

ABSTRACTS FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Domestic Violence Against Women in Malaysia: What Do We Do?

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Background: Since 1996, World Health Organisation (WHO) and member countries, through the World Health Assembly Resolution 49.25 acknowledged violence (including violence against women) (VAW) as a serious public health issue. The United Nations, at its Sixty-second General Assembly on 7 February 2008 not only reiterated the health impact of VAW but also the rights dimension of VAW and sees it "...as an offence against the dignity and integrity of the victim... and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment of women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities".

Objective: To understand the relationship between exposure to domestic violence against women and women's ill health in Malaysia. **Method:** This article is a systematic review of the published literature published using electronic databases including Google Scholar, ScienceDirect and PubMed. Search strategies used subject headings and keywords. Reviewed reports from different organizations for this article are also available online. **Results:** The prevalence is 37.7% of intimate partner violence is in Southeast Asia Region, while 37.0% in Eastern Mediterranean Region, 24.6% in Western Pacific Region. The variation in the prevalence of violence seen within and between communities, countries and regions, highlights that violence is not inevitable, and that it can be prevented. In Malaysia, prevalence study was done using

questionnaire and noted that the number of respondents (ever-partnered) who experienced violence at least once either by current partners or ex-partners in their lifetime.

Conclusion: It is important that all healthcare providers understand the relationship between exposure to violence and women's ill health, and are able to respond appropriately.