

Relationship Uncertainty, Parenthood, and Intimate Partner Violence in Young Adulthood

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Background

- **Intimate partner violence (IPV):** Young adults report high amounts of IPV perpetration and victimization during this period of the life course
- **History of IPV:** Individual's history of IPV, partner's history of IPV, and parent's history of IPV are known predictors of IPV
- **Contested domains:** Domains including infidelity and financial concerns are associated with IPV
- **Relationship uncertainty:** Uncertainty about the future of a relationship may be associated with IPV
- **Parenthood complexity:** Some evidence that parenthood complexity (e.g. unshared children) is associated with decrease in relationship quality and an increase in IPV

Current Study

Prior studies have examined each of these variables separately, however examining these indicators together provides useful insight for prevention strategies as to which may act as potential risk for partner violence.

- Controlling for other known covariates of IPV, is relationship uncertainty, parenting complexity, contested domains, or history of IPV more strongly associated with current reports of IPV?

Data

- Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study
 - Focal variables measured at Wave 5 (2012)
 - Controls at Wave 5 and Wave 1
 - Average age at Wave 5 is 25 years
 - Respondents must report on current or most recent dating, cohabiting, or marital relationship
 - n=889
 - 22% of the sample report any IPV

Figure 1. Relationship Uncertainty by IPV

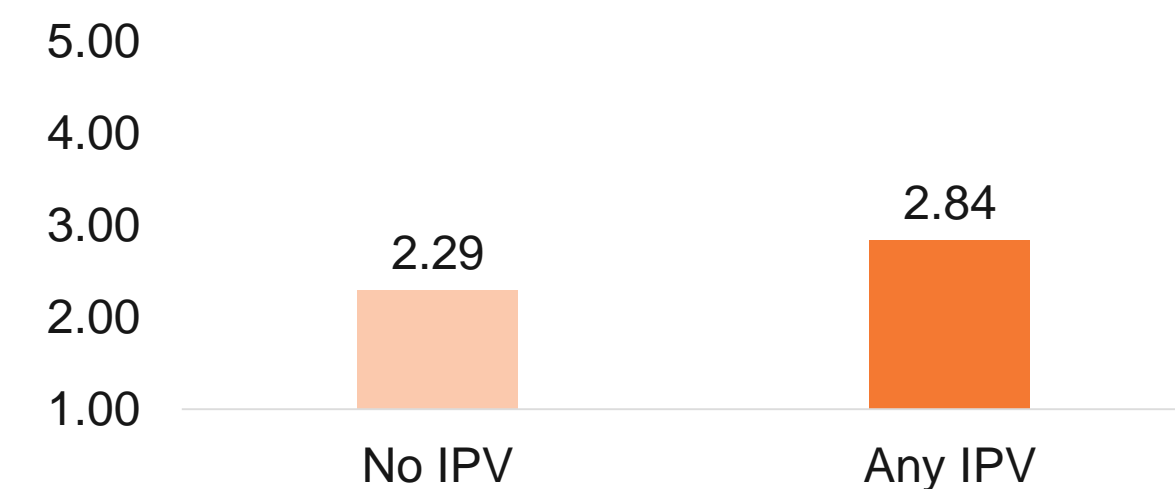
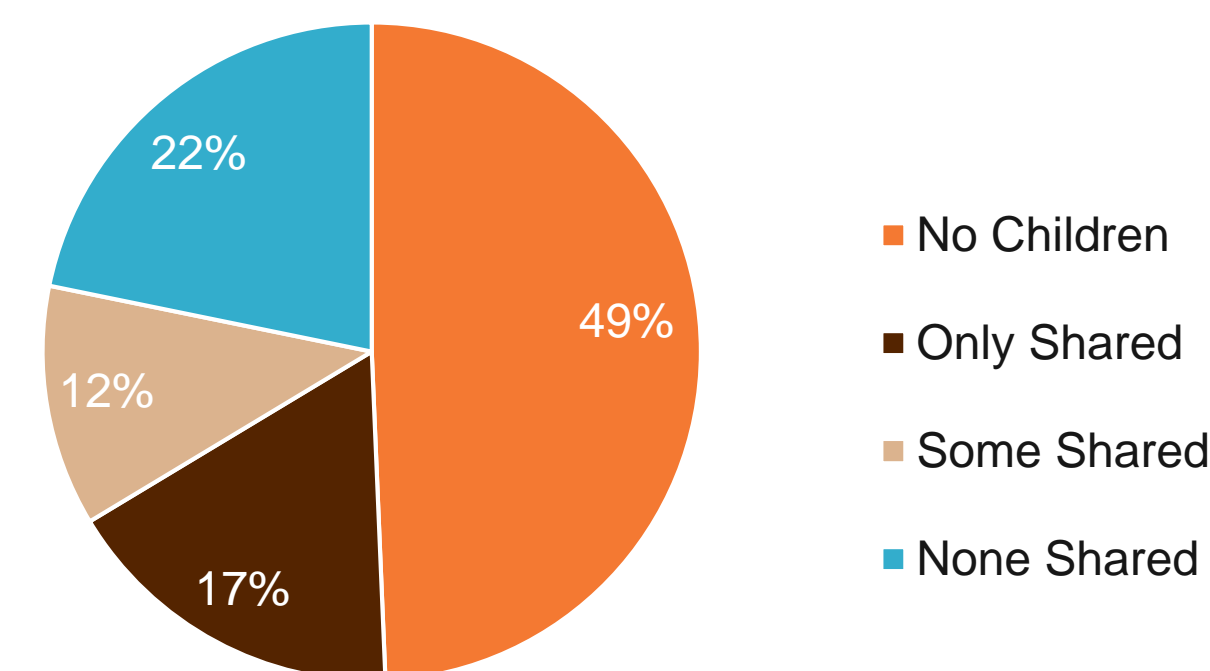


