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Violence against Women in Piedmont, Italy: Evidence and Proposals for Action

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Problem: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) encompasses any form of violent behavior perpetrated by a current or former partner. IPV severely affects the health and quality of life of victims and their families, and in extreme cases can result in femicide. Globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports that one in three women experiences some form of gender-based violence (GBV) in her lifetime. European and Italian surveys confirm this prevalence: in the EU, 22% of women experienced physical/sexual partner violence, 43% psychological violence, and 18% economic violence. In Italy, 22.4% reported psychological abuse, 13.6% physical/sexual violence, and 11.8% violence during pregnancy. Partners or former partners are often responsible for the most severe cases, including femicide.

Innovation: This presentation synthesizes findings from cross-sectional studies conducted in Emergency Departments (EDs) across Piedmont, Italy, and a study of femicides in Turin. This research, which was conducted in recent years, has established the foundations for the development of innovative interventions:

- The "PAUSE" project, which employs artificial intelligence tools to identify and prevent IPV.
- Initiatives by the Health Network for the Care of Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Piedmont, focusing on training healthcare personnel to detect, respond to, and prevent violence.

These efforts exemplify data-driven and system-level approaches to IPV prevention and early intervention in healthcare settings.

Impact: The findings underscore the critical role of Emergency Departments and healthcare systems in identifying IPV, preventing escalation, and reducing femicide risk. The combination of AI-assisted detection and staff training can improve early recognition, timely intervention, and survivor-centred care, ultimately contributing to safer healthcare environments and the reduction of gender-based violence.

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