

Nasilje u intimnim vezama mladih

/ Intimate Partner Violence Among Young People

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Nasiljem u intimnim vezama smatra se svako ponašanje kojem je cilj na bilo koji način ugroziti fizičku i psihičku sigurnost partnera. Istraživanja pokazuju znatno povećanu stopu nasilja u intimnim vezama mladih. Ovim radom htjeli smo ukazati na pojavu nasilja u intimnim vezama mladih iz perspektive spola i vrste počinjenog nasilja. U istraživanju je sudjelovalo 100 ispitanika u dobi od 15 do 25 godina, oba spola. Ispitivanje je provedeno strukturiranim upitnikom koji je sadržavao sociodemografske podatke ispitanika u jednom dijelu, dok su u drugom dijelu ispitivane karakteristike intimnih veza, vrste nasilja u vezama, trajanje nasilja, osjećaji tijekom proživljavanja nasilja u vezi, mišljenje ispitanika o udrugama koje pomažu žrtvama nasilja. Rezultati našeg istraživanja pokazali su da je ukupno 24 % ispitanika doživjelo nasilje u intimnim vezama. Od toga je najveći postotak doživljenog nasilja psihičko nasilje (54,16 %). Fizičko nasilje je prijavilo 25 % ispitanika, dok ih je 20,84 % bilo žrtva cyber (elektroničkog/virtualnog) nasilja. Nijedan ispitanik nije prijavio seksualno nasilje u vezama. Bolja informiranost mladih koja bi omogućila jasniju percepciju pojave, vrste, posljedica i zaštite od nasilja kao i sveobuhvatniji preventivni programi prilagođeni mladima izuzetno su važni i mogli bi pomoći u sprječavanju i smanjenju nasilja u vezama mladih.

/ Intimate partner violence is any type of behavior that is aimed at threatening the physical and psychological safety of one's partner in any way. Studies have shown a significant increase in the rate of intimate partner violence among young people. The aim of this paper was to draw attention to the occurrence of intimate partner violence among young people from the perspectives of gender and type of violence committed. A total of 100 respondents between 15 and 25 years of age and of both genders took part in the study. The study was conducted by means of a structured questionnaire which contained sociodemographic data on the respondents in one part, while in the second part the characteristics of intimate relationships, types of violence in relationships, duration of violence, feelings while experiencing partner violence, and the respondents' opinions about the organizations providing assistance to victims of violence were examined. According to the results of our study, a total of 24% of the respondents have experienced intimate partner violence, and the highest percentage of violence experienced pertained to psychological violence (54.16%). A total of 25% of the respondents reported having experienced physical violence, while 20.84 % were victims of cyber (electronic/virtual) violence. None of the respondents reported experiencing sexual violence in their relationships. Ensuring that young people are better informed, thus enabling a clearer perception of the occurrence, type, consequences of violence and protection from violence, as well as providing more comprehensive preventive programs adapted to young people, are of extreme importance and could help prevent and reduce partner violence among young people.

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Interpersonalnom nasilju kao socijalnom pitanju sve se više pozornosti počelo pridavati nakon Drugog svjetskog rata. Ovaj je problem prepoznat 1970-ih godina prošlog stoljeća potaknut feminističkim pokretom te je privukao dodatnu pažnju na rodnu dimenziju međuljudskih odnosa i učinio ga važnim pitanjem u socijalnim odnosima muškaraca i žena. To je dovelo do promjene u strukturi civilnog društva, prepoznavanju potrebe za organizirano djelovanje za sprječavanje nasilja u obitelji i pružanju podrške žrtvama nasilja.

Standard društveno prihvatljivog ponašanja u intimnim vezama se tijekom povijesti stalno mijenjao, te su mnoga ponašanja koja se danas karakteriziraju kao nasilje u intimnim vezama nekad bila legalna i društveno prihvatljiva (1). Svako društvo, dakle, za sebe definira pojam nasilja i nasilje vide kao odraz cjelokupne situacije u društvu jer na pojavu nasilja utječu događaji u političkim, socijalnim, znanstvenim, obrazovnim i drugim strukturama društva pa se tako i samo nasilje može na neki način smatrati dijelom sociokulturnih i društvenih normi (2,3).

Već i ovaj kratki povijesni osvrt ilustrira da se radi o kompleksnom području bilo o pokušaju definiranja ili pokušaju klasificiranja partnerskog nasilja. Definiranje nasilja u partnerskim vezama se razlikuje od istraživanja do istraži-

INTRODUCTION

Interpersonal violence as a social issue started gaining increasing attention after World War II. This problem was recognized in the 1970s, encouraged by the feminist movement, and it attracted additional attention to the gender dimension of interpersonal relationships, making it an important issue in the social relations of men and women. This led to changes in the structure of the civil society, recognition of the need for organized action and prevention of domestic violence, as well as provision of support for victims of such violence.

The standard of socially acceptable behavior in intimate relationships has constantly changed throughout history, and many types of behavior which are today characterized as intimate partner violence were once legal and socially acceptable (1). Every society, therefore, has its own definition of violence and views violence as a reflection of the overall situation within the society because events occurring in the political, social, scientific, educational and other structures of the society have an impact on the occurrence of violence, so violence itself can in some way be considered part of the sociocultural and social norms (2, 3).

Even this brief historical review illustrates that this is a complex issue, whether we are attempting to define or to classify partner violence. The definition of intimate partner violence differs from study to study. This is the result of a lack of consensus among the researchers on how to

vanja. Posljedica je to nepostojanja suglasnosti između istraživača o načinu definiranja samog pojma partnerskog nasilja. Jedan od uzroka neslaganja odnosi se na to treba li definiciju nasilja u partnerskim vezama isključivo ograničiti na nasilna ponašanja koja su učinjena s namjerom ili percipiranom namjerom da se nanese tjelesna bol ili ozljeda drugoj osobi. Takav pristup svakako strogo definira partnersko nasilje koje se može lako operacionalizirati i ignorira brojna psihološka ponašanja koja osoba može koristiti kako bi kontrolirala i zastrašivala drugu osobu u kontekstu intimne veze. Pri definiranju nasilja u intimnim partnerskim vezama mladih važno je razmotriti i kontekst veze kao i funkciju nasilja u vezi. Veliki broj empirijskih istraživanja ukazao je na činjenicu da postoje različiti oblici nasilja u partnerskim vezama (4,5). Određeni broj znanstvenika smatra da nije znanstveno i etički prihvatljivo govoriti o partnerskom nasilju bez specificiranja o kojem se od oblika nasilnog ponašanja raspravlja (6-8).

