



Coercive Control and Its Relation to IPV in a National U.S. Self-Report Survey

N. Zoe Hilton & Dana L. Radatz

Waypoint Talks, September 26, 2023



Coercive Control

Pattern of controlling behaviors over time
Entraps partner in an intimate relationship
Akin to hostage taking or POW tactics

Stark (2007)

Primarily nonphysical forms of abuse
Leads to feeling constrained in relationship

Crossman & Hardesty (2018)

Associated with physical IPV
Especially intimate terrorism

e.g., Graham-Kevan & Archer (2008)



Is coercive control...

A risk factor for physical IPV in both men and women?

- most studies of abused women (e.g., Crossman & Hardesty, 2018; Hardesty et al., 2015; Lehman et al., 2012; Nevala, 2017)
- related to IPV in men and women (Graham-Kevan & Archer, 2008; Conroy & Crowley, 2022)

An indicator of general aggression?

- coercive control in non-intimates (e.g., Dryburgh et al., 2022)
- relation to physical violence in non-intimates?

A predictor of subsequent physical IPV?

- possible risk of femicide (e.g., Myhill & Hohl, 2019)
- post-coercive control IPV?

Secondary analysis

Dataset from the Interpersonal Conflict and Resolution (iCOR) Study (Mumford et al., 2019)



Nationally representative sample of young adults (18-32 years) in the United States



Self-report survey of conflict and conflict management styles in intimate relationships; and with friends/acquaintances or strangers (non-intimates)



Wave 1 Aug 2016 - Apr 2017
N = 2284, 37% men 63% women
Wave 2 Dec 2016 – Sep 2017
N = 1629, 36% men 64% women



Coercive Control



Threaten to physically harm



Threaten to use information to control



Put down, disrespect



Physical

Push, slap, shove, punch, kick, beat up (intimate, non-intimate)

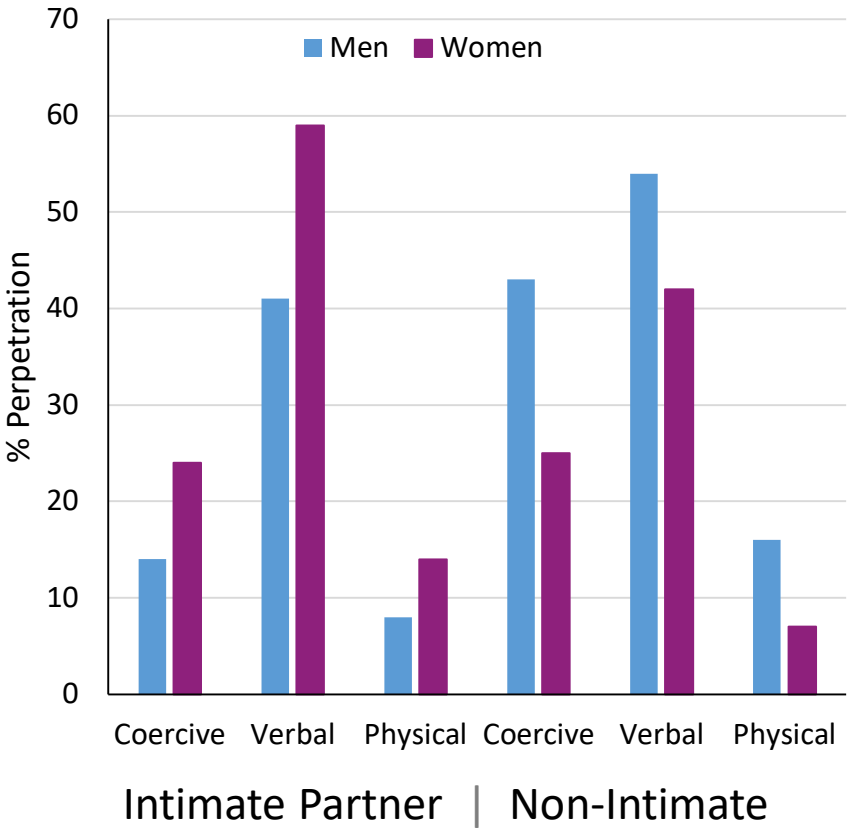
Purposefully physically hurt/forced to do sexual things (intimate only)



