

Abstract

This study investigated spouse abuse prevalence in Hong Kong, with marital communication style and dyadic adjustment explored as risk factors. Most respondents reported having experienced psychological abuse (49.4%), followed by sexual coercion (11.7%), physical assault (7.2%) and injury (3.8%). Female had significantly more victimizations than male in sexual coercion. Both marital communication style and dyadic adjustment could differentiate abused and non-abused group. Results of stepwise logistic regression showed that regard, positive communication and dyadic consensus significantly predicted psychological aggression, except its severe subtype. Dyadic satisfaction was the best predictor of minor physical assault and severe psychological aggression. Empathy and dyadic consensus significantly predicted sexual coercion whereas mutual discussion consistently predicted all forms of physical injury and severe physical assault.