Nasilje se definira kao obrazac zlostavljanja uključujući širok spektar fizičkog, seksualnog i psihološkog maltretiranja koje jedna osoba koristi u prisnom odnosu protiv druge kako bi neovlašteno stekla moć te uspostavila kontrolu i autoritet nad drugom osobom. Navedeno rezultira ili može rezultirati psihološkim i tjelesnim ozljedama ili čak smrću (9).

Nasilje je obrazac napadačkih i prisilnih ponašanja uključujući fizičke, seksualne i psihološke napade, kao i ekonomsku prisilu, koju odrasli ili adolescenti koriste protiv svojih intimnih partnera (10).

Interpersonalno nasilje je namjerna uporaba fizičke sile ili moći, prijetnjom ili stvarnim činom protiv druge osobe ili skupine ili zajednice, koje rezultira ili postoji velika mogućnost da rezultira povredom, smrću, psihološkim posljedicama, neadekvatnim razvojem ili oduzimanjem slobode (11). Prema Svjetskoj zdravstvenoj organizaciji nasilje se definira kao namjerna

define the very notion of partner violence. One of the causes of disagreement is whether the definition of partner violence should be limited exclusively to violent behaviors that are committed with the intention or perceived intention of inflicting physical pain or injury to another person. Such an approach surely provides a strict definition of partner violence which can be easily operationalized, and ignores the many psychological behaviors that a person can use in order to control and intimidate another person in the context of an intimate relationship. When defining intimate partner violence among young people, it is important to consider both the context of the relationship and the function of violence in the relationship. Many empirical studies have pointed to the fact that there are different forms of violence that can occur in intimate relationships (4, 5). A number of scientists believe that it is not scientifically and ethically acceptable to talk about partner violence without specifying which form of violent behavior is being discussed (6-8).

Violence is defined as a pattern of abuse that involves a wide range of physical, sexual and psychological harassment used by one person in an intimate relationship against the other, in order to gain unauthorized power and to establish control and authority over the other person. This results, or can result, in psychological and physical injuries or even death (9).

Violence is a pattern of aggressive and coercive behaviors that includes physical, sexual and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, which are used by adults or adolescents against their intimate partners (10).

Interpersonal violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, using threats or actual acts against another person or group or community, which results or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological consequences, maldevelopment, or deprivation of liberty (11). The World Health Organization defines violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood

upotreba sile ili moći, prijetojnom ili stvarnim djelovanjem, protiv sebe, druge osobe ili protiv skupine ili zajednice, što dovodi ili postoji velika vjerojatnost da će dovesti do povrede, smrti, psiholoških posljedica, neadekvatnog razvoja ili oduzimanja sloboda (12).

Walker (9) napominje da se pojam može koristiti drugačije. Tako izvorni izrazi u američkim studijama za utvrđivanje nasilja uključuju zlostavljanje žene, zlostavljanje supruge i zlostavljanje partnera. Autor također objašnjava kontekst nasilja i navodi razliku kada se radi o fizičkom, seksualnom i psihičkom zlostavljanju između partnera ili kada se radi o nasilju koje je usmjereno protiv djece što onda ima drugi kontekst, a i zakonsku regulativu (9).

Nasilje u vezama se često definira u kontekstu stabilnijeg emocionalnog odnosa, i to kao prijetnja ili stvarna upotreba seksualnog, tjelesnog ili verbalnog zlostavljanja od jednog člana vjenčanog ili nevjenčanog para prema drugome, a u kontekstu ljubavne veze (13). No, sve više autora navodi da taj odnos ne mora biti nužno stabilan, štoviše može biti tek jednokratni izlazak (14). Zajedničko svim definicijama nasilja u vezama jest razlikovanje pojavnih oblika nasilja. Najčešći oblik nasilja u mladenačkim vezama je psihičko nasilje koje je početna razina nasilja u vezama mladih. Psihičko nasilje podrazumijeva ponižavanje, vrijeđanje, zastrašivanje prekidom veze, kritiziranje ili stvaranje osjećaja krivnje kod partnera, namjerno uzrujavanje partnera, verbalne i emocionalne prijete, nazivanje različitim pogrđnim imenima i govorenje uvredljivih riječi, izolacija od obitelji i prijatelja, kao i kontroliranje odijevanja, ponašanja i kretanja. Psihičko nasilje podrazumijeva postupke koji narušavaju samopoštovanje osobe, te postupke zbog kojih se žrtva osjeća krivom ili misli loše o sebi.

Emocionalno nasilje se koristi kao sinonim emocionalne boli koju žrtva osjeća zbog zlostavljačkih ponašanja. Psihičko nasilje je čimbenik rizika za pojavu fizičkog nasilja (13).

of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation" (12).

Walker (9) observed that the term may be used differently. In this regard, the original terms used to identify violence in American studies include mistreatment of women, wife abuse, and partner abuse. The author also explains the context of violence and makes a distinction between physical, sexual and psychological abuse between partners or when violence is directed against children, which then involves a different context and different legal regulations (9).

Partner violence is often defined within the context of a more stable emotional relationship as the threat or actual use of sexual, physical or verbal abuse by one member of a married or unmarried couple against the other, all in the context of a romantic relationship (13). An increasing number of authors, however, argue that such a relationship does not necessarily have to be stable, but may even be a one-time outing (14). What all definitions of partner violence have in common is the distinction between manifested forms of violence. The most common form of violence in relationships among young people is psychological violence, which is the initial level of partner violence among young people. Psychological violence includes humiliating, insulting, intimidating by threatening to end the relationship, criticizing or creating a sense of guilt in a partner, deliberately upsetting a partner, making verbal and emotional threats, using various derogatory names and saying offensive words, isolating a partner from family and friends, as well as controlling their clothing, behavior and movements. Psychological violence involves actions that damage a person's self-esteem, as well as actions that make the victim feel guilty or think badly about themselves.

Emotional violence is used as a synonym for the emotional pain felt by the victim after experiencing abusive behavior. Psychological violence represents a risk factor for the occurrence of physical violence (13). Physical violence refers to actions that cause physical pain and injury, i.e. various behaviors such as rough pushing, slap-

Fizičko se nasilje odnosi na postupke koji uzrokuju fizičku bol i ozljedu, tj. različita ponašanja kao što su primjerice grubo guranje, pljuskanje, udaranje rukama, nogama i predmetima, bacanje predmeta na partnera, ugrizi i slično. Seksualno nasilje su neugodna i neželjena ponašanja seksualne prirode (14).

