

# Neighborhood Norms, Disadvantage, and Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration

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## Background

- Scholars have increasingly examined the influence of macro-level factors on intimate partner violence
- Research has moved beyond examination of disadvantage itself 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

## Prior Research

### Contextual Influences on Behavior

- Research on IPV finds evidence of an association between neighborhood structural features and partner violence

### Community Norms and Violence

- 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

### Attitudes about Dating and the Opposite Sex

- Liberal dating norms and gender mistrust are both related to relationship quality, and may influence negative styles of interaction between partners

## Current Investigation

- To assess the extent to which individuals' attitudes about dating and the opposite sex influence patterns of IPV perpetration over time
- To examine whether the neighborhood normative climate contributes to our understanding of IPV perpetration, net of individual attitudes and beliefs

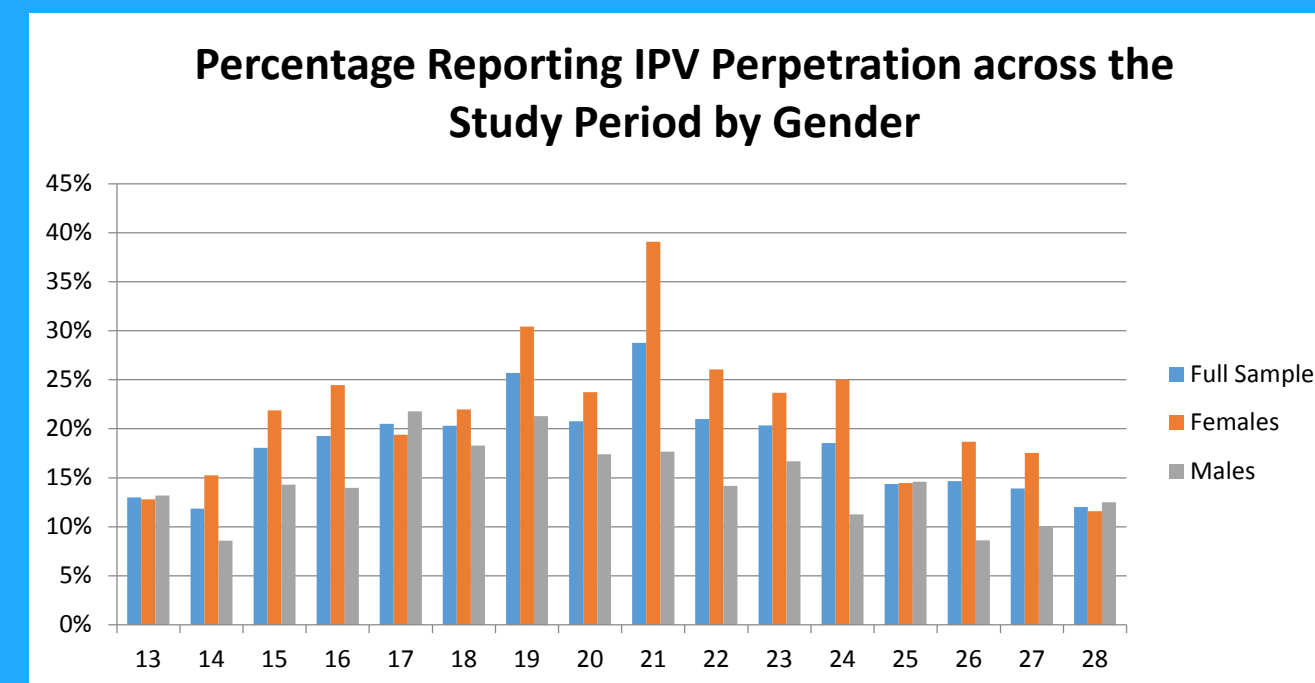
## Data and Sample

Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study (TARS)

- Five waves of data collected (2001-2011)
- Respondents were 22-29 at the last interview