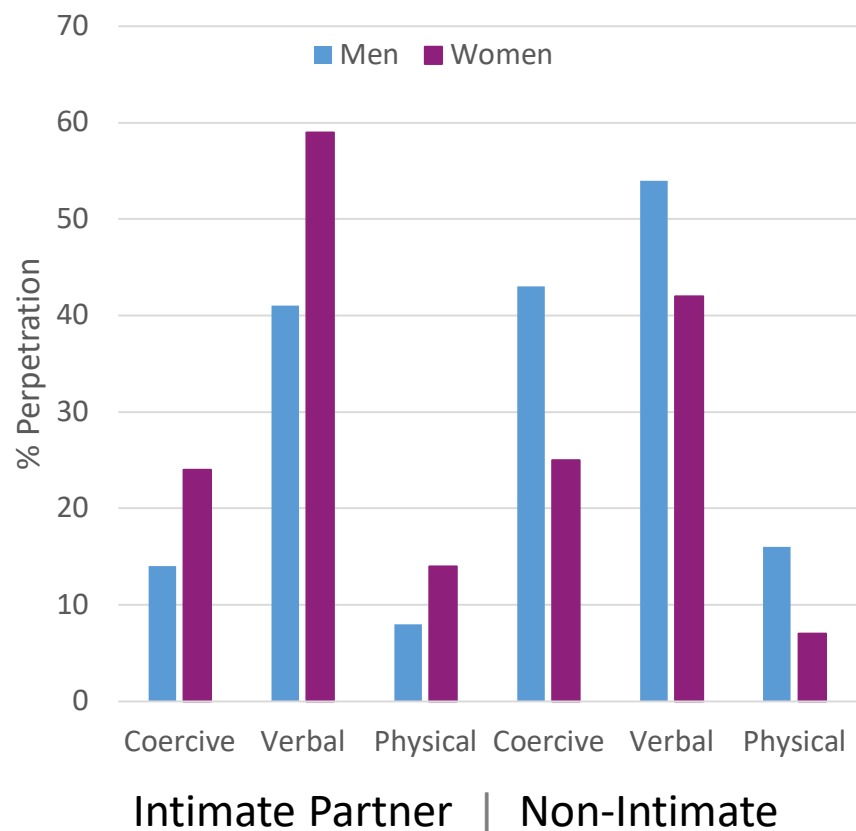
Verbal

shouted at, angrily accused of doing something wrong, accused of disrespect

Coercive control perpetration

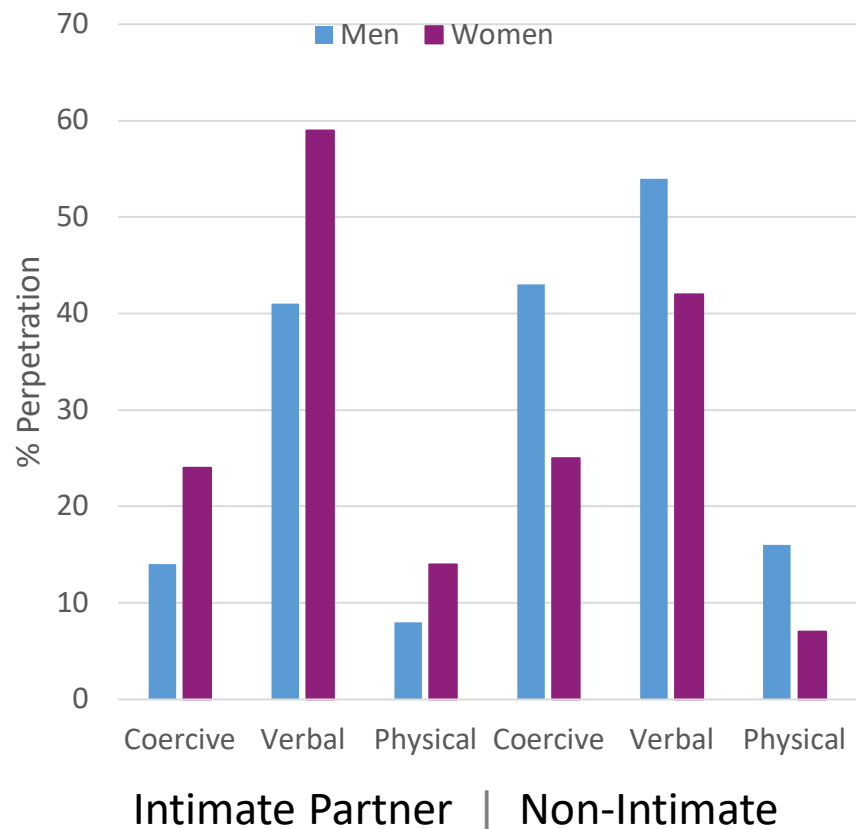


Coercive control is correlated with physical IPV



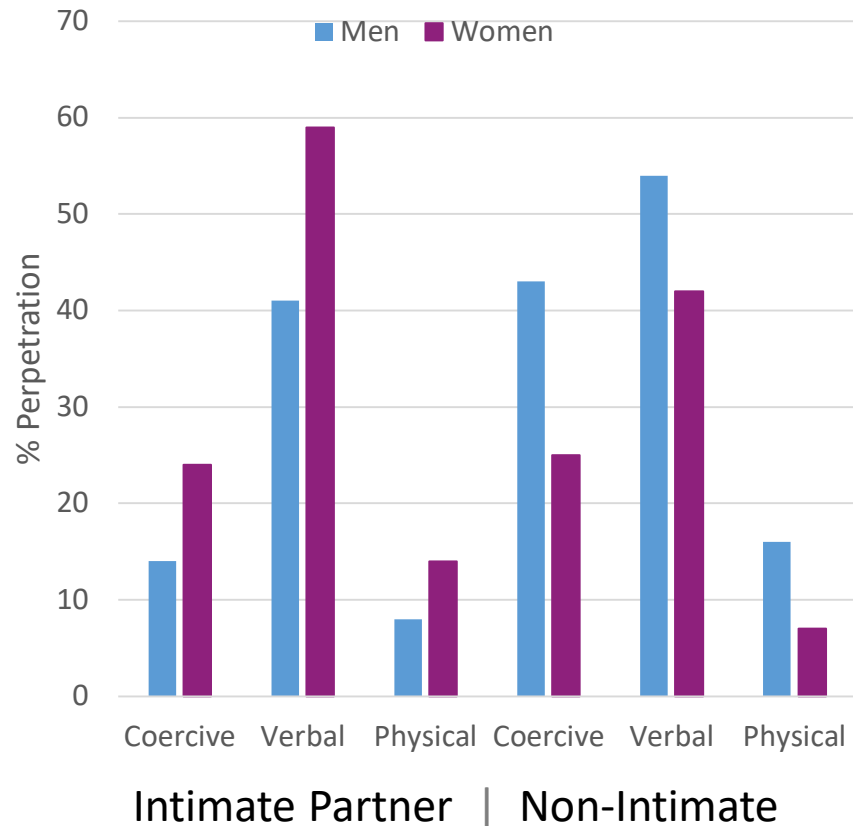
Variable	Correlations in Total Sample				
Wave 1	1	2	3	4	5
Intimate partner					
1. Coercive control	-				.
2. Verbal abuse	.462***	-			
3. Physical violence	.360***	.178***	-		
Nonintimate victim					
4. Coercive control	.179***	-.014	.215***	-	
5. Verbal abuse	.057**	-.006	.136***	.384***	-
6. Physical violence	.079***	-.034	.306***	.430***	.238***

