Criminal Justice Involvement and Intimate Partner Violence in Young Adulthood

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Background
- Experiencing contact with the criminal justice system (CJS) permeates almost all aspects of an individual’s life, including intimate relationships.
- Research on the association between intimate relationship quality and involvement in the CJS is limited.
- Around 25% of young adults experience IPV as they begin to navigate serious intimate relationships.
- Problems that arise with CJS involvement can bring certain problems to the foreground of a relationship.
  - Financial strain; stigma; lack of support; communication; trust
- Limited prior research shows that incarceration increases likelihood of intimate partner violence (IPV).

Prior Research
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Current Investigation
- Assess the relationship between respondent and partner’s CJS involvement and IPV.
- To examine whether net of relationship dynamics and partner characteristics if CJS involvement for a respondent or their partner continues to be associated with increasing levels of IPV.

Data and Sample
- Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study (TARS)
  - Five waves of data collected (2001 – 2012)
  - Respondents were 22-29 years old during most recent wave
  - Sample:
    1. Waves 1, 3, 4, 5, & parent questionnaire at wave 1
    2. N=928

Results
- Percentage of Respondent and Partner’s CJS Involvement by IPV (n=928)

 Analyses
- Ordinary Least Squared Regression

Key Measures
- Dependent Variable:
  - IPV: 24-items based on Conflict Tactics Scale 2

Focal Independent Variables:
- Respondent CJS Involvement
- Partner CJS Involvement
- Respondent and Partner’s Delinquency

Controls:
- Relationship Dynamics
- Relationship Characteristics
- Partner Sociodemographic Characteristics
- Family of Origin Factors
- Respondent Sociodemographic Characteristics

Results
- Respondent’s involvement in the CJS and partner’s criminality are consistently related to increases in IPV.
- Partner’s CJS involvement continued to be significantly related to IPV, but after taking into consideration relationship dynamics, the association drops out.

Limitations
- Combines arrest and incarceration
- Local sample/not nationally representative

Conclusion/Future Research
- Individual’s involvement with the criminal justice system is positively associated with IPV, net of risk factors such as relationship dynamics and partner’s characteristics.
- Future work should examine other individual and relationship quality outcomes, as well as the potential role of gender and race/ethnicity.

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