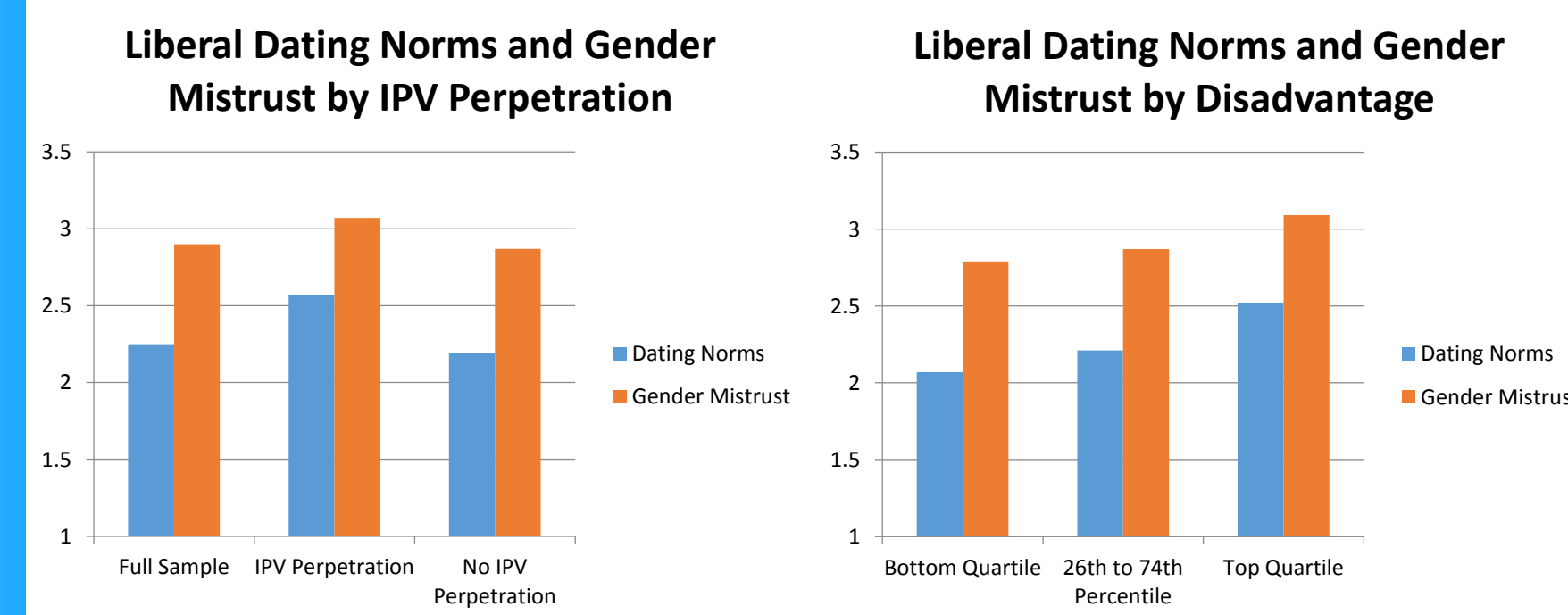
Sample

- 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"