Coercive control is correlated with physical IPV



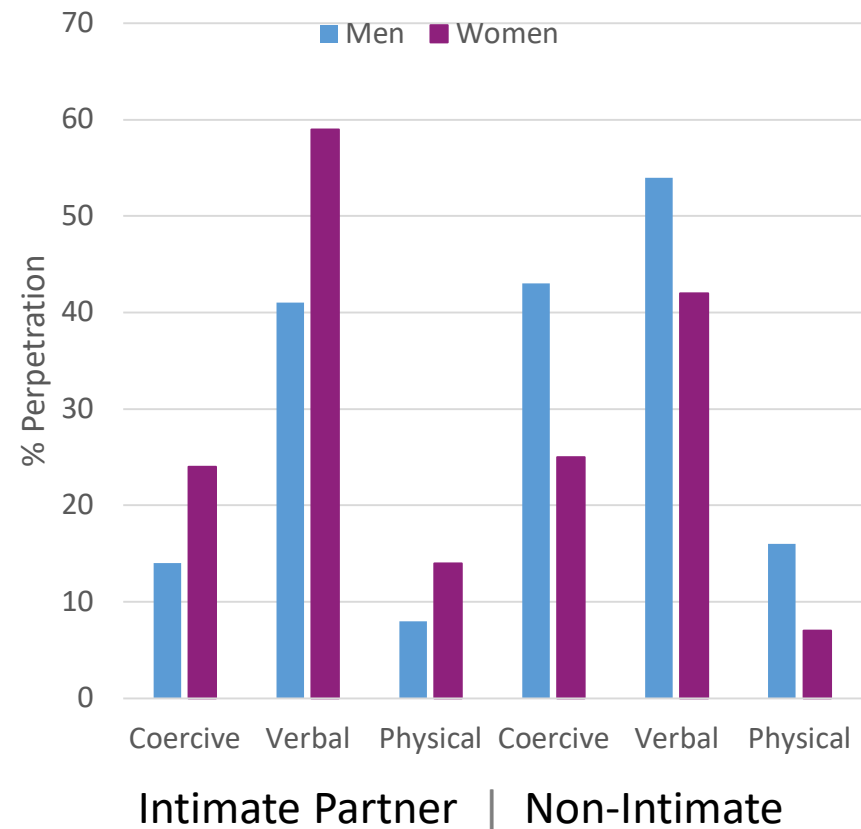
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...verbal abuse is a weaker correlate of IPV



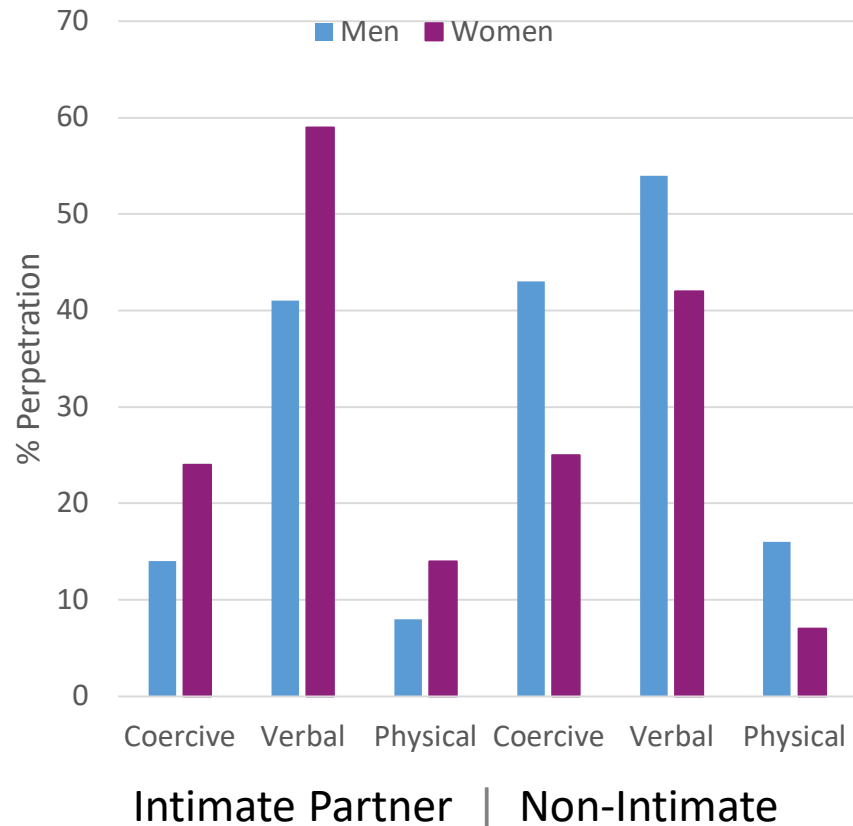
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Coercive control correlated with general aggression



Variable	Correlations in Total Sample				
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Intimate partner					
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... but verbal abuse only related to IPV



