Demystifying and Tackling Domestic Violence within Albanian American Community

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Introduction

It is estimated that approximately 1 in 3 women experience partner violence at some point in their life (WHO, 2017). The prevalence and type of partner violence that Albanian women may experience in the US is unknown but previous research may suggest that they may have similar experiences of the physical and emotional proponents of domestic violence.

RQ & Hypotheses

1. What types of intimate partner violence are reported most among Albanian women residing in the US?
2. In what ways are survivor's educational attainments related to the levels of domestic violence they may experience?

We hypothesize:
- Domestic violence among Albanian-American women is at a lower rate than native Albanian women
- Domestic violence is more prevalent among women without a higher education degree than those with a higher education degree
- Emotional and psychological abuse amongst Albanian-American women is prevalent at a higher rate than expected.

Context/Lit Review

Domestic violence is an extremely taboo topic in the Albanian community. Consequently, women are often left in unsafe situations, without allies or adequate resources to overcome terrible situations. Whether they are immigrants from Albania living in this country or born in the United States, many Albanian women have been raised in patriarchal cultures where their voices have been silenced by a tradition of powerful male authority figures in the family structure. Messages of shame are often organized around gender and the role of shame in Albanian families is ubiquitous, helping to perpetuate inequities for women. Entrenched cultural mores are often passed on to younger generations of women where the cycle of male dominance and female submission persists.
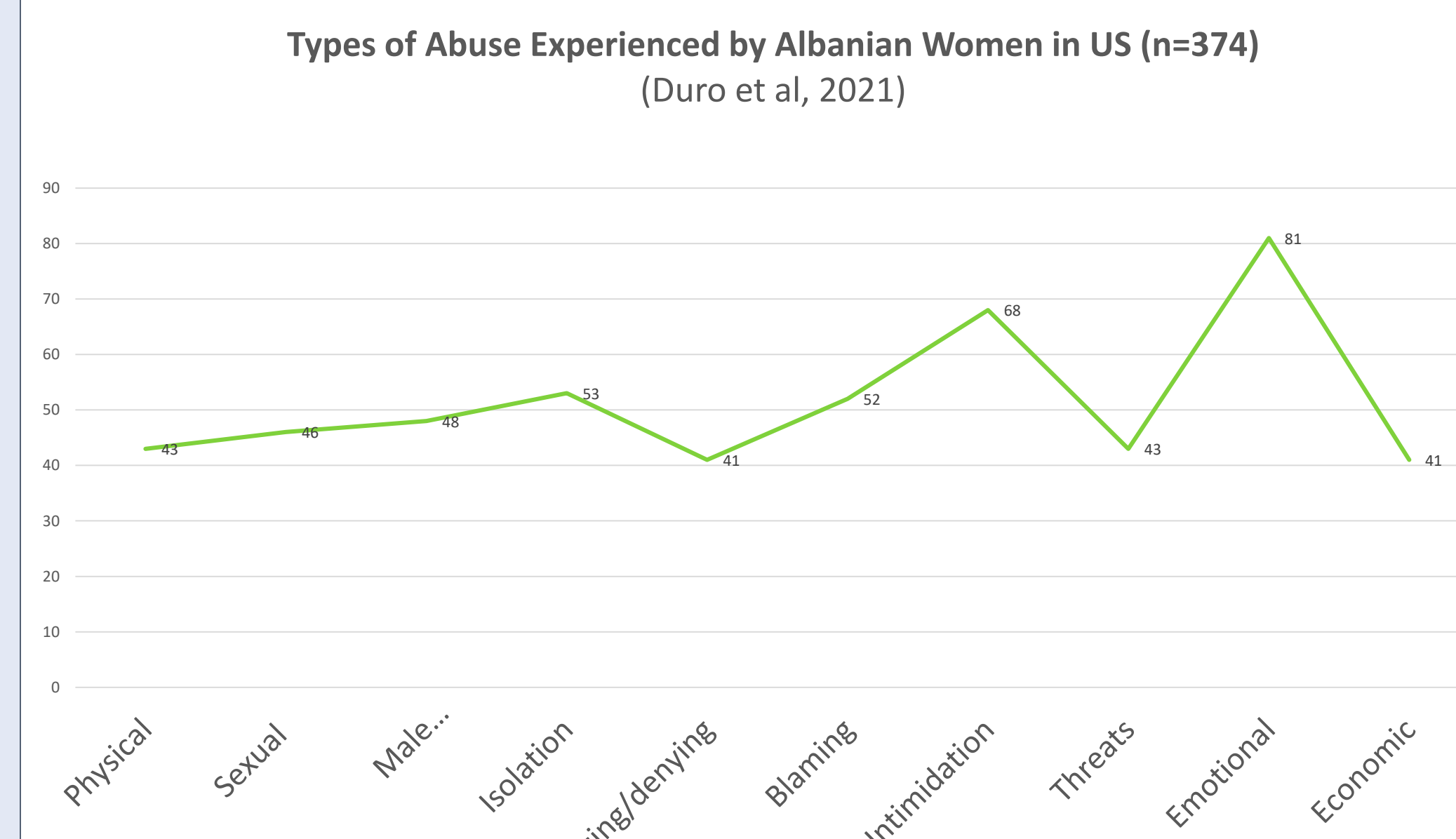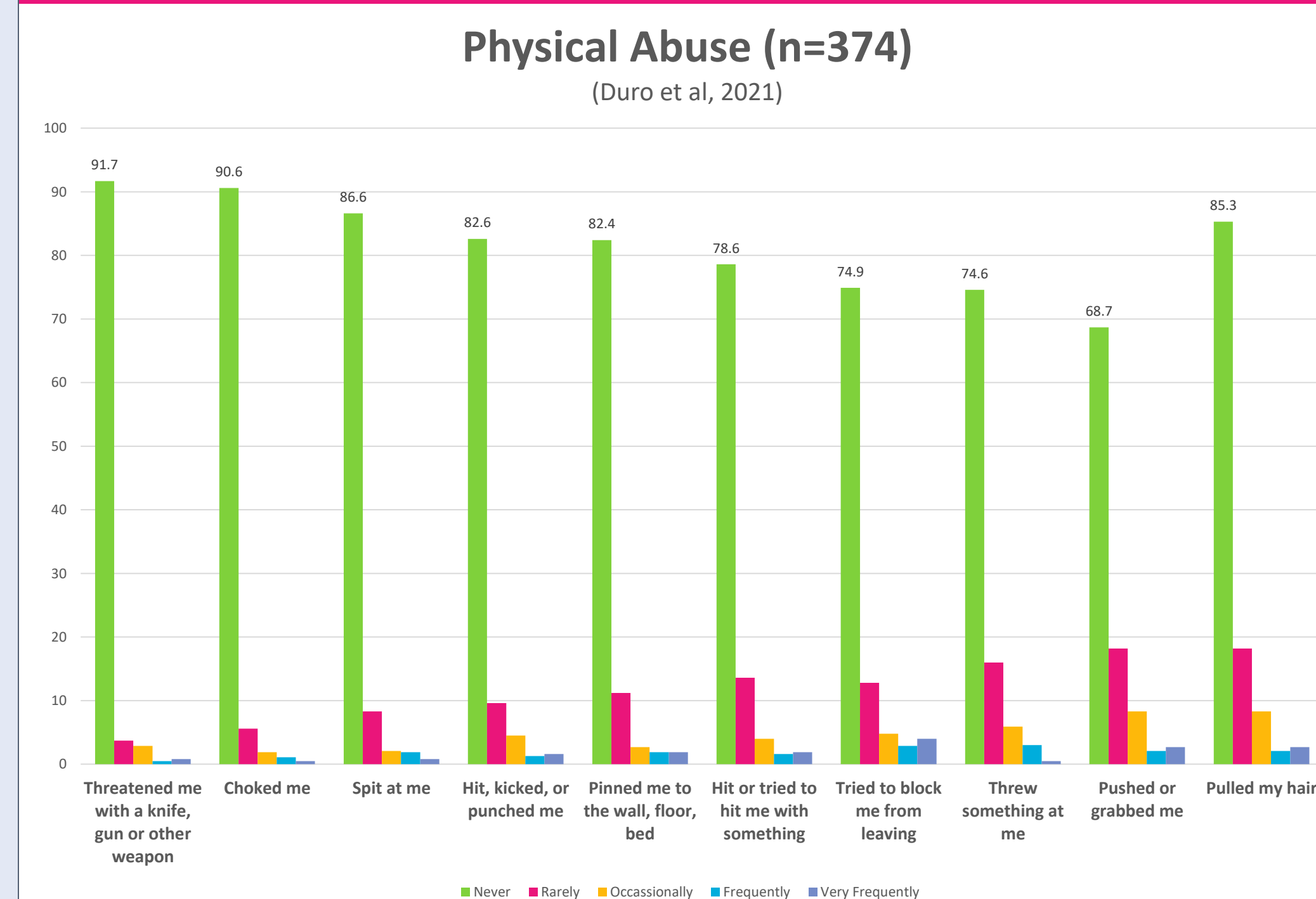
Methodology

