



## The Relationship Between Sextortion during COVID-19 and Pre-pandemic Intimate Partner Violence: A Large Study of Victimization Among Diverse U.S. Men and Women

### *Victims & Offenders*

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**One-Sentence Summary:** A study of U.S. men and women found that previous sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) predicted sextortion during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sextortion during the COVID-19 pandemic was more common among men, Black and Native American women, younger respondents, and lesbian and bisexual respondents.<sup>1</sup>

*Reviewer: Alexander Zeymo*

**Methods:** Researchers conducted a national online panel survey from January to March 2021, oversampling people from racial minority groups and the LGBT population. The sample used 2,006 respondents, with 9.4% identifying as Native American. Respondents who stated they had a romantic partner before the COVID-19 pandemic were asked about instances of IPV. Reports of IPV were divided into psychological aggression, physical assault, and/or sexual coercion. Respondents were also asked if they were sextorted, i.e. threatened to export a nude or sexually explicit image in order to do something such as send more explicit images, send money, or perform sexual acts. Respondents responded either; “Yes, before the pandemic”, “Yes, after the pandemic,” or “No, never”. Statistical analysis was done to see what factors, including demographics and IPV, before the pandemic predicted sexploitation after the pandemic.

#### **Main Findings / Recommendations:**

- Sexual IPV before the pandemic was significantly associated with sextortion during the pandemic (OR: 1.05 for men, 1.17 for women). Though physical and psychological IPV before the pandemic was not associated with sextortion during the pandemic. Researchers also noted that more men in the sample reported experiencing sextortion during the pandemic (4.5% vs 2.3%).
- Researchers also noted that Native American women respondents reported a high level of sextortion during the pandemic (5.3%) and was, associated with an increased odds of sextortion as compared to White women (OR 6.77,  $p < 0.01$ ). There was no reported difference among male respondents.

#### **Potential Issues:**

- No analysis of region or rurality.

#### **Useful Summary Statistics / Quotes:**

- “Native Alaskan and Indigenous North American women were 6.77 times more likely than white women to experience sextortion...”<sup>1</sup>

#### **Reviewer’s Opinions:**

|                               | Strongly Disagree (1) |   | Strongly Agree (5) |   |   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|
|                               | 1                     | 2 | 3                  | 4 | 5 |
| Impactful for Indian Country? |                       |   | x                  |   |   |
| Novel?                        |                       | x |                    |   |   |





|              |  |  |  |   |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Trustworthy? |  |  |  | x |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|---|--|

## Reference:

1. Eaton, A. A., Ramjee, D., & Saunders, J. F. (2023). The Relationship between Sextortion during COVID-19 and Pre-pandemic Intimate Partner Violence: A Large Study of Victimization among Diverse U.S Men and Women. *Victims & Offenders*, 18(2), 338–355.

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