Variable	Correlations in Total Sample				
Wave 1	1	2	3	4	5
Intimate partner					
1. Coercive control	-				.
2. Verbal abuse	.462***	-			
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Coercive control predicts Wave 2 IPV

Variable	B	SE B	Exp (B)	95% CI (B)		<i>p</i>	Cox & Snell R ²	Nagelkerke R ²
				LL	UL			
Step 1							.072	.149
Constant	-2.685	0.108	0.068			< .001		
Wave 1 physical IPV	2.100	0.182	8.169	5.720	11.667	< .001		
Step 2							.079	.166
Constant	-2.839	0.120	0.059			< .001		
Wave 1 physical IPV	1.772	0.201	5.884	3.968	8.726	< .001		
Wave 1 coercive control	0.741	0.195	2.099	1.432	3.077	< .001		

Coercive control predicts Wave 2 IPV

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Findings



Coercive control is a risk factor for physical IPV



Coercive control an indicator of general physical aggression



Coercive control is a predictor of subsequent physical IPV

Limitations



Examined perpetration only



Small regression model effect sizes



Coercive control measure (disrespect, info control, threats)



Is coercive control...

A feature of general antisociality?

- not unique to intimate partner relationships
- relation to psychopathy (manipulative),
instrumental aggression (controlling partner)?

A predictor of IPV recidivism, and IPV severity?

- next step – examine prediction of IPV recidivism in
police reports

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Thank you! Questions?

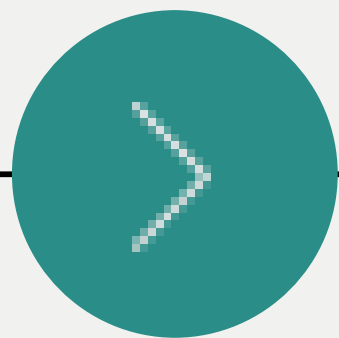
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Intimate Partner Violence

Coercive Control in Police Reports

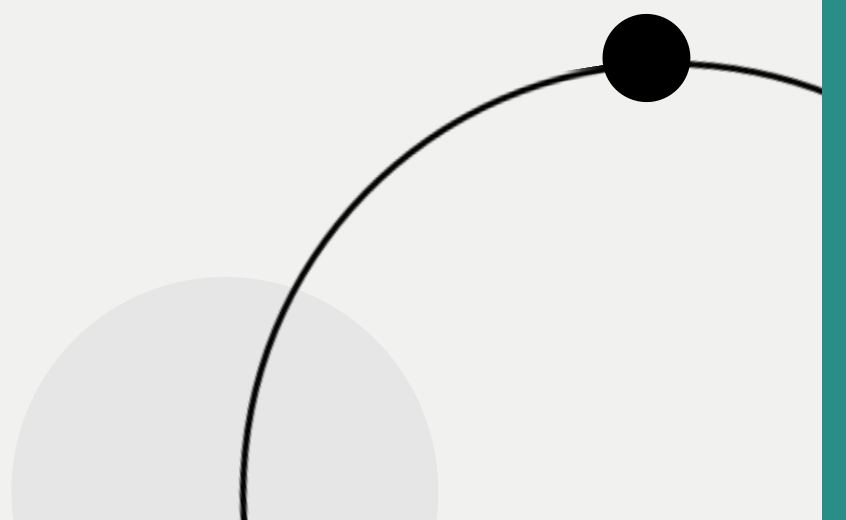


Hilton, N. Z., Eke, A. W., Kim, S., & Ham, E. (2022). Coercive control in police reports of intimate partner violence: Conceptual definition and association with recidivism. *Psychology of Violence*, 13(4), 277–285. <https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000457>

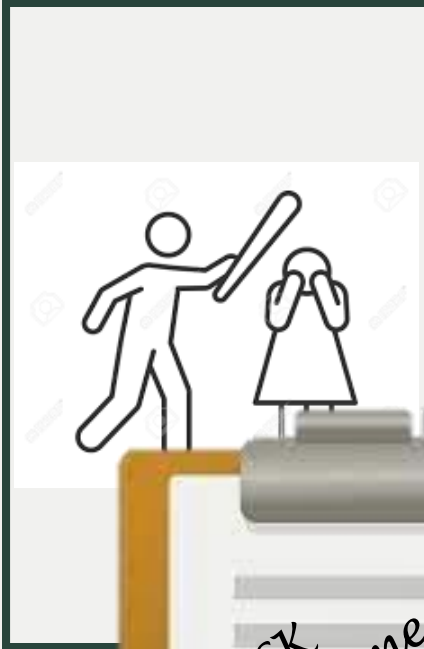





Table Of Content

- Background
 - Research Aim
 - Current Study
 - Methods
 - Results/Conclusion
 - Qand A
- 

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)



