Mothers—1 child
Mothers—2 or more children

Current Study

Young adulthood is a stressful time of the life course due to transitions including motherhood.

Demand associated with motherhood increase stress in daily living.

Parenting stress may result in mothers, compared with non-mothers, manifesting more stress in daily living.

Demands associated with motherhood increase IPV during young adulthood. Much of it is mutual violence.

Studies of motherhood as a precursor of IPV are inconclusive. Scholars examining motherhood and violence have focused on child outcomes.

The current study focuses on children as possible stressors linking motherhood and IPV. Union status and education may modify the relationship.

Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study (TARS):

- Wave 5 (n=1,021), ages 22-29
- Non-mothers
- Mothers-1 child
- Mothers-2 or more children

Percentage of Analytic Sample Reporting IPV at Wave 5 (n=503)

- Non-mothers: 14.81%
- Mothers-1 child: 24.16%
- Mothers-2 or more children: 38.93%

Dependent variable
- IPV: 24-item based on Conflict Tactics Scale

Independent variable
- Motherhood status: non-mother, mothers - 1 child, mothers - 2 or more children

Key Measures

The Moderating Effect of Stress

- The education gradient associated with lower levels of IPV does not exist when mothers have two or more children.

Data and Sample

Conclusions/Future Research

- Mothers, in particular women with two or more children, compared with non-mothers, have higher levels of IPV.
- At average and above levels of stress, mothers compared with non-mothers have significantly greater levels of IPV.
- Motherhood is more strongly associated with IPV for daters than cohabiting or married mothers.
- The education gradient associated with lower levels of IPV does not exist when mothers have two or more children.

- Young adult parents may benefit from parenting and stress management programs.
- Stress accelerates the association between motherhood and IPV.

- The association between motherhood and IPV varies according to education and union status. Education is not as protective when there are 2 or more children.

The Moderating Effect of Union Status

- At average and above levels of stress, motherhood is more strongly associated with IPV.

The Moderating Effect of Educational Attainment

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