Situacijsko nasilje se najčešće opisuje kao izvor svih drugih oblika nasilja. Događa se u bračnim i izvanbračnim zajednicama, a počinitelji nasilja su i muškarci i žene u jednakoj mjeri. Situacijsko nasilje se događa u određenim okolnostima ili tijekom rasprava koja prerastu u tjelesno nasilje između osoba koje su u vezi. Zloporaba intimnog partnerstva može se naći u svim odnosima, istospolnim i heteroseksualnim (15). No, iako se nasilje može dogoditi u bilo kojoj intimnoj vezi, velika većinu počinjenog nasilja počinili su muškarci odnosno mladići nad djevojkama odnosno ženama (16).

Statistički podatci potvrđuju težinu, raširenost i strukturnu uvjetovanost rodno utemeljenog nasilja. Prema najnovijem izvješću Ujedinjenih naroda procjenjuje se da je tijekom 2021. godine ubijeno 81.100 žena i djevojčica na svijetu. Većina ubojstava rodno je motivirana pa je tako u 2021. godini oko 45.000 žena i djevojčica ubijeno od intimnih partnera ili drugih članova obitelji (17). Statistika u Hrvatskoj o nasilju u partnerskim vezama ne odstupa od globalne slike. Više od 30 % slučajeva ubojstva žena su počinili su suprug, partner, bivši suprug ili druge bliske osobe. Broj ubijenih žena na godinu je između deset i dvadeset, od kojih je broj žena koje su ubili intimni partneri u pravilu veći od 50 %. Ovi podatci su iznimno zabrinjavajući iz aspekta stalnog, kao i naglog rasta broja nasilnog ponašanja prema ženama. Osim toga, Hrvatska bilježi stalan i povećan broj nasilja u odnosu i u usporedbi s drugim europskim državama (18-21).

Europske i međunarodne organizacije, poput Europske komisije, Vijeća Europe i Ujedinjenih naroda, obratile su pozornost na nasilje nad

ping, punching, kicking and hitting with objects, throwing objects at one's partner, biting etc. Sexual violence includes unpleasant and unwanted behaviors of sexual nature (14).

Situational violence is predominantly described as the source of all other forms of violence. It occurs in marital and extramarital relationships, and perpetrators are equally men and women. Situational violence occurs under specific circumstances or during arguments which escalate into physical violence between individuals involved in a relationship. Intimate partner abuse can be found in all relationships, both homosexual and heterosexual (15). However, even though violence can occur in any intimate relationship, the vast majority of perpetrated violence is committed by men or young men against girls or women (16).

Statistical data confirm the severity, prevalence and structural conditioning of gender-based violence. According to the most recent United Nations report, an estimated 81,100 women and girls worldwide were killed intentionally in 2021. Most of the homicides were gender-related, therefore, in 2021 around 45,000 women and girls were killed by intimate partners or other family members (17). The Croatian statistics in terms of intimate partner violence do not differ from the global reports. More than 30% of femicides were committed by husbands, partners, ex-husbands or other close individuals. The number of women killed in a year varies between ten and twenty, and generally more than 50% of these femicides were committed by intimate partners. These data are a major cause of concern from the aspect of a constant, as well as sudden, increase in the occurrence of violent behaviors towards women. In addition, Croatia has been recording steady and increasing rates of violence in relation to and in comparison with other European countries (18-21).

European and international organizations, such as the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the United Nations, have addressed violence against women by adopting directives, resolutions and other official documents the purpose of which is to develop policies, particularly

ženskim spolom usvajanjem direktiva, rezolucija i drugih službenih dokumenata, čija je svrha razvijanje politika, posebno u područjima sprječavanja nasilja kao i daljnjih istraživanja teme nasilja (12).

UZROCI I POSLJEDICE NASILJA U VEZAMA

Postoji nekoliko grupa čimbenika rizika za doživljavanje i činjenje nasilja u vezama mladih. To su: individualni čimbenici, interpersonalni čimbenici rizika na razini zajednice, nedovoljno iskustvo mladih u vezama i nedostatak znanja.

Individualni čimbenici nasilja u vezama mladih podrazumijevaju nisko samopouzdanje i samopoštovanje, nesigurnu ili preokupiranu privrženost ljubavnom partneru, stereotipna uvjerenja o muško ženskim odnosima, iskustvo viktimizacije u primarnoj obitelji, potrebu za dokazivanjem u vezi pod "svaku cijenu", neprepoznavanje određenih ponašanja u vezi kao nasilja, nepoznavanje svojih i tuđih prava u vezi, pozitivan stav o nasilju kao načinu rješavanja nesuglasica i konzumacija alkohola i/ili droge.

Među interpersonalne čimbenike se ubrajaju slabe komunikacijske vještine i teškoće u izražavanju osjećaja kao i slabe vještine rješavanja sukoba pregovaranjem.

Čimbenici rizika na razini zajednice odnosno društva su pozitivan odnos vršnjaka prema nasilju, medijske poruke o prihvatljivosti nasilja u partnerskim odnosima, količina nasilja u društvu i tolerantan odnos društva prema nasilju (10,22,23).

Nedovoljno iskustvo mladih u vezama kao uzročni čimbenik nasilja u vezama objašnjava da mladi najčešće ne znaju kako da se ponašaju u prvim romantičnim vezama, ne znaju što je „normalno“ i što trebaju tolerirati partneru, a što ne.

in the fields of violence prevention and further research of the topic of violence (12).

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF PARTNER VIOLENCE

There are several groups of risk factors associated with experiencing and committing partner violence among young people. They include the following: individual factors, interpersonal risk factors at community level, insufficient experience of young people when it comes to relationships, and a lack of knowledge.

Individual risk factors for partner violence among young people include low self-confidence and self-esteem, insecure or preoccupied attachment to the intimate partner, stereotypical beliefs with regard to male-female relationships, experience of victimization in the primary family, need to prove oneself in a relationship at any cost, failure to recognize certain relationship behaviors as violence, not knowing one's own rights in a relationship or the rights of others, positive attitude towards violence as a means of settling disputes, and consummation of alcohol and/or drug use.

Interpersonal factors include poor communication skills and difficulties in expressing feelings, as well as poor conflict resolution skills by means of negotiation.

Risk factors at the community, i.e. society levels include a positive attitude of peers towards violence, media messages on the acceptability of partner violence, the amount of violence in the society, and a tolerant attitude of the society towards violence (10, 22, 23).

