

## Abstract

# NMA/AGSM/2022/PUBH/005 - Prevalence and Predictors of Physical Violence among Students in Tertiary Institutions in Rivers State

**\*Isokariari Ogechukwu Mary-Anne<sup>1</sup>, Ogbonna Vivian Ifeoma<sup>1</sup>, Bademosi Adetomi<sup>1</sup>, Adeyemo Chimele<sup>1</sup>, Agala Vetty<sup>1</sup>, Ajie Ireju<sup>1</sup>, Weje Chituru<sup>1</sup>, Buowari Dabota Yvonne<sup>1</sup>, Ogu Rosemary<sup>1</sup>, Maduka Omosivie<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, Rivers State Branch, Nigeria.

## Abstract

**Background:** Reports on the rates of physical violence (PV) in public institutions are minimal. We investigated the prevalence, pattern, and risk factors for PV among public university students.

**Methodology:** A descriptive, cross-sectional study was conducted among 425 students from two public tertiary institutions in Rivers State in December 2021 during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (GBV) commemorated by the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, Rivers State Branch. Descriptive analysis and chi-square test of difference were performed.

**Results:** The mean age of respondents was 22±3.09 years; 250 (58.8%) were females and 175 (41.2%) were males. Overall, 141 students had ever experienced PV with a prevalence of rate of 33.2% (35.6% in females and 29.7% in males) while 23 (5.4%) of students experienced it within the 12 months preceding the study and with most cases (95.7%) occurring in school. Males (90.9%) and intimate partners (47.8%) were the most common perpetrators. The most common form reported was a slap (14, 63.6%). A greater proportion of students who resided at home (Fisher's  $\chi^2=15.367$ ,  $P=0.001$ ) and had sexual intercourse ( $\chi^2=16.964$ ,  $P<0.001$ ), were victims of physical violence. Significant predictors of PV were age (aOR: 1.10, 95%CI: 1.00-1.19) and ever engaging in sexual intercourse (aOR: 2.70, 95%CI: 1.55-4.68).

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of PV among students in tertiary institutions in River's state was high, perpetrated mostly by males and intimate partners. Engaging in sexual intercourse significantly predicted its occurrence.

**Keywords:** Prevalence; Predictors; Physical Violence; Nigeria.

**Corresponding Author:** \*Ogechukwu Mary-Anne Isokariari, Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, Rivers State Branch, Nigeria. ogechi.odo@gmail.com

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