

# Sensitivity and specificity of intimate partner violence screening tools among women at the perinatal period in Israel



Hila Cohen, Dan Greenberg, Nihaya Daoud

School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er-Sheva, Israel

## Introduction

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major public health problem associated with adverse health consequences for victims.

Globally, 30% of women experience physical or sexual IPV in their lifetime, which increases to 50% of women when including emotional or psychological violence.



## Aims

To identify an IPV screening tool with high sensitivity, in order to recommend it to health policy-makers that will be used in healthcare services.

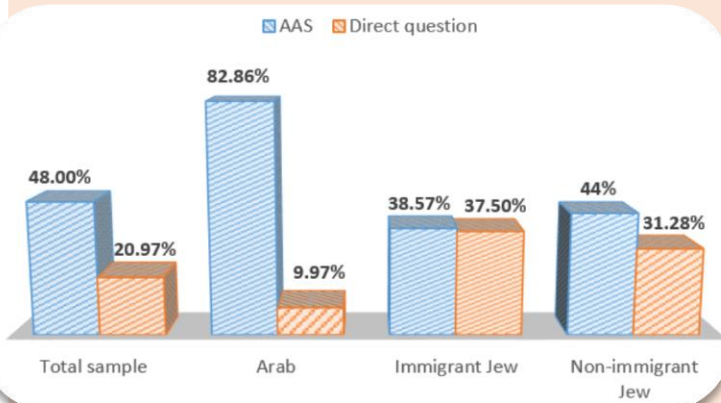
To examine associations between any IPV measured by the AAS (Abuse Assessment Screening) and women's health outcomes.

## Methods

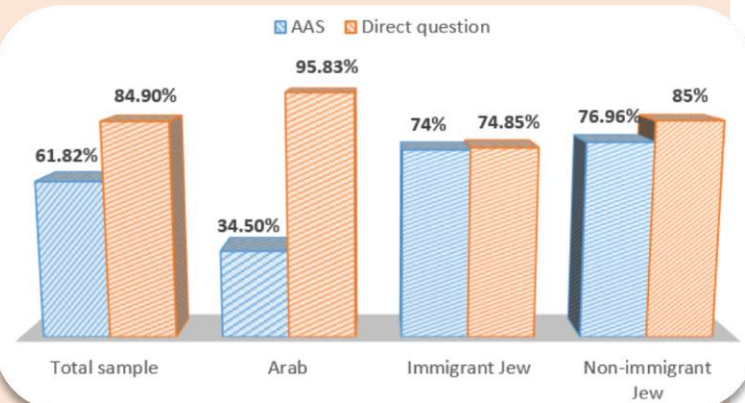
Data obtained from the original study on "Family Relations, Violence and Health" conducted in 2014-2015, which included a stratified sample of 1,401 women of reproductive age that visited maternal and child health (MCH) clinics in five large districts of Israel. The women answered a 10-item questionnaire (AAS) and a direct question screening tool on acts of IPV (in Hebrew or Arabic).

## Results

Sensitivity of the screening tools:



Specificity of the screening tools:



Women who experience any IPV are:



**1.81** times more likely to have a **chronic illness**



**1.94** times more likely to assess their health status as **"not good"**

## Conclusions

Since the AAS was found to be the IPV screening tool with the highest sensitivity in all ethnic groups, and that any IPV by the AAS was associated with women's health outcomes, our recommendation to policy-makers in Israel is to use the AAS in order to screen for IPV in clinics.