Insufficient experience of young people in relationships as a causal factor of violence in relationships explains why young people most often do not know how to behave in their first romantic relationships, why they do not know what is considered "normal", and what they should or should not tolerate in a partner.

A lack of knowledge and unclear beliefs among the young in what constitutes a good and safe re-

Nedostatak znanja i nejasna uvjerenja mladih o dobroj i sigurnoj vezi odnosi se na to da mladi ne znaju da svaku vezu stabilnom čini međusobna tolerancija, uzajamno poštivanje potreba svakog partnera, međusobno povjerenje, određena sloboda svakog partnera za vlastitu organizaciju slobodnog vremena s prijateljima, obitelji i slično. Nedostatak znanja o dobroj vezi uzrokuje i posesivnu vezanost u okviru koje mladi partneri često iskazuju nesigurnu privrženost prema partneru.

Prisutan je veliki broj nepovoljnih utjecaja zbog nasilja u vezama mladih: od poremećaja uzimanja hrane, povećane zlorabe sredstava ovisnosti, rizičnog seksualnog ponašanja pa do pokušaja samoubojstva. Posljedice nasilja u vezama mladih su i loša slika o sebi i gubitak samopouzdanja, depresija, gubitak povjerenja u mogućnost dobre veze, povlačenje od prijatelja, teškoće s koncentracijom, teškoće sa spavanjem, povećano pijenje alkohola i povećano uzimanje sredstava za smirenje (24).

Djevojke u nasilnim vezama nalaze se u značajno većem riziku od razvoja ovisnosti i rizičnog spolnog ponašanja. Tako su primjerice srednjoškolke koje su žrtve nasilja u vezama osam do devet puta češće u riziku da pokušaju samoubojstvo te četiri do šest puta češće u riziku da će neplanirano zatrudnjeti nego njihove vršnjakinje koje nisu u nasilnoj vezi (25). Djevojke koje su doživjele nasilje u vezi češće izjavljuju da se osjećaju beznadno i tužno te da su razmišljale o pokušaju ili su pokušale samoubojstvo. Mladići koji su doživjeli nasilje u vezi imaju veći rizik od upuštanja u tučnjave, te su kao i djevojke skloniji iskazivati da osjećaju tugu, beznadnost i u većem su riziku za razvoj svih oblika ovisnosti, depresije i posttraumatskog stresnog poremećaja (10).

Kod djevojaka se javljaju i neki specifični dugoročni nepovoljni ishodi poput kronične boli, gastrointestinalnih problema, depresije, samoozljeđivanja, posttraumatskog stresnog poremećaja, neželjene i rizične trudnoće. Prediktori

relationship relate to the fact that young people do not know that the most important factors in creating a stable relationship are mutual tolerance, mutual respect of each partner's needs, mutual trust, a certain amount of freedom for each partner to organize free time with their friends, family etc. A lack of knowledge on what makes a good relationship also causes possessive attachment within which young people often express insecure commitment towards their partner.

There are also many adverse effects caused by partner violence among young people: from food disorders, increased substance abuse, risky sexual behavior, all the way to suicide attempts. The consequences of partner violence among young people also include a negative self-image and loss of self-confidence, depression, loss of confidence in the possibility of a good relationship, withdrawal from friends, difficulty concentrating, difficulty sleeping, increased alcohol consumption and increased use of tranquilizers (24).

Young women in violent relationships are at a far greater risk of developing addiction and engaging in risky sexual behavior. In this way, for example, high school girls who are victims of partner violence are eight to nine times more likely to attempt suicide, and four to six times more likely to have an unplanned pregnancy than their peers who are not involved in a violent relationship (25). Young women who have experienced partner violence are more likely to report feeling hopeless and sad, and having thought about attempting or having attempted suicide. Young men who have experienced partner violence are at a higher risk of getting into fights, and like young women, are more likely to express feelings of sadness or hopelessness, while also being at a higher risk of developing all forms of addiction, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (10).

Young women also experience some specific long-term adverse outcomes such as chronic pain, gastrointestinal problems, depression, self-harm, post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as unwanted and high-risk pregnancies. Predictors of sexual violence against young women also include depression and peer experience of violence on a rela-

seksualnog nasilja nad djevojkama su i depresija i iskustvo vršnjakinja s nasiljem u vezi. Kod mladića su prediktori fizičkog nasilja ranija viktimizacija, iskustva vršnjaka s nasiljem, nisko samopouzdanje i zloraba alkohola. Nasilje u vezama mladih je svakako značajan čimbenik rizika za tjelesno i psihičko zdravlje mladih pa zbog toga treba biti prepoznato kao važan javnozdravstveni problem (10,26).

CILJ ISTRAŽIVANJA

Cilj ovoga rada bio je analizirati nasilje u intimnim vezama mladih iz perspektive spola i vrste počinjenog nasilja. S obzirom na cilj istraživanja ispitali smo seksualnu orijentaciju i seksualno iskustvo mladih, analizirali iskustvo mladih vezano za nasilje u vezama i usporedili pretrpljeno nasilje mladih u intimnim vezama s obzirom na spol i učestalost vrsta nasilja u vezama. Cilj istraživanja bio je i dobiti uvid o informiranosti i mišljenju mladih o udrugama koje pružaju pomoć žrtvama nasilja.

ISPITANICI I METODE

U ispitivanju je sudjelovalo ukupno 100 ispitanika oba spola. Ispitanici su bili studenti Sveučilišta u Dubrovniku, a maloljetni su ispitanici bili učenici gimnazijskih i strukovnih škola u Dubrovniku. Ispitanici su dobrovoljno ispunili upitnik, dok je za maloljetne ispitanike uz njihov pristanak zatražen i pisani pristanak njihovih roditelja ili skrbnika. Ispitanici su morali zadovoljiti sljedeće kriterije za uključivanje u istraživanje: dob od 15 do 25 godina i postojanje intimne partnerske veze, bez obzira na duljinu trajanja partnerskog odnosa.

Za potrebe ovog istraživanja izrađen je strukturirani upitnik koji je obuhvaćao 13 pitanja, koja se odnose na karakteristike samih ispitanika i njihovih uspostavljenih intimnih veza. Ispitivanje je bilo anonimno.

tionship. Predictors of physical violence in young men include previous victimization, peer experience with violence, low self-confidence and alcohol abuse. Intimate partner violence among young people is certainly a significant risk factor when it comes to the physical and mental health of young people, and should therefore be recognized as a significant public health problem (10, 26).

