

Preliminary analysis of Intimate Partner Violence and Relationships of Migrant Women in Chiang Mai Province, Thailand

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Abstract

Myanmar's turbulent political past and current military rule has left hundreds of thousands of ethnic minorities displaced. Many people affected or threatened by land confiscation and/or violence flee to neighboring countries. We are investigating the possible association between the degree of volition a migrant has and intimate partner violence (IPV). From this preliminary analysis, the volition a migrant has affects partner relationships in complicated, unclear ways. More research must be done to determine to what extent and how the volition of migration is associated with IPV.

Introduction

- Myanmar has experienced decades of political conflict, military rule and human rights abuses (South, 2007)
- The International Organization for Migration estimates that there could be as many as 3 million migrants from Myanmar living in Thailand as of 2016 (Myanmar, 2017).
- Limited legal status, lack of documentation, life in refugee camps and decreased social support are just some elements of migration that can pose daily challenges and stress relationships.
- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a concern in Thailand. 41% of women in Thailand have experienced physical, sexual, or both types of abuse (C Garcia-Moreno, 2005).
- There is an association between IPV and poor physical and mental health (Intimate, 2008).

Purpose

- Support and protect vulnerable populations from the deleterious effects of IPV
- Understand how IPV operates among mothers with varying degrees of volition in their migration to help inform policy recommendations in countries that experience influxes of displaced migrants.