Physical and Sexual Violence



Burczycka, 2019; Klein, 2009

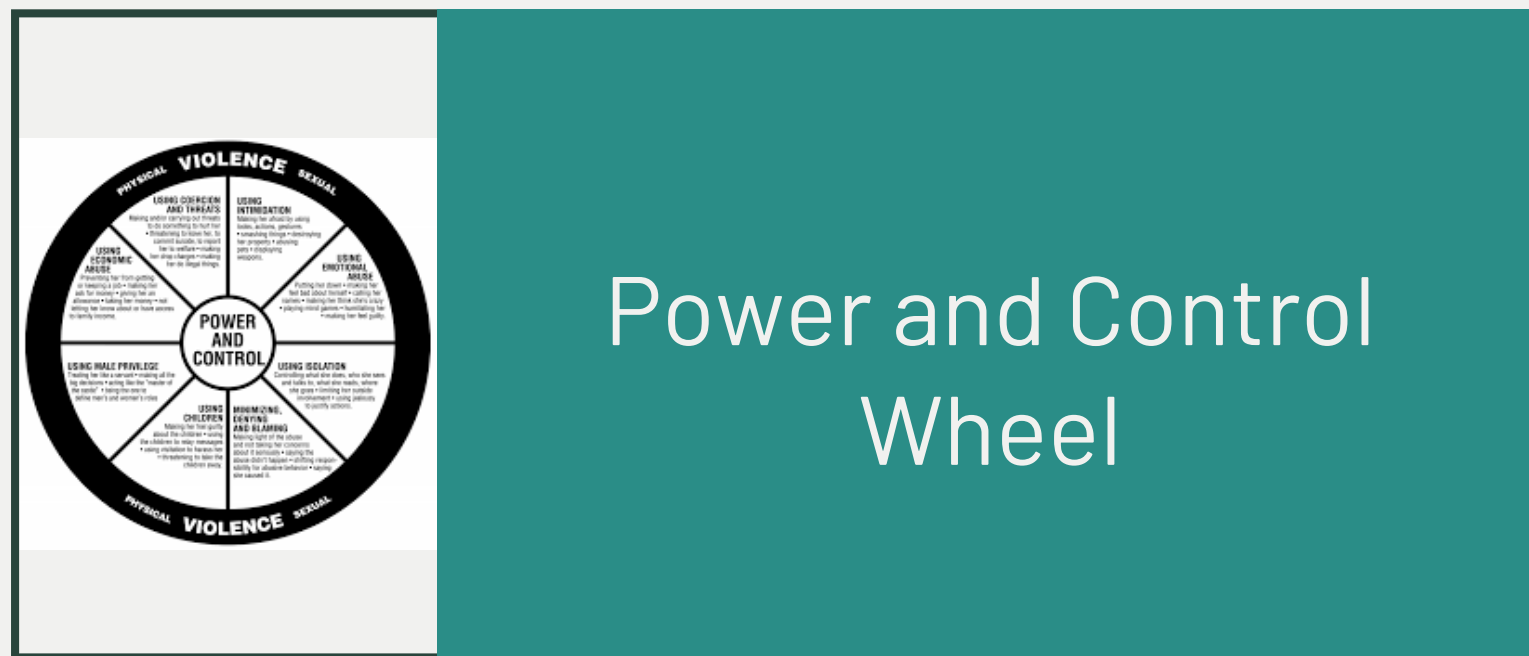


Coercive Control

Pattern of behaviors and attitudes designed to control and dominate a partner

Bishop & Bettinson, 2018; Myhill & Hohl, 2019

Coercive Control



Power and Control Wheel

The diagram is a wheel with eight spokes, each representing a tactic of coercive control. The central hub is labeled "POWER AND CONTROL". The outer rim of the wheel is labeled "PHYSICAL VIOLENCE" on the left and "SEXUAL VIOLENCE" on the right.

- USING COERCION AND THREATS:** Making and carrying out threats to do something to hurt her, to do something to hurt her, to do something to hurt her, to do something to hurt her.
- USING INTIMIDATION:** Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures, or weapons; making her feel like she is in danger; making her feel like she is in danger.
- USING ECONOMIC ABUSE:** Making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs.
- USING ISOLATION:** Making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs.
- USING MALE PRIVILEGE:** Making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs.
- USING CHILDREN (KIDS) AND RELATIVES:** Making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs.
- USING GROOMING AND BLAME:** Making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs.
- USING DENIAL AND MINIMIZATION:** Making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs; making her feel like she is not getting what she needs.

- Physical and sexual violence
- Coercion and threats
- Use of male privilege
- Intimidation
- Isolation
- Emotional abuse
- Economic abuse
- Minimizing and denying responsibility