AIM

The aim of this paper was to analyze intimate partner violence among young people from the perspectives of gender and type of violence committed. Considering the aim of the study, we examined the sexual orientation and sexual experience of young people, analyzed their experience in relation to partner violence, and compared the intimate partner violence experienced by young people with regard to their gender and the frequency of the types of violence in relationships. The aim of the study was to gain insight into the knowledge and opinions of young people with regard to the organizations providing assistance to victims of violence.

RESPONDENTS AND METHODS

A total of 100 respondents of both genders took part in the study. The respondents included students of the University of Dubrovnik, as well as minors who were students of grammar and vocational schools in Dubrovnik. The respondents completed the questionnaire on a voluntary basis, and a written consent was requested from the parents or guardians of the students who were minors, in addition to their own consent. The respondents had to meet the following criteria in order to be included in the study: age between 15 and 25, and involvement in an intimate partner relationship, regardless of its duration.

A structured questionnaire was prepared for the purposes of this study, which included 13 questions referring to the characteristics of the respondents themselves and their established intimate relationships. The questionnaire was anonymous.

Prvi dio upitnika odnosio se na sociodemografske podatke ispitanika (spol i dob). U drugom dijelu upitnika mladi su ispitivani o karakteristikama intimnih veza, nasilja u vezama, vremenskom trajanju nasilja, osjećajima tijekom proživljavanja nasilja u vezi, te o njihovom mišljenju o udrugama koje pomažu žrtvama nasilja. Podatci su uneseni u program *Microsoft Office Excel*, te su potom obrađeni. Za analizu podataka koristile su se procentualne vrijednosti, a rezultati su prikazani u tablicama.

REZULTATI

Struktura ispitanika prema spolu i dobi

U istraživanju je sudjelovalo 100 ispitanika u dobi od 15 do 25 godina. Od toga je bilo 63 ispitanika ženskog spola (63 %) i 37 ispitanika muškog spola (37 %). Odnos između spolova ispitanika prikazan je u tablici 1.

U istraživanju je sudjelovalo ukupno 29 mladih u dobi 15-17 godina (od toga je većina pripadala ženskom spolu (21), dok je muških ispitanika bilo ukupno 8; potom ukupno 21 mladih u dobi od 18 do 20 godina (12 osoba muškog i 9 osoba ženskog spola), ukupno 31 mladih u dobi 21-23 godine (muških ispitanika 10, ženskih 21) i ukupno 19 mladih u dobi 24-25 godina (muških ispitanika 7, ženskih 12). Odnos između dobi među spolovima predstavljen je u tablici 1. Primjećuje se da je u svim dobnim

The first part of the questionnaire referred to the sociodemographic data of the respondents (gender and age). In the second part of the questionnaire, the respondents were questioned about the characteristics of intimate relationships, violence in relationships, duration of violence, feelings while experiencing partner violence, and their opinions about the organizations providing assistance to victims of violence. The data were entered into the Microsoft Office Excel program, and were then processed. Percentage values were used to analyze the data, and the results are presented in tables.

RESULTS

The structure of respondents according to gender and age

A total of 100 respondents between 15 and 25 years of age took part in the study. Among these respondents, 63 were female (63%) and 37 were male (37%). The gender ratio of the respondents is presented in Table 1.

The study included a total of 29 respondents between 15 and 17 years of age, of which the majority were female (21), while the number of male respondents was 8; this was followed by a total of 21 respondents between 18 and 20 years of age (12 were male and 9 were female); a total of 31 respondents between 21 and 23 years of age (10 were male and 21 were female); and a total of 19 respondents between 24 and 25 years of age (7 were male and 12 were female). The age-to-gender ratio is presented in Table 1. It was observed that

TABLICA 1. Struktura ispitanika prema spolu i dobi
TABLE 1. The structure of respondents according to gender and age

Dob / Age	SPOL / GENDER		Ukupno / Total
	Muški / Male	Ženski / Female	
15-17	8	21	29
18-20	12	9	21
21-23	10	21	31
24-25	7	12	19
Ukupno / Total	37	63	100

skupinama, osim u dobnoj skupini 18 do 20 godina, većina ispitanika pripadalo ženskom spolu.

Karakteristike intimnih veza

Svi ispitanici imali su heteroseksualne veze. Na pitanje koliko je dugo veza trajala najveći broj ispitanika je odgovorio jednu do dvije godine, a ostali su imali vezu od nekoliko mjeseci.

Sljedeće pitanje se odnosilo na spolne odnose u vezama. Rezultati pokazuju da je ukupno 74 % ispitanika imalo spolne odnose, a ukupno 26 % ispitanika nije imalo spolne odnose. Od ispitanika koji su imali spolne odnose više je bilo osoba ženskog spola (n=39), dok je muških ispitanika koji su imali spolne odnose bilo 34. Suprotno od toga, od osoba koje nisu imale spolni odnos bilo je manje muških ispitanika (n=2), dok je ženskih ispitanika bilo 24. Navedeno je prikazano u tablici 2.

Vrste nasilja u vezama mladih

Da bi se provjerila percepcija mladih o različitim oblicima nasilja (fizičkog, seksualnog, *cyber* (virtualnog /elektroničkog) i psihološkog nasilja) u intimnoj vezi, odgovore su davali potvrdnim i negativnim tvrdnjama „da“ ili „ne“. Rezultati pokazuju da je najviše ispitanika (76 %) odgovorilo da nisu doživjeli nasilje u vezama, dok ih je 24 % doživjelo nasilje u vezama.

Izdvojili smo skupinu ispitanika koji su doživjeli nasilje (24) pa smo te ispitanike grupirali prema vrsti pretrpljenog nasilja (gdje se ukupan broj osoba koje su pretrpjele nasilje označava

in all age groups, except for the age group involving respondents between 18 and 20 years of age, the majority of the respondents were female.

Characteristics of intimate relationships

All respondents were involved in heterosexual relationships. As regards the question about the duration of their relationships, the answer provided by the majority of the respondents was one to two years, while the others were involved in relationships lasting several months.

The next question referred to intercourse in relationships. The results show that a total of 74% of the respondents had intercourse, while 26% did not have intercourse. In terms of the respondents who had intercourse, more of them were female (n=39), while the number of male respondents who had intercourse was 34. In contrast, among the respondents who did not have intercourse, fewer of them were male (n=2), and the number of female respondents amounted to 24. The aforementioned is presented in Table 2.

Types of partner violence among young people

In order to analyze the perceptions of young people when it comes to the different forms of intimate partner violence (physical, sexual, cyber (virtual/electronic) and psychological), the respondents answered with affirmative or negative statements – “yes” or “no”. The results show that the majority of the respondents (76%) answered that they have not experienced partner violence, while 24% have experienced partner violence.

