# Contact Sports and Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence

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## Research Questions
- Is there a correlation between participation in contact sports during adolescence and committing intimate partner violence (IPV) as a young adult?
- Does this correlation vary depending upon respondents experiencing economic hardship?

## Significance
- IPV is a common issue among young people.
- There is a common theme in the media of athletes being perpetrators of IPV.
- Many athletes from several different sports have been convicted on charges of sexual assault, including Floyd Mayweather Jr., Randy Moss, Chad Ochocinc, Dennis Rodman, Tonya Harding and O.J. Simpson.

## Background
- There are mixed findings regarding the relationship between participation in sports and IPV perpetration.
- Athletic participation is not a predictor of IPV (Gidycz et al., 2007).
- Men who participate in sports are slightly more likely to perpetrate IPV (Crosset, 1999).
- Economic hardship is related to higher risk of committing IPV (Copp et al., 2016)

## Hypotheses
- Students who participated in contact sports will have a higher likelihood of committing IPV as a young adult.
- The association is stronger among those who experienced economic hardship.

## Data and Sample
- National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health)

## Dependent Measure
**Perpetration of IPV in W3**
- 4 Types: How often have you: A) threatened partner with violence, B) slapped, hit or kicked partner, C) insisted or forced partner into sexual relations, or D) caused injury to partner.
- Scale range: 
  - Did not commit IPV (0): 69.5%
  - Did commit IPV (1): 30.5%

## Independent Measure
**Participation in 6 different contact sports:** Soccer, football, field hockey, ice hockey, basketball, and wrestling in W1
- Did not participate (0): 61.6%
- Did participate (1): 38.4%

## Control Measure
**Economic Hardship in the Past 12 Months**
- 7 Types: Experienced a A) cut to telephone service, B) lack of money for rent/mortgage, C) eviction, D) lack of money for bills, E) gas or electric cut, F) skipped doctor visit, G) skipped dentist visit.
- No economic hardship (0): 68.6%
- Yes economic hardship (1): 31.4%

## Analytical Plan
- Crosstabulation analysis
- Chi-square test

## Results

### Figure 1. % IPV Perpetration by Contact Sports Participation & Economic Hardship: Full Sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Hardship</th>
<th>Did NOT play sports</th>
<th>Did play sports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Economic</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES Economic</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Chi-square test was significant at p < .001*

### Figure 2. % IPV Perpetration by Contact Sports Participation & Economic Hardship: Men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Hardship</th>
<th>Did NOT play sports</th>
<th>Did play sports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Economic</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES Economic</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>23.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Chi-square test was not significant*

### Figure 3. % IPV Perpetration by Contact Sports Participation & Economic Hardship: Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Hardship</th>
<th>Did NOT play sports</th>
<th>Did play sports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Economic</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES Economic</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>47.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Chi-square test was significant at p < .05*

## Summary and Conclusion
- Overall, young people who participated in contact sports clubs while in school were less likely to commit IPV later in life, regardless of economic hardship.
- For men, there was no significant association between contact sports and perpetration of IPV for both economic groups.
- For women, contact sports were not related to IPV perpetration among those with economic hardship. Contact sports were related to a lower risk of committing IPV among those without economic hardship.

## Policy Implications
- In contrast to the media image, playing sports is related to less IPV perpetration, perhaps because kids learn to control emotional changes in stressful situations.
- More effort should be put into giving opportunities to play sports to children.
- Develop after school programs that allow kids to use sports as an outlet to grow physically, emotionally and psychologically.

## References