Does Alcohol Consumption Exacerbate the Mental Health Consequences of Interpersonal Violence?

Abstract

Although studies show that interpersonal violence is associated with poorer mental health, few studies specify the conditions under which victimization can be more or less detrimental to psychological well-being. Building on previous research, we test whether the association between interpersonal violence and psychological distress is moderated by alcohol consumption. Our analysis of longitudinal data from the Welfare, Children, and Families project (1999-2001) suggests that interpersonal violence is more strongly associated with psychological distress in the context of more frequent intoxication. Programs designed to treat the combination of victimization and heavy alcohol consumption may make unique contributions to the well-being of women.

The full article will be available at vaw.sagepub.com, Violence Against Women, Forthcoming.