TABLICA 2. Spolni odnosi u vezama prema spolu ispitanika
TABLE 2. Intercourse in relationships according to the respondents' gender

Spol / Gender	Ispitanici koji su imali spolne odnose / Respondents who had intercourse	Ispitanici koji nisu imali spolne odnose / Respondents who did not have intercourse
Muški / Male	35	2
Ženski / Female	39	24
Ukupno / Total	74	26

sa 100 %) čime je procentualni odnos između spolova vezan za pretrpljene oblike nasilja, što je prikazano u tablici 3.

Kada se razmotri učestalost počinjenog nasilja prema spolu, najveći broj osoba koje su pretrpjele nasilje u vezi su osobe ženskog spola (91,67 %). Što se tiče vrsta nasilja, najveći broj ispitanika je doživio psihičko nasilje u vezi (45,83 %), fizičko nasilje je doživjelo ukupno 25 % ispitanika, dok je 20,84 % ispitanika imalo iskustvo *cyber* (elektroničkog/virtualnog) nasilja, dok niti jedan ispitanik nije imao iskustvo seksualnog nasilja u vezi.

Rezultati pokazuju da je psihičko nasilje u vezama mladih imalo najdulje trajanje od 7 do 18 mjeseci. Potom slijedi fizičko nasilje koje je trajalo od 1 do 5 mjeseci, te *cyber* (elektroničko/virtualno) nasilje u trajanju od 1 do 3 mjeseca. Najčešće zabilježene emocije tijekom doživljenog nasilja u vezama bile su: ljutnja, depresivnost, potištenost i bijes.

Rezultati pokazuju da je od ukupnog broja ispitanika koji su pretrpjeli nasilje (n=24), samo 4 (6,6 %) prijavilo nasilje.

Svi ispitanici koji su prijavili nasilje također su rekli da su dobili podršku i savjete od udruga i institucija kojima su prijavili nasilje. Ostali ispitanici koji nisu prijavili pretrpljeno nasilje u vezi izjasnili su se da to nisu napravili zbog straha i srama.

Od ukupnog broja svih sudionika istraživanja (n=100), samo je 20 odgovorilo da zna za neku udrugu koja pruža pomoć žrtvama nasilja.

We singled out the group of respondents who experienced violence (24) and we grouped them according to the type of violence they suffered (wherein the total number of individuals who have experienced violence was indicated as 100%), whereby the percentage ratio between the genders related to the forms of violence experienced, as presented in Table 3.

When considering the frequency of violence committed according to gender, the majority of individuals who experienced partner violence were female (91.67%). As regards the types of violence, the majority of the respondents experienced psychological partner violence (45.83%), while a total of 25% experienced physical violence, 20.84% experienced cyber (electronic/virtual) violence, and none experienced sexual partner violence.

The results indicate that psychological partner violence among young people lasted between 7 and 18 months. This is followed by physical violence that lasted between 1 and 5 months, and cyber (electronic/virtual) violence that lasted between 1 and 3 months. The most frequently observed emotions while experiencing partner violence included anger, depression, sadness and rage. The results indicate that out of the total number of the respondents who experienced violence (n=24), only four of them (6.6%) also reported such violence.

All of the respondents who reported violence also said that they were provided with support and advice from the organizations and institutions to which they reported the violence. The other respondents, who did not report the experienced partner violence, declared that they did not do so out of fear and shame.

TABLICA 3. Ispitanici koji su doživjeli nasilje u vezama prikazani prema vrstama nasilja i spolu

TABLE 3. The respondents who experienced partner violence presented according to the type of violence and gender

Varijable / Variables	Ženski spol / Female		Muški spol / Male		Ukupno / Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Doživljeno nasilje u vezi / Experienced partner violence	22	91,67	2	9,33	24	100
Fizičko nasilje / Physical violence	6	25	0	0	6	25
Psihičko nasilje / Psychological violence	11	45,83	2	8,33	13	54,16
Cyber nasilje (elektroničko/virtualno) / Cyber violence (electronic/virtual)	5	20,84	0	0	5	20,84
Seksualno nasilje / Sexual violence	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sudionici koji su znali za postojanje ovakvih udruga uglavnom su navodili sljedeće poznate udruge: Plavi telefon, SOS telefon, Bijeli krug i Ženska soba.

Na pitanje „Mislite li da bi Vam udruge mogle pomoći?“, čak 97 % od ukupnog broja ispitanika je odgovorilo potvrdno. 3 % ispitanika je odgovorilo s „možda“, dok niti jedan ispitanik ne smatra da udruge ne mogu pomoći.

Navedeni rezultati pokazuju da mladi imaju povjerenje u udruge koje pružaju pomoć žrtvama nasilja, ali su isto tako nedovoljno informirani o broju i mogućnostima pomoći takvih udruga.

RASPRAVA

Klasifikacija mladih prema godinama može varirati ovisno o kontekstu i zemlji. Zakonska regulativa u Republici Hrvatskoj podrazumijeva da je mlada osoba u dobi od 15 do 30 godina (27). Navedeno objašnjava naš izbor ispitanika unatoč činjenicama da postoji velika razlika u poimanju i u doživljavanju intimnih veza kao i drugih ispitivanih karakteristika kod adolescenata i mlađih odraslih ispitanika.

Analizirajući intimne odnose Fernandez-Fuertes i Fuertes (28) utvrdili su da većina mladih reproducira aktualne društvene i socijalne norme i trendove koji su povezani s izborom seksualne orijentacije, spolom pa tako i nasiljem. Njihovo istraživanje se razlikovalo od većine ostalih istraživanja u pronalaženju većeg broja sudionika koji su tvrdili da su imali heteroseksualne, ali i homoseksualne i biseksualne seksualne odnose. Međutim, u našem istraživanju je utvrđeno da prevladava heterogena seksualna orijentiranost, gdje su se svi ispitanici izjasnili da su heteroseksualno opredijeljeni.

Trećina američkog nacionalnog uzorka heteroseksualnih adolescenata doživjela je neki oblik nasilja u vezi, a 12 % ih je doživjelo fizičko nasilje. Veliko međunarodno istraživanje na više

Out of all of the respondents who took part in the study (n=100), only 20 answered that they knew about an organization providing assistance to victims of violence. The respondents who were familiar with such organizations mainly named the following well-known organizations: *Plavi telefon* (Blue Phone), *SOS telefon* (SOS Telephone), *Bijeli krug* (White Circle) and *Ženska soba* (Women's Room).

