

Evaluation of Domestic Violence Victimization and the Mental State of Pregnant Women at the Time of Pregnancy Notification

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Abstract:

Background: According to previous research, 5%–10% of pregnant women in Japan have experienced domestic violence (DV) and 57.5% are mentally unhealthy. This study evaluated the DV experiences and mental states of pregnant women when they registered their pregnancies with their local government.

Methods: DV was assessed using the Violence Against Women Survey, and women's mental states were assessed using the General Health Questionnaire. Logistic regression analysis was performed to clarify the factors influencing DV during pregnancy as well as women's mental states at the time of pregnancy notification.

Results: Of the 389 pregnant women surveyed, 3.6% had experienced DV during pregnancy, and 30.1% had an unhealthy mental state at the time of pregnancy notification. Factors influencing the incidence of DV during pregnancy were physical abuse before marriage (OR=9.92, $p=.029$) and DV from after marriage to before pregnancy (OR=127.10, $p<.0001$). The factor that affected the mental state of pregnant women at the time of pregnancy notification was having experienced DV during pregnancy (OR=3.93, $p=.019$).

Conclusion: The findings suggest that assessing the experience of physical violence before marriage and the mental state of pregnant women at the time of pregnancy notification is useful for the early detection of DV.