<https://www.theduluthmodel.org/>

Coercive Control



M. P. Johnson (1995)



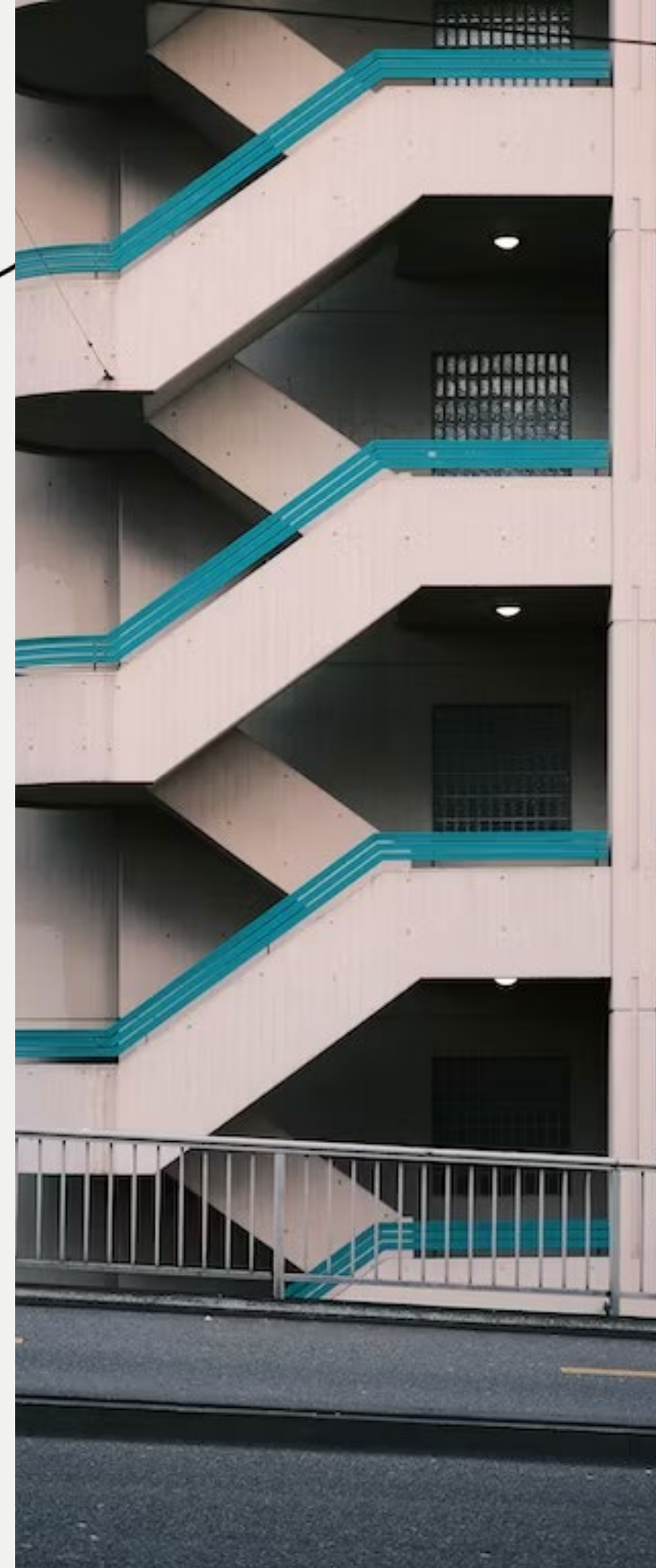


Research Gap

- Construct of Coercive Control
- Operationalization of Coercive Control
- Coercive Control and IPV Recidivism

Research Aim

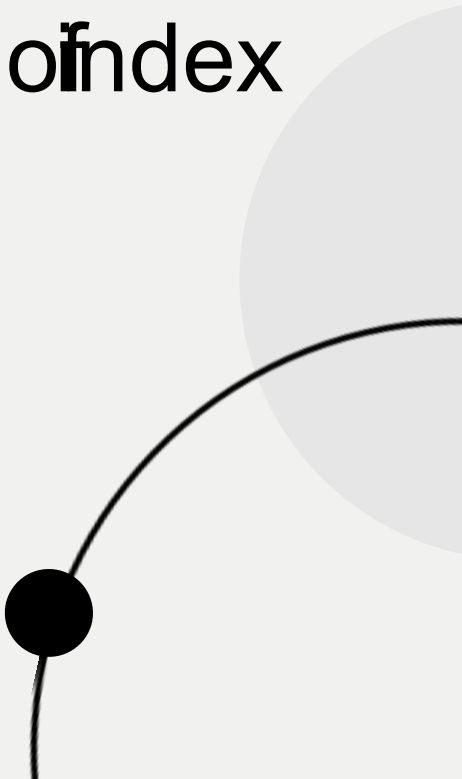
- Examine indicators of coercive behaviours and attitudes, as an underlying construct of coercive control
- Test the association between coercive control and severity of physical intimate partner violence at index
- Understand the relationship between coercive control & future IPV recidivism and its severity





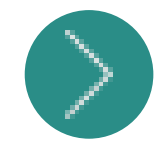
Methods

➤ Participants

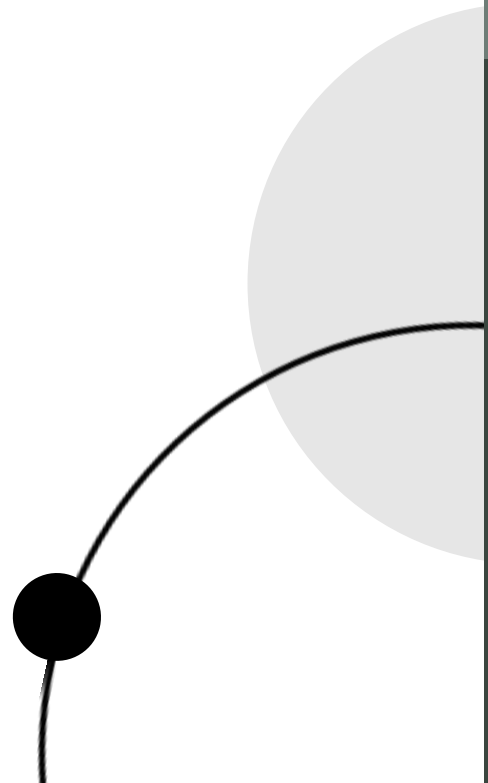
- 1,421 men with a police record for physical assault against a female partner in Ontario, average 5 year follow-up
 - 37.27 years (SD = 11).07
 - 83% living with a partner at the time of index
 - 68% charged at index
- 



Methods



Variables-Coercive Control

- Controlling activities
 - Attitudes that support or condone IPV
 - Extreme minimization or denial of IPV history
 - Psychological abuse
 - Jealousy
 - Stalking
 - Suicide threats
- 

