Scholars have increasingly examined the influence of macro-level factors on intimate partner violence. Research has moved beyond examination of individual attitudes and beliefs about dating and the opposite sex to consider the ways in which cultural norms influence violence patterns. Yet the influence of the neighborhood normative climate likely extends beyond norms regarding the use of violence, shaping cultural understandings about dating and the opposite sex.

**Contextual Influences on Behavior**

- The social environment facilitates the transmission of messages regarding conduct across multiple domains.
- Subcultural theories suggest the potential for wider acceptance of IPV among disadvantaged groups.

**Community Norms and Violence**

- Liberal dating norms and gender mistrust are both related to relationship quality, and may influence negative styles of interaction between partners.
- Findings suggest that future programs may benefit from a community-based approach to IPV.

**Data and Sample**

- Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study (TARS)
  - Five waves of data collected (2001-2011)
  - Respondents were 22-29 at the last interview

**Sample**

- Analyses rely on all 5 waves of structured interviews

**Key Measures**

- IPV Perpetration: 4-item version of the Conflict Tactics Scale
- Liberal Dating Norms: “It’s ok to date more than one person at a time”
- Gender Mistrust: “You can’t trust most girls/guys”

**Analyses**

- 3-level hierarchical logistic regression model (HLM 7)

**Results**

- Liberal dating norms appear to be more salient than the neighborhood normative climate with regard to such attitudes; however, the effect of liberal norms was exacerbated at higher levels of disadvantage
- Both individual- and aggregate-level measures of gender mistrust exerted independent effects on the odds of perpetration, and neighborhood levels of mistrust explained a substantial portion of the between-neighborhood variation in IPV

**Limitations/Future Research**

- Explore these pathways in other cities/samples
- Consider additional normative and cultural definitions
- Examine these processes across a broader age range

**Conclusions**

- Move beyond notion that “IPV knows no class boundaries”
  - The neighborhood normative climate has implications for IPV perpetration
  - These neighborhood effects depend, in part, on the level of disadvantage
- Findings suggest that future programs may benefit from a community-based approach to IPV
- Programmatic focus on potentially modifiable risk factors may prove more feasible than tackling issues of socioeconomic disadvantage

This research was supported by grants from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R03HD01621 and HD044206), the Department of Health and Human Services (AAPR900154), and the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (2000-IJ-CX-0006). The opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program/exhibition are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Department of Justice, the National Institutes of Health, or the National Institute of Justice. The authors and/or project partners are not affiliated with the National Institute of Justice.

This research was supported in part by the Center for Family and Demographic Research, Bowling Green State University, which has core funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The center’s work has been supported by grants from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R24HD050959). The opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program/exhibition are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Department of Justice, the National Institutes of Health, or the National Institute of Justice. The authors and/or project partners are not affiliated with the National Institute of Justice.