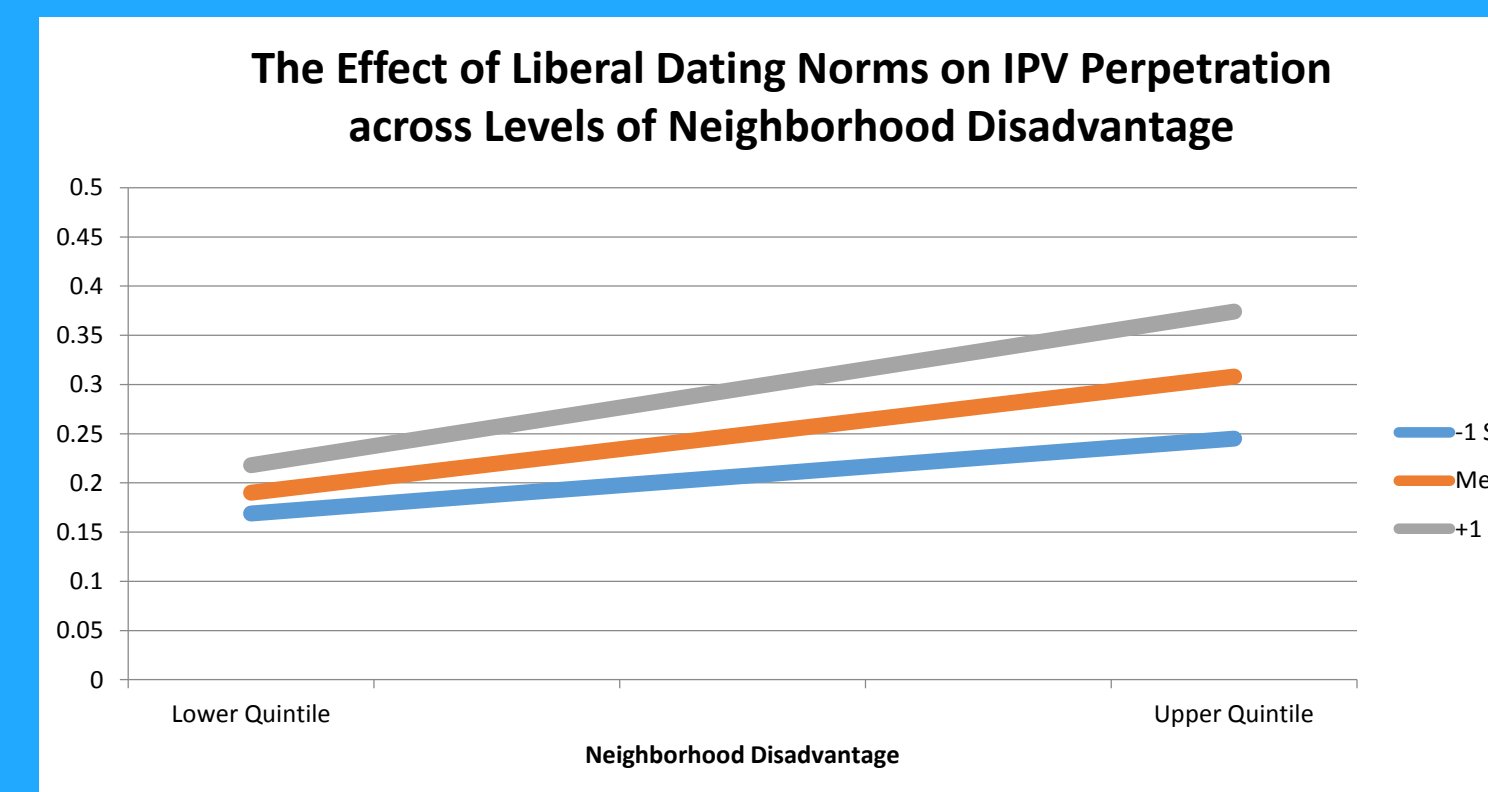


## Analyses

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

Variable	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4		Model 5	
	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE
Intercept	-1.42***	0.06	-1.42***	0.07	-1.53***	0.05	-1.53***	0.05	-1.54***	0.05
<b>Level One Variables</b>										
Age	0.58***	0.10	0.58***	0.10	0.60***	0.10	0.61***	0.11	0.61***	0.11
Age <sup>2</sup>	-0.01***	0.00	-0.01***	0.00	-0.02***	0.00	-0.02***	0.00	-0.02***	0.00
<b>Individual Attitudes and Beliefs</b>										
Liberal dating norms	0.20***	0.03	0.20***	0.04	0.23***	0.04	0.22***	0.04	0.21***	0.03
<b>Time-Varying Contextual Effect</b>										
Aggregate liberal dating norms			0.01	0.08	-0.01	0.07	-0.06	0.08	-0.05	0.08
<b>Level Three Variables</b>										
Neighborhood Liberal Dating Norms							0.17	0.25	0.16	0.25
Neighborhood Disadvantage							0.02*	0.01	0.02†	0.01
Individual liberal dating norms x Neighborhood disadvantage									0.01†	0.00
Level 2 residual $\sigma^2$	0.81		0.81		0.77		0.78		0.77	
Level 3 residual $\sigma^2$	0.25		0.25		0.07		0.05		0.06	

† p < .10; \* p < .05; \*\* p < .01; \*\*\* p < .001  
 Models 3-5 include controls for gender, family structure, and mother's education at level 2.



Variable	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4	
	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE
Intercept	-1.41***	0.06	-1.43***	0.06	-1.52***	0.05	-1.50***	0.05
<b>Level One Variables</b>								
Age	0.61***	0.10	0.58***	0.10	0.61***	0.10	0.62***	0.11
Age <sup>2</sup>	-0.02***	0.00	-0.01***	0.00	-0.02***	0.00	-0.02***	0.00
<b>Individual Attitudes and Beliefs</b>								
Gender mistrust	0.16***	0.04	0.16***	0.04	0.12**	0.04	0.09*	0.04
<b>Time-Varying Contextual Effect</b>								
Aggregate gender mistrust			0.22***	0.06	0.16*	0.06	0.06	0.07
<b>Level Three Variables</b>								
Neighborhood Gender Mistrust							0.95**	0.30
Neighborhood Disadvantage							0.01	0.01
Level 2 residual $\sigma^2$	0.82		0.81		0.79		0.81	
Level 3 residual $\sigma^2$	0.26		0.21		0.07		0.04	

† p < .10; \* p < .05; \*\* p < .01; \*\*\* p < .001  
 Models 3 and 4 include controls for gender, family structure, and mother's education at level 2.

## 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

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