

Article Title: Violence Against Women in Liberia: Characteristics, Contributing Factors, Service Utilization, and Interventions (2020 - 2025)

<u>Reviewer #1 - Comment:</u>	<u>Author's Comment:</u>
1. This manuscript addresses a critical public health and human rights issue—violence against women (VAW) in a post-conflict setting. It synthesizes recent data (2020–2025) and provides a holistic overview of IPV in Liberia, including its prevalence, risk factors, systemic barriers, and interventions. The findings are relevant not only to Liberia but also to other fragile and post-conflict states, contributing to the global discourse on gender-based violence and sustainable development (SDG 5.2).	<i>No changes required.</i>
2. The title accurately reflects the scope and focus of the manuscript. It clearly identifies the geographical context, the time frame, and the key dimensions explored (characteristics, contributing factors, service utilization, and interventions). No alternative title is necessary.	<i>No changes required.</i>
3. The abstract succinctly captures the research problem, objectives, key findings, and implications. It includes essential components such as risk factors, systemic barriers, and recommended interventions. The inclusion of keywords is appropriate and enhances discoverability.	<i>No changes required.</i>
4. The manuscript is generally well-written and academically sound. However, there are occasional grammatical inconsistencies and awkward phrasings (e.g., on Page 5: "In Liberia" used mid-sentence without transition). A thorough language edit is recommended to improve fluency and readability.	<i>Language corrected and completed. Task completed.</i>
5. The manuscript is well-structured and logically organized. Each section—background, mental health, substance abuse, barriers, service utilization, interventions, and policy implications—builds coherently on the previous one. The integration of empirical data (e.g., DHS 2019–2020) and theoretical frameworks strengthens the analysis.	<i>No changes required.</i>
6. The references are up-to-date (majority from 2020–2025), relevant, and drawn from credible sources including WHO, UN Women, peer-reviewed journals, and institutional reports. The inclusion of both global and Liberia-specific	<i>Checked for consistency in citations. Task completed.</i>

sources enhances the manuscript's validity. A quick check for consistency in citation formatting (e.g., page numbers, DOI style) is advised.	
7. The authors have not declared any competing interests, and no such issues are apparent from the content.	<i>No changes required.</i>
8. The manuscript appears original and properly attributes ideas and findings to the respective sources. No evidence of plagiarism is detected.	<i>No changes required.</i>
9. This manuscript appears to be an original synthesis and not a direct extension of previously published work. No disclaimer is necessary.	<i>Disclaimer removed. Task completed.</i>

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Reviewer's comment

<u>Reviewer #2 comment</u>	<u>Author's comment</u>
1. After reviewing this manuscript, the reviewer is left with the question of what is the "why". What is different from this manuscript than the other manuscripts/research articles that are noted various times within the discussion? How is this manuscript's discussion different and therefore important to readers?. This manuscript does not present new research and therefore must present information that has been gathered that is new, addresses the "why" and it important to the greater scientific community. In its current format, this is not accomplished.	<i>Significance and Contribution of This Research section ("The Why") added. Task complete.</i>
2. Title appears for presented manuscript and the abstract appears as an appropriate lead way into the manuscript.	<i>No changes required.</i>
3. The following APA errors were noted: • WHO should be defined under first citation it appears rather than second (beginning on page two) • citation should appear before period ending the sentence (beginning on page two)	<i>Corrections made. Task completed.</i>

- all discussion should be presented in well-formed paragraphs (beginning on page eight) The following sections require additional discussion: - How can the access to education be improved for both women and men? What is the greater impact of this barrier? What intervention is required to over this barrier? - How does poverty further exasperate issues of IPV, mental health and stress within the home? - What is the impact of pattern and barriers. If specific networks are not sought, what is the impact? What intervention and additional interventions are required? - What are the specific service options? How often are these services utilized? Are individuals aware of these services? - What specific interventions are available and most appropriate?	<i>Additional discussion and limitations were answered and added to the manuscript. Task completed.</i>
4. Ensure that older references are supported with new references (beginning on page two)- United Nations (1993). All references should be dated within the last seven years to uphold the most up to date professional and practice standards. This is noted throughout the manuscript regarding multiple references. Above is the first incident, additional occurrences are not specifically noted but were noted by reviewer and were not supported with more current references.	<i>references are now supported. Task completed.</i>
5. There do not appear to be ethical concerns within this manuscript.	<i>No changes required.</i>
6. Manuscript requires major revisions that are outlined in the above feedback.	<i>Overhaul made. Additional requirements added</i>