greater occurrence of marital discord, inadequacies in parental practices and drug and alcohol dependence.^{27, 32, 36, 51}

From this perspective, it is inferred that these families experience significant effects resulting from high stress levels, difficulties in conflict management and considerable propensity for social distancing.^{31,33} The social learning of violence³⁶ can lead to double victimization of these women,³⁹ who become victims of violence by their partners and children. Social learning tends to shape the behavior of these children who see their parents as intimidating and powerful.^{27, 38} In this way, these women once again naturalize the typification of this relationship, which is once again based on fear, control and power.²³⁻²⁵ However, public policies must consider family dynamics through expanded care, in order to break the cycle of violence.^{39-41,50-51}

As a result of this panorama, a broad understanding of domestic violence must permeate interventions focused on family security, such as paternal motivation and social support. It is therefore necessary to consider the uniqueness of families and propose risk management according to their needs.⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰ Thinking about regulatory advances and public policies for the prevention of domestic violence means transcending the private space of the home and considering that decisive interventions and comprehensive, cross-sectional and transformative actions will be capable of generating the cultural deconstruction of violence.⁵⁰⁻⁵¹

The study has limitations regarding lack of details on family dynamics and relationships due to absence of these data, making it a valuable opportunity for future research. Even so, it provides an understanding of the consequences of domestic violence, favoring visibility for students, professionals and managers in the health area and, thus, it can contribute to care, service management and the formulation and implementation of policies. Furthermore, it is suggested to carry out preferably longitudinal studies to broaden understanding of the problem and possible interventions with an emphasis on family security and functionality, aiming to mitigate the trans-generationality of violence.

It is believed that effective interventions and long-term prevention initiatives for violence against women need to be committed to comprehensive and cross-sectional

public policies, joint and intersectoral efforts that modify the cultural understanding of violence, considering family functionality and trans-generationality of violence as interrelated factors.

Conclusion

Domestic violence against women exerts profound impacts on their lives, family dynamics and children's education processes, with risks of perpetuating violence. Given the magnitude of the problem that violence against women represents, it was evidenced that in-depth studies are still required on the living, health and family conditions of women who are victims of violence.

Although the related implications are not necessarily irreversible, the research studies selected corroborate the need to understand the underlying factors and allow indispensable advances for intervention with a view to breaking the cycle of violence, considering both the immediate distress caused and its trans-generational aspect, through early and systemic intervention policies.

Integration of all the evidence showed the importance of strengthening bonds between children and their parents (victims), especially mothers, to assist them in the long-term process of resilience and recovery from these traumas.

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