

Inter-Parental Violence and Adolescent Aggression

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Exposure to Inter-Parental Violence and Children's Mental Health

Reviews:

- **Kitzmann et al., 2003**
- **Wolfe et al., 2003**

Are the Effects of Maternal vs. Paternal IPV General or Sex Sensitive?

- **General Effect:**

- IPV by either parent increases aggressive behaviour in children

OR

- **Sex-Sensitive:**

- Maternal perpetration of IPV has stronger links with daughters' vs. sons' aggression.
- Paternal perpetration of IPV has stronger links with sons' vs. daughters' aggression.

Current Study

- **Examine maternal vs. paternal physical IPV and aggression in adolescent girls versus boys.**
- **Examine youth aggression across four relationships: toward mother, father, friends and romantic partner.**
- **At-risk adolescent sample**

Participants

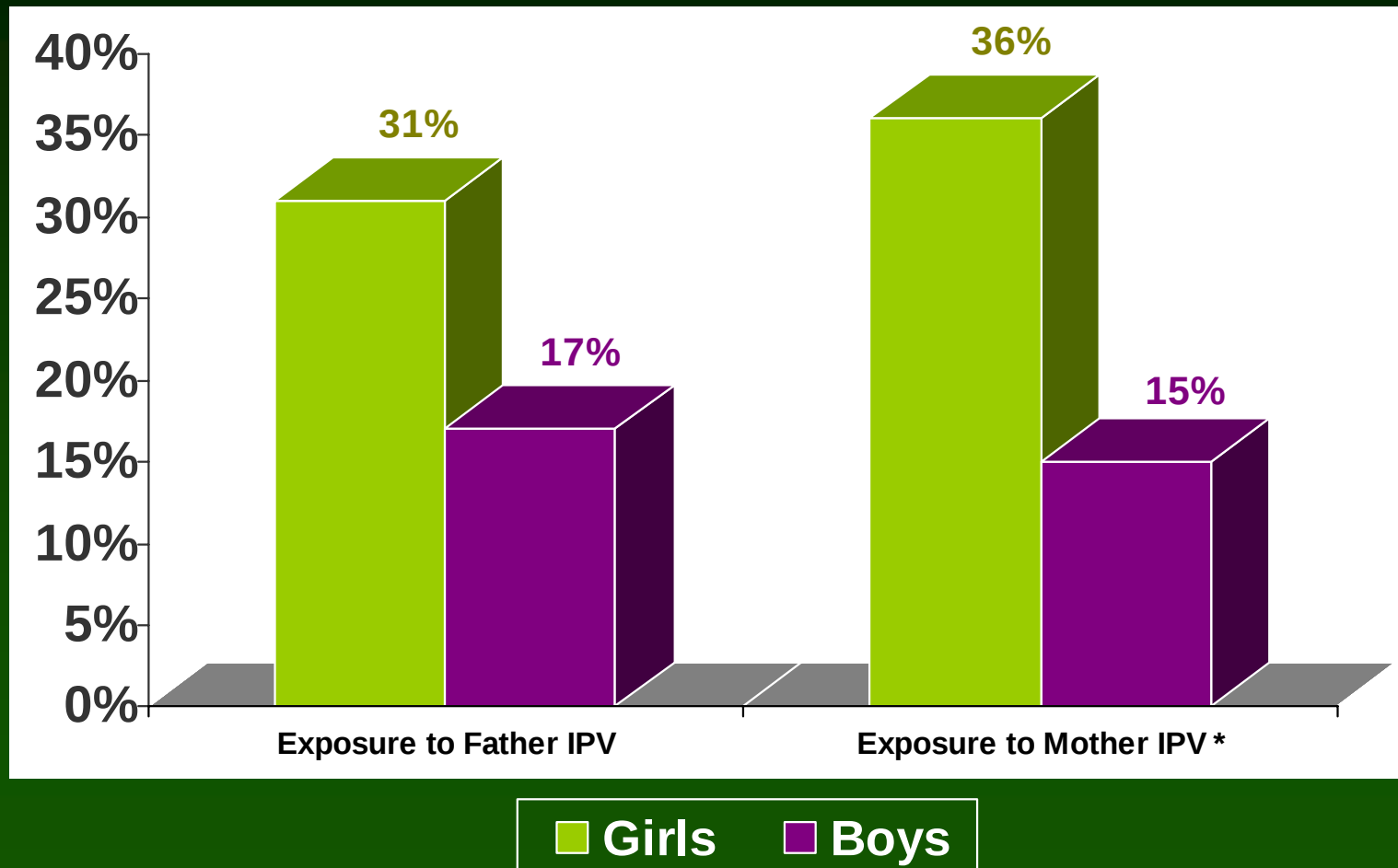
SAMPLE: 112 adolescents (49 boys, 63 girls)