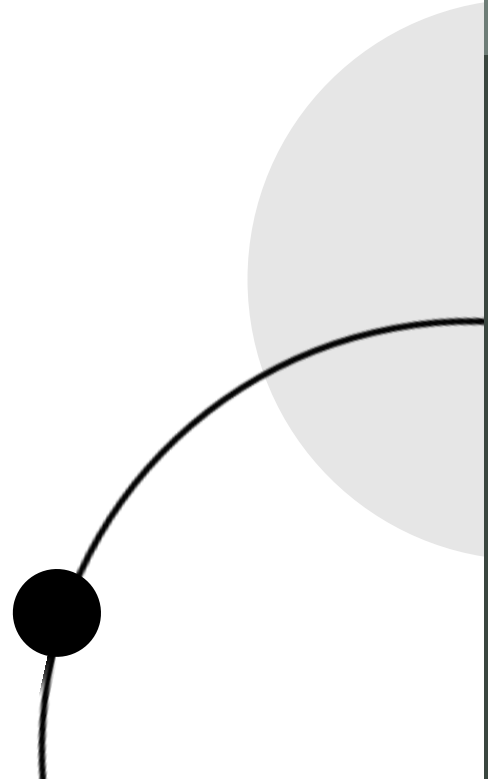


Methods

Variables-Index physical violence

- Assault severity (CTS2)
- Level of injury

Variables-IPV recidivism

- Any post index IPV
 - Post index severity (CTS2)
 - Post index CLCH score
- 

Analytical Plan

Jealousy
Psychological Abuse
Stalking
Suicide Threats



Controlling
Activities
IPV Denial
IPV Attitudes

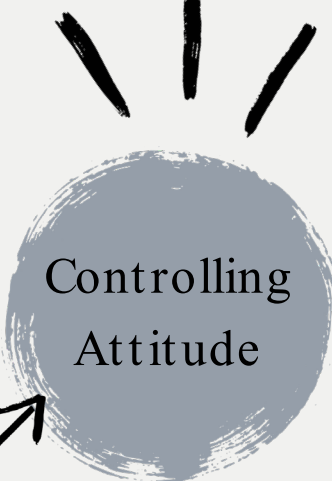
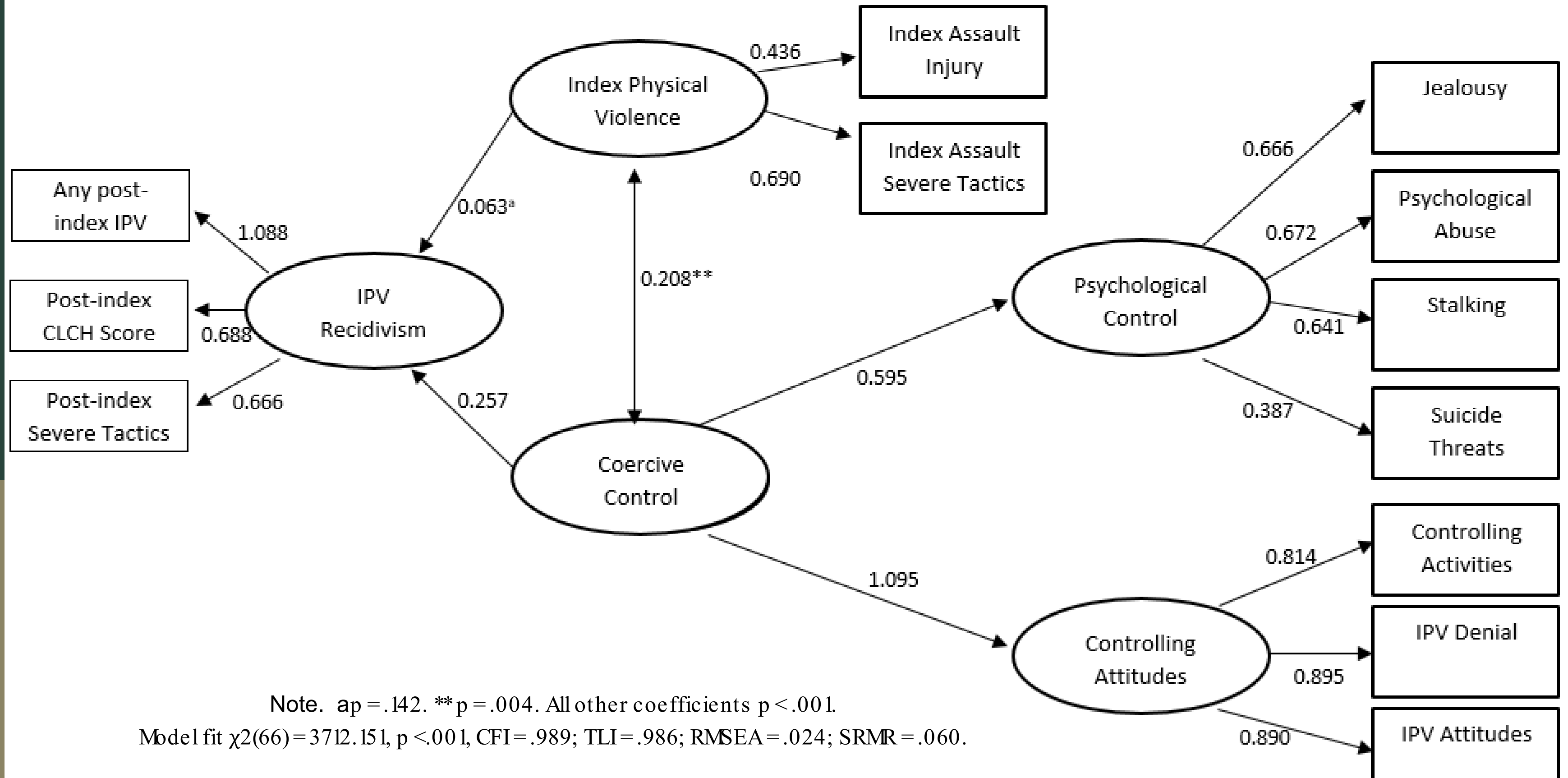