Methods

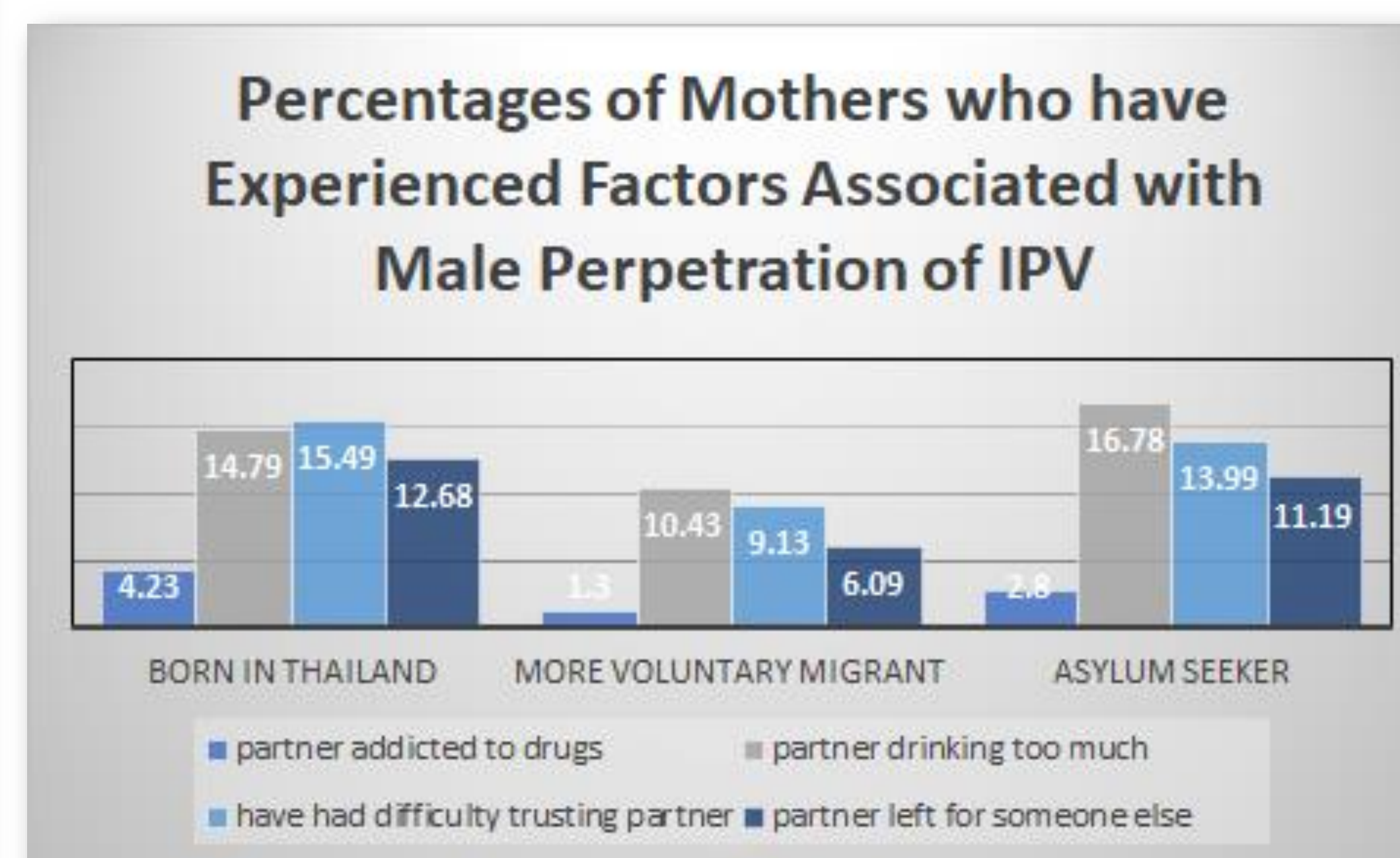
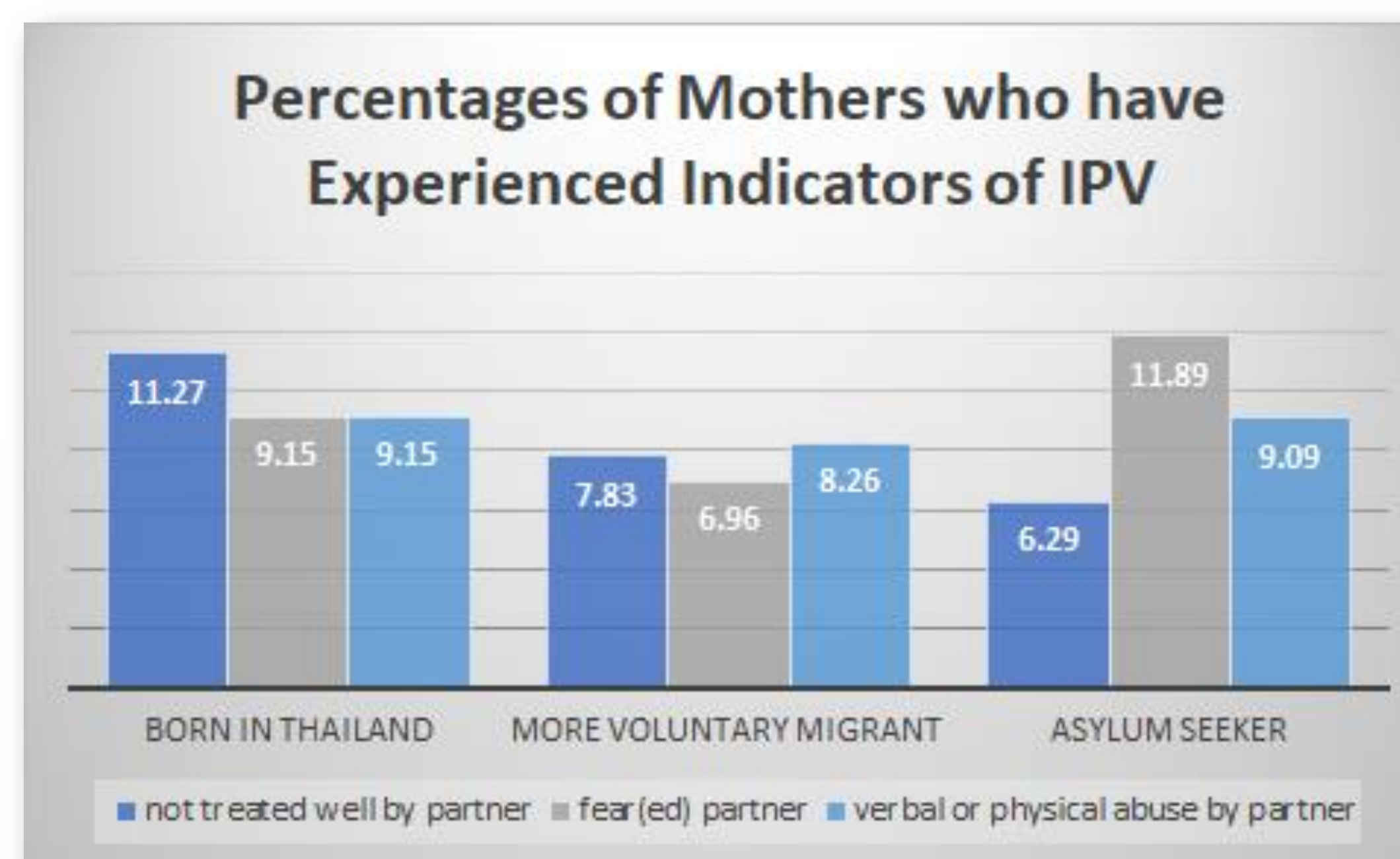
- Data Collection:** The data was collected using questionnaire-based interviews conducted with mothers living in two strategically selected sub-districts on the Thai-Myanmar border in Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. The mothers were exhaustively sampled in all accessible villages in the select sub-districts. The study sample contains questionnaire responses from 701 mothers
- Data Entry:** Data was coded and entered into a Microsoft Access database.
- Data Analysis:** STATA software was used to describe the data and then adjust it based on a logistic regression model.