- Mean age 15.4 ($SD = 1.4$)
- 54% (61) Incarcerated
- 46% (51) Provincial assessment centre for severe CD
- 67% Caucasian, 22% Aboriginal, 1 African American, 8 mixed

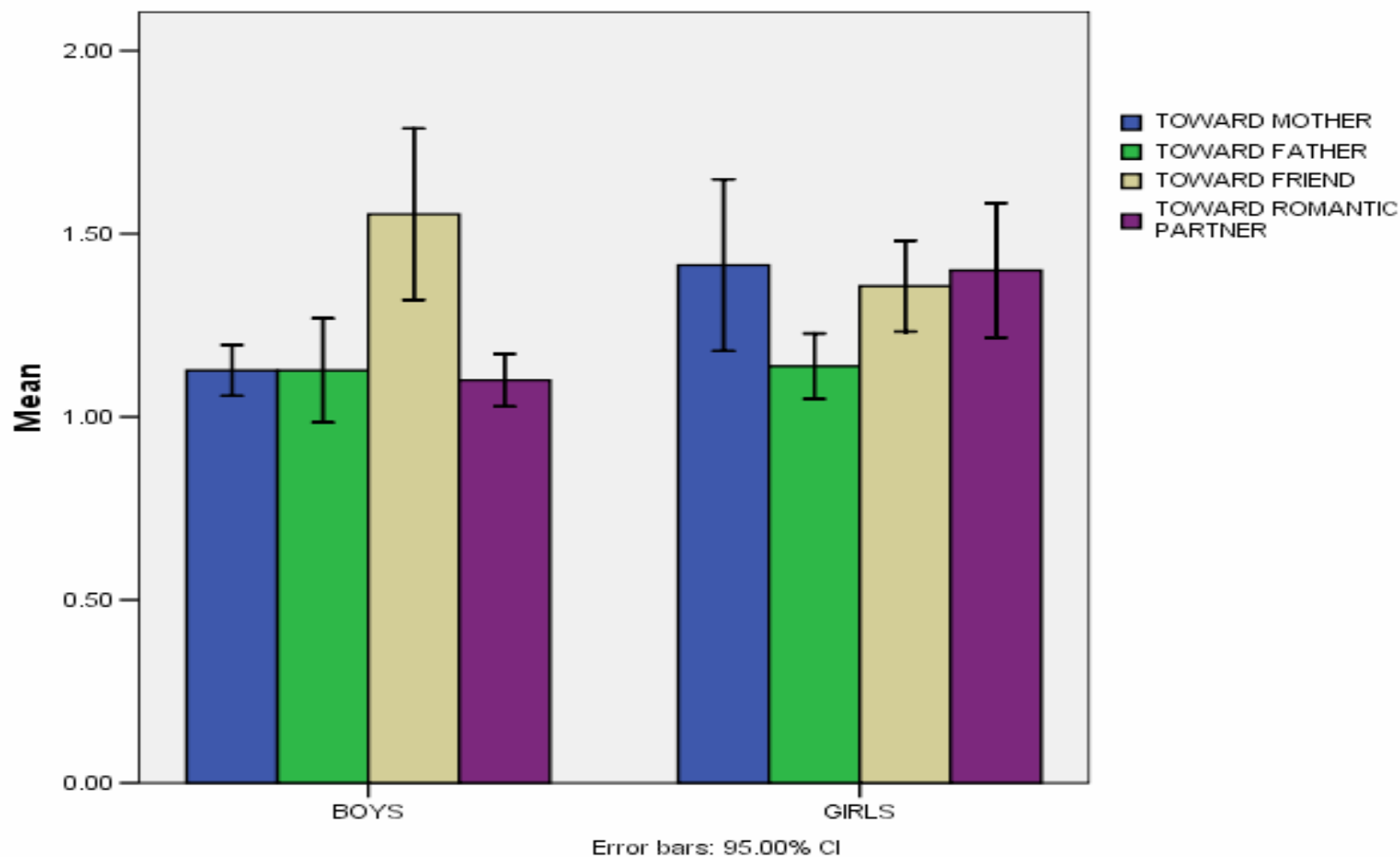
Measures

- Exposure to IPV: *Family Background Questionnaire*
- Youth Aggression: *Conflict Tactics Scale*
- PTSD: *Diagnostic Interview for Children and Adolescents – IV*

