

Presentation title:

Youth intimate partner femicide

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Femicide at the hands of an intimate partner is a the most extreme form of intimate partner violence. Research on intimate partner femicide (IPF) within the European context has grown in recent years. Yet, research on IPF against young victims is limited, why little is known about the context and factors associated with IPF affecting young women (IPF-Y). The objective of current study is to examine rates and characteristics of IPF-Y (15-21 years), and to analyze similarities and differences between IPF against young vs. adult victims (IPF-A; 22 years and older). The study is population-based and involves all solved homicides in Sweden, between January 1st 1990 and December 31st 2017, in which the victim and offender were or had been in an intimate relationship. The dataset holds systematically coded information from police files, court verdicts and forensic psychiatric reports. Poisson regression was conducted in order to analyze rates over time, and chi-square tests and logistic regressions were conducted in order to compare characteristics between IPF-Y and IPF-A. Our preliminary findings demonstrate that while there has been a significant decrease in rates of IPF involving adult victims, rates of IPF involving young victims have remained stable. Our findings further elucidate significant differences, for example, offenders of IPF-Y are less likely to commit suicide, but more likely to be motivated by separation. Moreover, IPF-Y victims are more likely to be killed by strangulation. As IPF-Y remains stable over time, our findings suggest that more consideration needs to be taken to young intimate relationships when developing policies and strategies to combat IPV and IPF. In order to improve risk assessments and management of IPF affecting young females, more research is needed on context and factors associated with these incidents.