Data

| Variable | Migrant Status | | | Total (percent) | # of women in sample |
|--|------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Born in Thailand | More Voluntary Migrant | Asylum Seeker | | |
| Total | 147 | 230 | 143 | 515 (100) | 515 |
| IPV Indicators | | | | | |
| Q: Have you ever felt like you were not being treated well (by a partner)? | le11c_a | 16 (11.27) | 38 (7.83) | 9 (6.29) | 43 (8.35) |
| A: Yes n (percent) | | | | | 500 |
| Q: Have you ever at any point feared a partner that you were with? | le11f_a | 13 (9.15) | 16 (6.96) | 17 (11.89) | 46 (8.93) |
| A: Yes n (percent) | | | | | 505 |
| Q: Have you ever been verbally or physically abused by a partner? | le11g_a | 13 (9.15) | 19 (8.26) | 13 (9.09) | 45 (8.74) |
| A: Yes n (percent) | | | | | 497 |
| Factors associated with Male perpetration of IPV | | | | | |
| Q: Have you ever had a partner that was addicted to drugs? | le11b_a | 6 (4.23) | 3 (1.3) | 4 (2.80) | 13 (2.52) |
| A: Yes n (percent) | | | | | 496 |
| Q: Have you ever had a partner that drank too much? | le11a_a | 21 (14.79) | 24 (10.43) | 24 (16.78) | 69 (13.40) |
| A: Yes n (percent) | | | | | 497 |
| Q: Have you ever had difficulty trusting your partner? | le11d_a | 22 (15.49) | 21 (9.13) | 20 (13.99) | 63 (12.23) |
| A: Yes n (percent) | | | | | 496 |
| Q: Have you ever had a partner leave you for someone else? | le11e_a | 18 (12.68) | 14 (6.09) | 16 (11.19) | 48 (9.32) |
| A: Yes n (percent) | | | | | 502 |
| protective/risk factors associated with IPV | | | | | |
| age | mage_cat | | | | |
| 15-19 n (percent) | | 13 (11.11) | 7 (3.87) | 6 (6.12) | 26 (6.57) |
| 20-29 n (percent) | | 64 (54.70) | 82 (45.30) | 49 (50.00) | 195 (49.24) |
| 30-39 n (percent) | | 38 (32.48) | 89 (49.17) | 40 (40.82) | 167 (42.17) |
| 40+ n (percent) | | 2 (1.72) | 3 (1.66) | 3 (3.06) | 8 (2.02) |
| 396 | | | | | |
| education | db11 | | | | |
| didn't finish primary n (percent) | | 23 (18.55) | 165 (75) | 86 (63.24) | 274 (55.35) |
| finished primary n (percent) | | 49 (35.25) | 29 (13.18) | 30 (22.06) | 109 (21.82) |
| finished secondary n (percent) | | 52 (37.41) | 22 (10) | 19 (13.97) | 93 (18.79) |
| more than secondary n (percent) | | 15 (10.79) | 4 (1.82) | 1 (1.74) | 20 (4.04) |
| 495 | | | | | |
| migration (# of moves) | mov_cat | | | | |
| 0 n (percent) | | 37 (48.05) | 7 (5.15) | 5 (5.26) | 49 (15.91) |
| 1 n (percent) | | 30 (38.96) | 84 (61.76) | 53 (55.78) | 167 (54.22) |
| 2+ n (percent) | | 10 (12.99) | 45 (33.09) | 37 (38.99) | 92 (29.87) |
| 308 | | | | | |

Results



Results

Statistically Significant Results:

- More voluntary migrant women are at a 72.5% lower odds of reporting that they have felt like they were not being treated well by a partner than women born in Thailand (p=0.0445)
- Asylum seeking mothers are at 14.296 times greater odds of reporting that they have felt that they were not being treated well by a partner than women born in Thailand (p=0.02)
- More voluntary migrant women are at a 83.2% lower odds of reporting having difficulty trusting a partner than women born in Thailand (p=0.003)
- Women who moved two or more times are at a 16.822 times greater odds of reporting fearing their partner than women who have never moved (p=0.007)
- Women who have moved two or more times are at 19.608 times greater odds of reporting partner physical or verbal abuse than women who have never moved (p=0.013)
- Mothers who have more voluntarily migrated are 26 percentage points less likely to report having difficulty trusting their partner than women who were born in Thailand (p=0.005)
- Asylum seeking mothers are 31.9 percentage points less likely to report their partner leaving them for someone else than mothers who were born in Thailand (p=0.001).

Data trends:

- The more times a mother reports having moved, the greater odds she has of reporting having a partner who she thinks drinks too much, is addicted to drugs, doesn't treat her well, has left her for someone else, is not always trustworthy, physically or verbally abused her and is someone who she has feared.

Discussion & Conclusion

- The number of times a mother has moved is risk factor for IPV and other indicators of an unhealthy relationship. This could be due to a lack of social support from uprooting their lives more often than mothers that have not moved
- Limitations and Future:**
- The study only had one question directly asking about IPV.
- Women who experience IPV with their current partner may have been afraid to report, which could lead to severe underreporting of abuse.
- The data analyzed in this study was not complete
- The association between IPV and volition of migration is not yet clear. More research is needed.

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