Figure 2. Distribution of Parenting Complexity in Sample



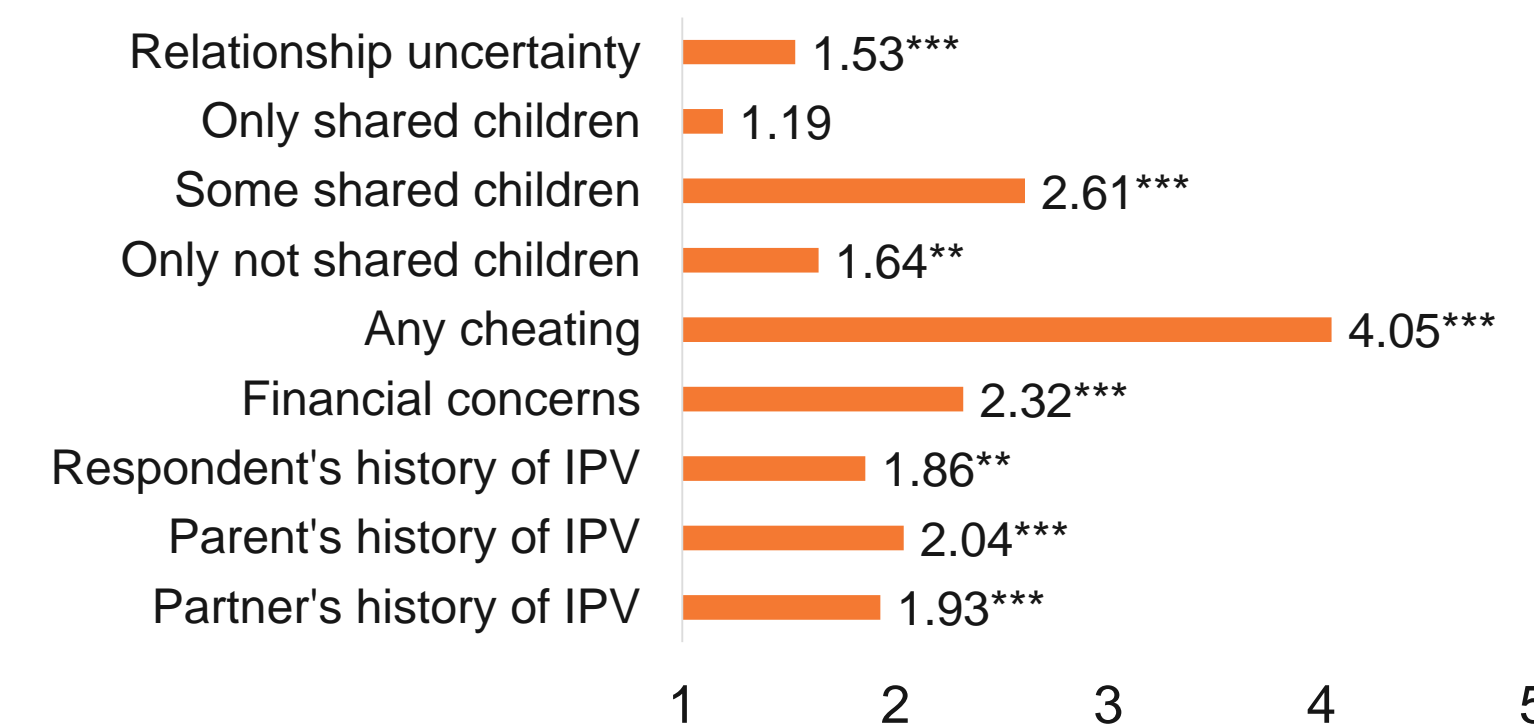
Source: Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study

Measures and Analysis

- Dependent Variable: Any IPV at Wave 5
- Independent Variables:
 - *Relationship uncertainty:* 3 items about the uncertainty of the future of the relationship
 - *Parenting complexity*
 - *Infidelity:* reports of any infidelity in the relationship
 - *Financial concerns:* how often couple fights about money issues (1-5)
 - *Respondent history of IPV* at Wave 1
 - *Parent's history of IPV*
 - *Partner's history of IPV*
- Sociodemographic and relationship controls

Results

Figure 3. Odds Ratios of Zero-Order Logistic Regression for Any IPV



Source: Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study

Table 1. Odds Ratios of Logistic Regression for Any IPV

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Relationship Uncertainty	1.68***				1.22*
<i>Parenting Complexity</i>					
No children (ref)		--			--
Only shared children		1.60^			0.84
Some shared children		2.67***			1.81*
Only not shared children		2.25***			2.00*
<i>Contested Domains</i>					
Any cheating			2.42***		1.98**
Financial concerns			2.12***		2.02***
<i>History of IPV</i>					
Respondent previous IPV				1.74**	1.64*
Parent's IPV				1.89***	1.80***
Partner's previous IPV				1.75**	1.03

Note: These models control for age, gender, race, employment status, relationship status, and relationship duration

^ p<.10 *p<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001

Source: Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study

Conclusions and Future Directions

Findings:

- Relationship uncertainty, unshared children, infidelity, financial concerns, respondent history of IPV, and parent's history of IPV are associated with current reports of IPV.
- Areas of contested domains (cheating and financial concerns) add more to the model fit.

Implications:

- While each of the areas are associated with IPV, practitioners should note that the very real domains of conflict including infidelity and financial concerns are key to understanding IPV.