This is a mixed methods study. We primarily use survey research design and utilize the CCB measure which is a Checklist of Controlling Behaviors an 84-item domestic violence assessment instrument that can be used to address multiple levels of violence and coercive control in violent relationships. We use participatory action research (PAR) methods and community based participatory research (CBPR) models to engage the community. The community members from various women organizations/groups reviewed the CCB measure between October-December 2020 and added additional items that are relevant to the Albanian culture and traditions. The last part of the survey asks participants the following question : "is there anything else you would like to share with us?" This part is qualitative and narratives are usually very important to generate theory relevant to our cultural norms and traditions.
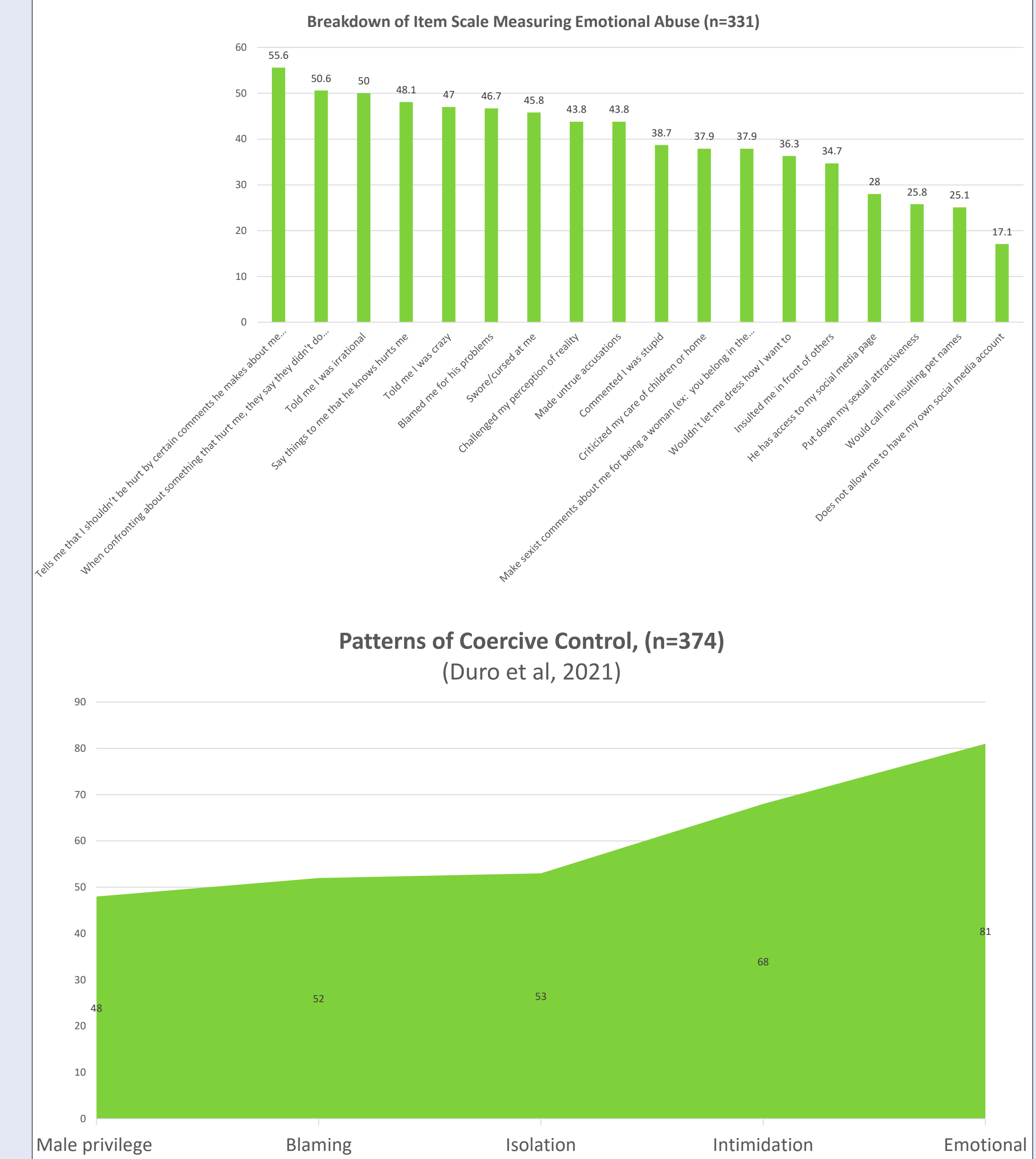
Sample & Data Collection

The sample (n=500) consists of Albanian women 18 years or older residing in the US.
Qualtrics software was used to collect data in the form of 20-30 minute survey.

Results

Physical Abuse (n=374)
(Duro et al, 2021)

Types of Abuse Experienced by Albanian Women in US (n=374)
(Duro et al, 2021)

Coercive Control

Breakdown of Item Scale Measuring Emotional Abuse (n=331)

Patterns of Coercive Control, (n=374)
(Duro et al, 2021)

Recommendations

- Creating proactive interventions in response to reports of coercive-controlling behaviors and tactics
- Providing a culturally sensitive framework for law enforcement professionals
- Destigmatizing non traditional gender roles

References

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