Does IPV Affect Entry Into Parenthood and Fertility Intentions?

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Introduction

Both unintended fertility and intimate partner violence (IPV) are public health concerns. Overlap in who experiences unintended fertility and IPV. Some evidence that IPV experience increases risk of unintended fertility.

Limitations of Prior Research

Causal linkages unable to be detected. Focus on early pregnancies that are often unintended. Focus on unstable relationships that often have IPV. Cross-sectional data and selective samples. Lack of attention to different types of births. IPV may lead to ambivalence about having a child. IPV could encourage sexual risk-taking. IPV may increase wanted births to please partner.

Research Questions

1. Are respondents who experience IPV more likely to enter parenthood before their 25th birthday?
2. Among parents, does IPV experience predict the intendedness of first births?

Data

- Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study (TARS)
- Five waves of data collected 2001-2012
- Respondents ages 25-32 at fifth wave (N = 837)
- Establish causal ordering of IPV and fertility
- Rich set of fixed and time-varying socioeconomic, demographic, and psychosocial covariates linked to both IPV and fertility

Dependent Variables

1. First birth by age 25
2. First birth intendedness among parents

IPV and Parenthood

Event History Analyses

Table 1. Discrete-Time Logistic Regression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Birth vs. No Birth</th>
<th>IPV</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Relationship status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No IPV</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>Single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intended First Birth</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Dating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unintended First Birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cohabiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Discrete-Time Competing Risk: All Compared to Wanted First Births

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Didn’t Want</th>
<th>Didn’t Think</th>
<th>Didn’t Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPV</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>1.21 *</td>
<td>1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age²</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

Summary

- IPV does not lead to early fertility when controlling for relevant characteristics
- IPV does not increase risk of unintended fertility, even when accounting for more nuanced types of unintended fertility

Implications

- Temporal ordering and better attention to sample selectivity are key to understanding linkages between IPV and fertility
- More work is needed to understand if unintended fertility causally increases the risk of IPV