

Review of: ""There Are Challenging Cases for Us": A Qualitative Study of Cypriot Midwives' Experiences Investigating Incidents of Intimate Partner Violence During Pregnancy"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article addresses a critical gap in the practical implementation of global clinical guidelines for investigating intimate partner violence (IPV) during pregnancy within Cyprus. It highlights that Cypriot midwives independently manage incidents involving pregnant women, which underscores the need to understand their lived experiences and the challenges they face in such contexts.

The following review comments are expected to provide additional insights for the author regarding the well-presented article:

Strengths:

1. **Timely and Relevant Topic:** The focus on IPV during pregnancy is of significant public health importance, making the study both timely and relevant.
2. **Qualitative Approach:** The use of semi-structured interviews allows for a deep exploration of midwives' experiences, providing rich, detailed insights.
3. **Inductive Thematic Analysis:** This method ensures that the analysis is grounded in the data, allowing for the emergence of themes that accurately reflect the participants' experiences.

Limitations:

1. **Sample Size:** While 15 interviews provide valuable insights, a larger sample size could offer a more comprehensive view of the experiences of midwives across Cyprus.
2. **Geographical Scope:** The study is limited to Cyprus, and the findings may not be generalizable to other contexts without considering cultural and systemic differences.
3. **Potential Bias:** As with all qualitative research, there is a potential for interviewer and respondent bias, which could influence the findings.
4. **In the abstract, it is mentioned that the data collection procedure used semi-structured interview techniques, while in the sample recruitment section, it is stated that the data collection procedure was through focus group discussions. Please distinguish between in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, and specify which technique was actually**

used in the data collection.

Recommendations for Future Research:

1. **Larger-Scale Studies:** Future research should involve a larger and more diverse sample of midwives to validate and expand on these findings.
2. **Comparative Studies:** Conducting similar studies in different geographical and cultural contexts could provide a comparative perspective on the challenges and needs of midwives in managing IPV.
3. **Intervention Studies:** Research on the effectiveness of specific training programs and standardized tools for IPV identification and management would be valuable in informing policy and practice.

This study provides critical insights into the experiences of Cypriot midwives managing IPV during pregnancy, highlighting significant challenges and the urgent need for better training and standardized procedures. Addressing these issues through comprehensive education programs and unified guidelines can enhance the ability of midwives to support IPV victims effectively, ultimately improving outcomes for pregnant women in Cyprus.