A total of 97% of the respondents answered affirmatively to the question “Do you think that the organizations could help you?”. Only 3% of the respondents answered “Maybe”, while there were no respondents who believed that the organizations would not be able to help.

The results indicate that young people trust the organizations providing assistance to victims of violence, however, they are at the same time insufficiently informed about the number of such organizations and their abilities to provide assistance.

DISCUSSION

The classification of young people according to age may vary depending on the context and the country. The legal regulations in the Republic of Croatia imply that young persons are individuals between the ages of 15 and 30 (27). The aforementioned explains our selection of respondents, despite the fact that there is a significant difference in the understanding and perception of intimate relationships and other characteristics examined between respondents who are adolescents and those who are young adults.

In their analysis of intimate relationships, Fernandez-Fuertes and Fuertes (28) determined that the majority of young people reproduce the current social and societal norms and trends associated with sexual orientation and gender, and thus also, violence. Their study differed from most of the other studies in the fact that they found a larger number of respondents who claimed to have been involved in heterosexual, but also homosexual and bisexual sexual relationships. In our study, on the other hand, it was determined that heterogeneous sexual orientation prevailed, and all respondents declared that they were heterosexual.

od 13 000 studenata u 32 zemlje pokazalo je da je gotovo 1/3 djevojaka i isto toliko mladića fizički napalo partnera (22,29). Smith i suradnici (30) navode da je poseban problem što osobe, a posebno djevojke u adolescenciji koje dožive nasilje s partnerom, imaju znatno veći rizik da budu ponovo viktimizirane u odrasloj dobi, uključujući i seksualno nasilje (31).

Podatci o učestalosti nasilja u vezama mladih ljudi pokazuju da je 50 % mladih bilo izloženo nasilju u intimnim vezama. Rezultati našeg istraživanja pokazuju da je nasilje u vezi pretrpjelo 24 % ispitanika, što je za polovicu manje od rezultata do kojih su došli Wolfe i suradnici (32,33).

Rezultati istraživanja (34) provedenih u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama i Kanadi pokazuju da nasilje u vezama nije rijetka pojava, odnosno da je između 22,5 % i 39,1 % mladića te između 37,8 % i 43,6 % djevojaka počinilo neki oblik nasilja u vezi. Fokus našeg istraživanja je stavljen samo na doživljeno odnosno pretrpljeno nasilje u vezama.

Istraživanja potvrđuju češću izloženost nasilju djevojaka od partnera, dok su mladići češće počinitelji nasilnih djela (2,35). To isto potvrđuju rezultati našeg istraživanja koji pokazuju da je više djevojaka pretrpjelo nasilje u vezi u odnosu na mladiće.

Od svih vrsta nasilja, udio psihičkog nasilja u vezama mladih je najveći te se procjenjuje da je više od 90 % mladih u vezi barem jednom doživjelo neki oblik psihičkog nasilja (13). Rezultati našeg istraživanja su također pokazali da je najčešće počinjeno nasilje upravo psihičko nasilje, što je potvrdilo 45,83 % sudionika iz skupine koja je pretrpjela nasilje. Također, prema našim rezultatima, od ukupnog broja mladih koji su doživjeli nasilje ukupno 20,84 % su bili žrtve *cyber* (elektroničkog /virtualnog) nasilja.

Prema rezultatima našeg istraživanja pretrpljeno fizičko nasilje odnosilo se na 25 % su-

One third of the American national sample of heterosexual adolescents have experienced some form of partner violence, while 12% of them have experienced physical violence. A major international study involving over 13,000 students from 32 countries showed that almost a third of both young women and young men have physically assaulted their partners (22, 29). Smith et al. (30) observed that a particular problem lies in the fact that individuals, especially adolescent girls who have experienced partner violence, are at a significantly higher risk of being victimized again as adults, which also includes sexual violence (31).

Data on the frequency of the occurrence of partner violence among young people indicate that 50% of young people have been exposed to intimate partner violence. The results of our study indicate that 24% of the respondents have experienced partner violence, which is half less than the results obtained by Wolfe et al. (32, 33).

The results of studies (34) conducted in the United States of America and Canada show that partner violence is not a rare occurrence, i.e. between 22.5% and 39.1% of young men, and between 37.8% and 43.6% of young women have committed some form of partner violence. In our study, we focused only on the partner violence that was experienced, i.e. suffered by the respondents.

Studies have confirmed that young women are exposed to partner violence more often, while young men are more likely to be the perpetrators of violent acts (2, 35). This is also confirmed by the results of our study, which indicate that more young women have suffered partner violence compared to young men.

When taking into account all types of violence, psychological partner violence among young people is the most common, and it is estimated that over 90% of young people involved in a relationship have experienced some form of psychological violence at least once (13). The results of our study also showed that psychological violence is the most common form of violence committed in relationships, which was confirmed by 45.83% of the participants from the group which reported having experienced violence. Furthermore, according

dionika. U istraživanju provedenom na Novom Zelandu intervjuiran je velik reprezentativni uzorak mladih prosječne dobi od 21 godine o iskustvima nasilja u romantičnim odnosima. Rezultati su pokazali da je 21,8 % mladića manifestiralo jedan od oblika fizičkog nasilja prema partnerici, dok je kod djevojaka to učinilo 37,2 % (23). Suprotno od toga, naši rezultati pokazuju da su mladići u većem postotku počinili tjelesno nasilje nad partnericom pa to znači da su sve ispitanice koje su doživjele fizičko nasilje osobe ženskog spola.

Navedeno možemo tumačiti još uvijek različitim spolnom ulogom između ženskog i muškog spola u smislu društvenog i socijalnog okruženja naših ispitanika, odgojnih stavova i odrastanja u kojem se dječacima odnosno mladićima još uvijek pripisuje dominantna uloga u partnerskim odnosima i veća tolerancija svih oblika agresivnih ponašanja, pa tako i fizičkog nasilja. Ove stereotipne rodne slike često se reafirmiraju putem medija u kojima se mladići odnosno muškarci često prikazuju kao nasilni, i moćni. Takve slike svakako utječu na percepciju mladih (36).

U našem istraživanju pretrpljeno seksualno nasilje su najrjeđe prijavljivali mladi. Niti jedan ispitanik koji je pretrpio nasilje nije se izjasnio da je doživio ovaj oblik nasilja. To je u skladu s rezultatima Bella i suradnika (13) da je seksualno nasilje najmanje korišteni oblik zlostavljanja, te su procijenili da se udio seksualnog zlostavljanja u vezama kreće između 2,7 % do 14,8 %.