Exposure to Maternal vs. Paternal IPV



Girls' and Boys' Aggression Across Relationships - CTS



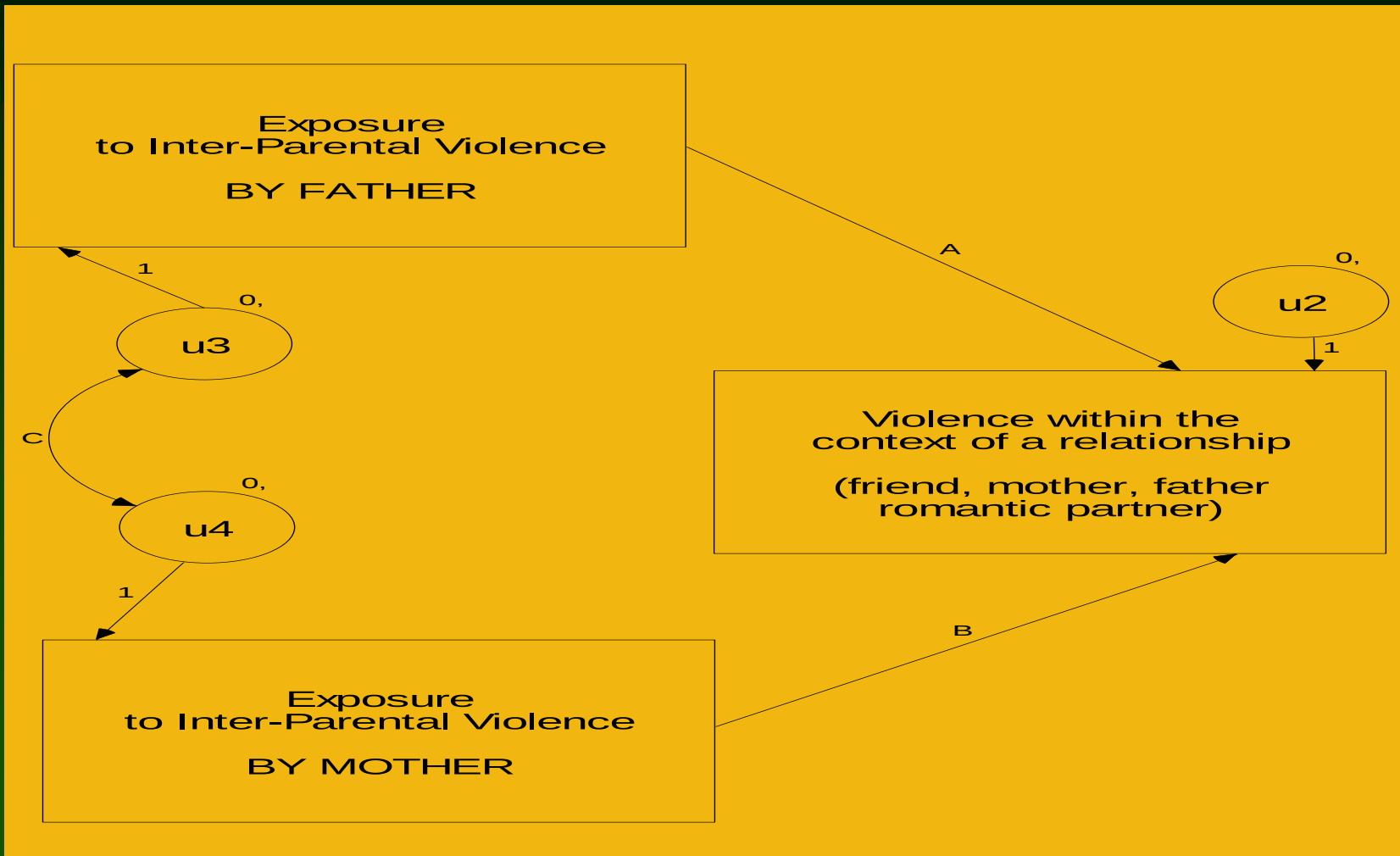
Inter-parental Violence & Aggression – zero order

Aggress. toward	Mother IPV		Father IPV	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Mother	.25	.07	.26	-.07
Father	.19	.06	.40**	.28
Friend	.35**	.01	.27	.39**
Rom. p.	.30*	.58**	.15	.31

Inter-parental Violence & Aggression – partial

Aggress. toward	Mother IPV		Father IPV	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Mother	.22	.04	.23	-.22
Father	.07	.20	.34*	.17
Friend	.19	-.27	.19	.40*
Rom. p.	.31*	.46*	-.01	.19

SEM Model



Results

MATERNAL IPV

- DAUGHTERS: aggression toward romantic partners.
- SONS: aggression toward romantic partner

PATERNAL IPV

- DAUGHTERS: aggression toward fathers
- SONS: aggression toward friends

Conclusion

- **Limited evidence of sex specific links between maternal vs. paternal IPV**
- **Findings extend previous results by reporting unique associations of maternal and paternal IPV**
- **Findings point to the importance of examining the influence of both parents' IPV on children's healthy development.**

Gender & Aggression PROJECT

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