

Contact Sports and Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence

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 Ochocinco, 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)
- Wave 1 (1994 – 1995) N = 6,504 U.S. Adolescence grades 7 – 12
- Wave 3 (2001 – 2002) N = 4,882 U.S. Adults ages 18 – 26

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

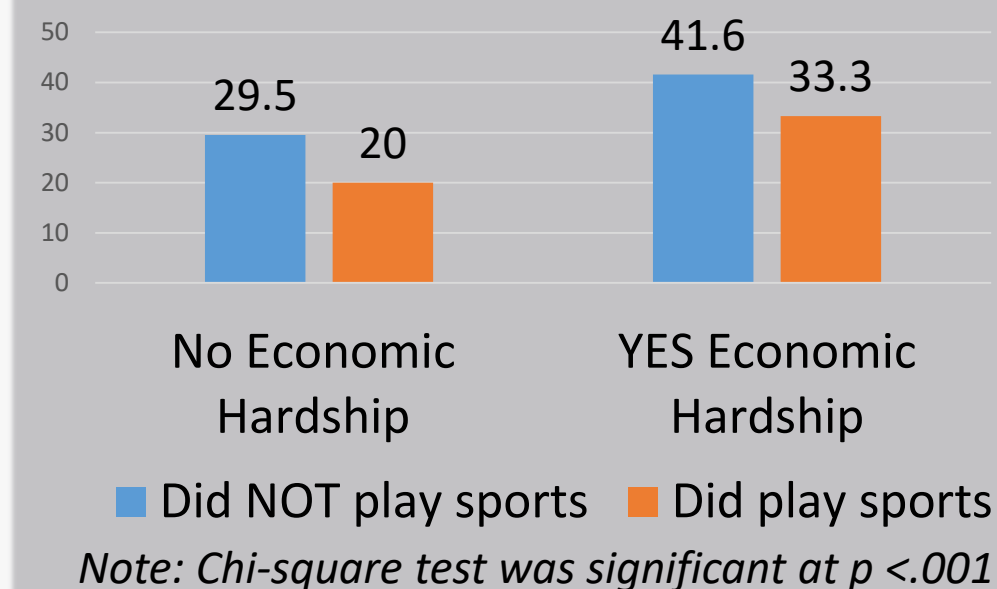


Figure 2. % IPV Perpetration by Contact Sports Participation & Economic Hardship: Men

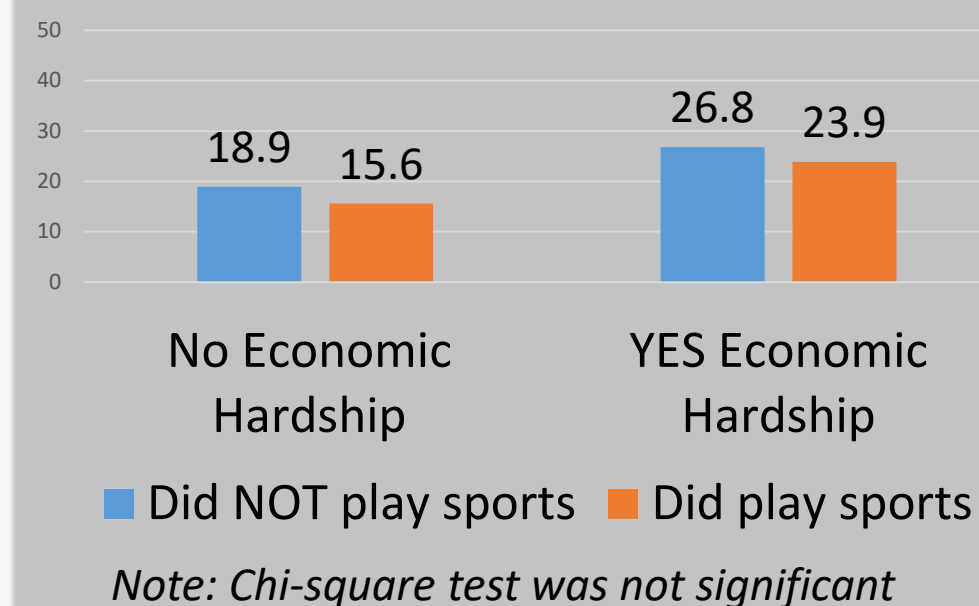
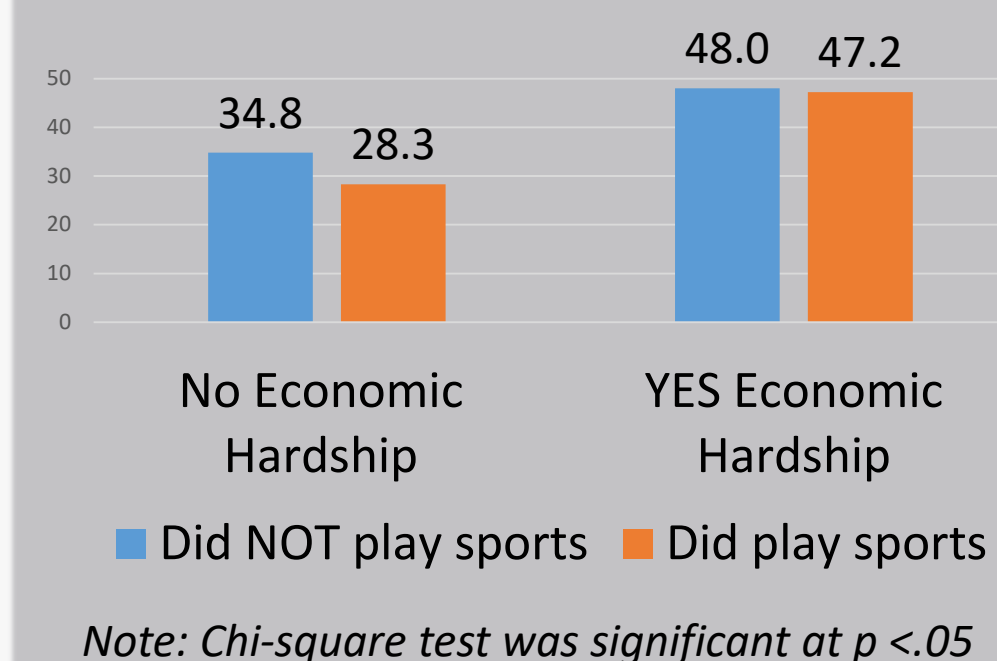


Figure 3. % IPV Perpetration by Contact Sports Participation & Economic Hardship: Women



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

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- Gidycz, C. A., Warkentin, J. B., & Orchowski, L. M. (2007). Predictors of perpetration of verbal, physical, and sexual violence: A prospective analysis of college men. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 8(2), 79-94