ZAKLJUČAK

Nasilje u vezama mladih je zabrinjavajući problem kako na nacionalnoj, tako i na globalnoj razini. No, unatoč razmjerima i posljedicama nasilja u intimnim vezama mladih, ono još uvijek nije dovoljno prepoznato niti istaknuto kao važan problem.

to our results, out of all of the young people in our study who experienced violence, a total of 20.84% were victims of cyber (electronic/virtual) violence.

According to our study results, 25% of participants have experienced physical violence. In a study conducted in New Zealand, a large representative sample of young people with an average age of 21 was interviewed about their experiences with regard to violence in romantic relationships. The results showed that 21.8% of young men have manifested some form of physical violence towards their partner, while 37.2% of young women have done the same (23). In contrast, our results show that a higher percentage of young men have committed physical violence against their partners, meaning that all of the respondents who have experienced physical violence are female.

The aforementioned can be interpreted through the still differing gender roles between men and women in terms of the social and societal surroundings of our respondents, their educational attitudes and their upbringing, in which boys, i.e. young men, are still attributed a dominant role in intimate relationships, as well as a higher tolerance for all types of aggressive behaviors, including physical violence. These stereotypical gender images are often reaffirmed in the media, where young men, i.e. men, are often presented as violent and powerful. Such images surely influence the perception of young people (36).

In our study, young people were least likely to report having experienced sexual violence. None of the respondents who experienced violence reported suffering this type of violence. This corresponds to the results obtained by Bell et al. (13), which showed that sexual violence was the least likely form of abuse, and they estimated that the prevalence of sexual abuse in relationships ranged from 2.7% to 14.8%.

CONCLUSION

Partner violence among young people is a worrisome problem both on a national and global level. However, despite the extent and consequences of

Rezultati našeg istraživanja su pokazali da je ukupno 24 % ispitanika doživjelo nasilje u intimnim vezama. Najveći postotak doživljenog nasilja se odnosi na psihičko nasilje (ukupno 54,16 % iz skupine osoba koje su doživjele nasilje u vezi). Ukupno 25 % ispitanika iz skupine koja je pretrpjela nasilje u vezama doživjelo je fizičko nasilje, a 20,84 % su bili žrtve *cyber* (elektroničkog/virtualnog) nasilja. Pozitivna činjenica našega istraživanja jest da nijedan ispitanik nije doživio seksualno nasilje u vezama.

Samo je 16,67 % od ukupnog broja sudionika prijavilo pretrpljeno nasilje u vezama. Ostali ispitanici koji nisu prijavili doživljeno nasilje u najvećem broju slučajeva to nisu napravili zbog straha i srama. Osim toga samo je 20 % ispitanika znalo nabrojati neku od udruga koja pruža pomoć žrtvama nasilja. Čak 97 % mladih vjeruje da im ovakve udruge mogu pomoći. Mladi vjeruju u korisnost udruga ove vrste, ali su o njima nedovoljno informirani.

Ključna preventivna intervencija je bolja informiranost mladih o nasilju. Prevencija, integrirani pristup ovoj problematici, više nacionalnih i međunarodnih strategija koje bi imale sveobuhvatnije preventivne programe prilagođene mladima izrazito je važno i moglo bi pomoći u sprječavanju i smanjenju nasilja u vezama mladih.

Ograničenja ovog istraživanja najvećim dijelom proizlaze iz metoda. Što se tiče ispitanika svakako bi istraživanje trebalo provesti na većem broju mladih. Ovo istraživanje bilo je usmjereno na mlade osobe između 15 i 25 godina, a razlike u poimanju intimnih veza i nasilja u rasponu takve dobne skupine mogu biti velike. Nadalje, istraživanje je provedeno na mladima u jednom području Hrvatske, a uzorak na kojem su podatci prikupljeni čini urbana populacija zbog čega je i generalizacija istraživanja moguća samo na sličnu populaciju. Provedbom istraživanja na više sudionika različite dobi u različitim područjima dobio bi

intimate partner violence among young people, it is still not sufficiently recognized or highlighted as an important problem.

According to the results of our study, a total of 24% of the respondents have experienced intimate partner violence. The highest percentage of experienced violence refers to psychological violence (a total of 54.16% of the respondents from the group of individuals who have experienced partner violence). In total, 25% of the respondents from the group that experienced partner violence suffered physical violence, and 20.84% were victims of *cyber* (electronic/virtual) violence. A positive aspect of our study is the fact that none of the respondents experienced sexual violence.

Only 16.67% of the total number of respondents actually reported the partner violence they experienced. The other respondents, who did not report the experienced violence, did not do so out of fear and shame. In addition, only 20% of the respondents could name some of the organizations that provide assistance to victims of violence. As many as 97% of young people believe that such organizations could help them. Young people believe that these organizations are useful, but they are not sufficiently informed about them.

A key preventive intervention is to better inform young people about violence. Prevention, an integrated approach to this issue, and a higher number of national and international strategies which would include more comprehensive preventive programs adapted to the young, are of utmost importance and could help prevent and reduce partner violence among young people.

The limitations of this study stem largely from its methods. As for the respondents, a study should certainly be conducted involving a larger number of young people. This study was focused on young people between the ages of 15 and 25, and differences in the perception of intimate relationships and violence within this age range can be substantial. Furthermore, the young people participating in the study were all from one area of Croatia, and the sample on which the data were collected is comprised of urban population, which makes it possible

se jasniji uvid o nasilju mladih u njihovim intimnim vezama. Svakako bi u budućim istraživanjima bilo korisno ispitati i druge čimbenike koji bi mogli biti rizični ili protektivni poput optimizma, religioznosti, visokog samopoštovanja i sl. Nedostatak znanja, sram kao i nedovoljna informiranost doprinose pojavi nasilja u vezama mladih. Mnoge mlade osobe nemaju pristup kvalitetnim i njima prilagođenim informacijama koje bi im omogućile jasniju percepciju pojave, oblika te posljedica i zaštite od nasilja.

to generalize the study only to a similar population. Conducting a study with more participants of different ages in different areas would provide a clearer insight into the intimate partner violence among young people. It would surely be beneficial if future studies also examined other potentially risky or protective factors such as optimism, religiousness, high self-esteem, etc. A lack of knowledge, shame and insufficient information contribute to the occurrence of partner violence among young people. Many young individuals do not have access to quality information adapted to them, which would enable them to have a clearer perception of the occurrence, forms and consequences of violence, as well as how to protect themselves from violence.

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