Figure 1

Full Structural Equation Model Showing Direct Paths of Psychological Control and Controlling Attitudes on Coercive Control, and Direct Paths of Index Physical Violence and Coercive Control on IPV Recidivism



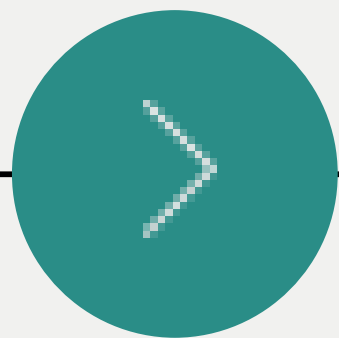
Conclusion/ future studies

- Coercive control is a distinctive concept comprising a variety of behaviors and attitudes (e.g., psychological control and controlling attitude).
- Coercive control is an important component for the assessment of physical assault risk in IPV and should be documented during police domestic dispute investigations.
- Research with more comprehensive measures of coercive control and IPV is recommended, using multiple data sources and genderinclusive samples.



Coercive Control in Police Reports

Any Questions?



Thank You!

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<https://celiaproject.squarespace.com/>



Measuring Coercive and Controlling Behaviour from Simulated Police Incident Reports of IPV

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Measuring Coercive Control

- **Coercive control (CC):** A pattern of behavior used to dominate, control, and manipulate an intimate partner
 - Significant impact on victim well-being; associated with IPV risk and severity
- Multiple existing CC measures in the current literature
 - Substantial variability in some respects...
 - E.g., breadth of measure, reliability/validity testing
 - Little variation in other respects...
 - E.g., victim self-report format (~90%), Likert scale format (~95%)

Current Study

Rationale:

- Importance of reliable measurement of CC
- Existing measures not suited for use by third-party (e.g., researchers, LE officers)
- Not known whether CC is measurable at time of police response to an IPV incident

Goal:

- Develop and validate tool to assess for the presence of CC behaviour in police incident reports of IPV incidents
 - Pilot study; for use in larger study regarding evidence-based police risk appraisal for IPV (CELIA)

Phase 1: Measure Development

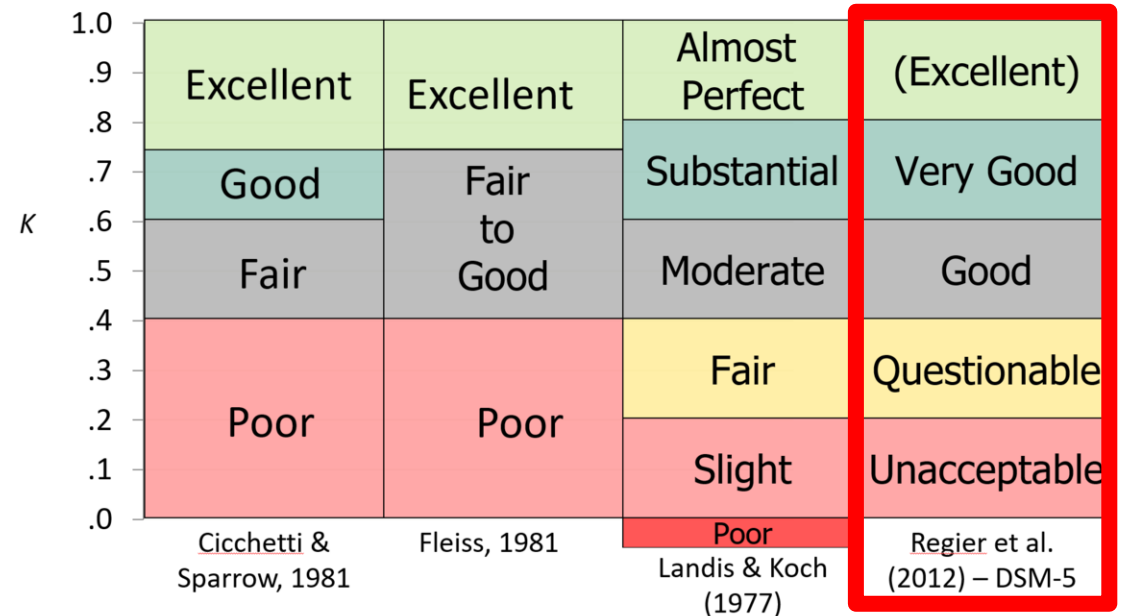
- Identification of existing measures for inclusion/adaptation
 - Literature review of existing measures
 - Selection criteria:
 - Breadth of CC behaviours
 - Established reliability/validity
- Development of current measure
 - Subscales → items → examples
 - First- to third-person language
 - Yes/no response format
 - Instructions

FINAL MEASURES		
	Coercive Behaviour Scale – Revised (CBS-R)	Checklist of Controlling Behaviour (CCB)
Reference	<i>Graham-Kevan & Archer, 2005</i>	<i>Lehmann, Simmons, & Pillai, 2012</i>
No. Items	24	84
Subscales	(1) Economic control (2) Threatening control (3) Intimidating control (4) Emotional control (5) Isolating control	(1) Physical abuse (2) Sexual abuse (3) Emotional abuse (4) Economic abuse (5) Intimidation (6) Use of threats (7) Minimizing/denying (8) Victim blaming (9) Isolation (10) Entitlement/male privilege
Resp. Format	5-point Likert scale (freq.)	5-point Likert scale (freq.)
Cronbach's α	.73-.91	.80 - .94

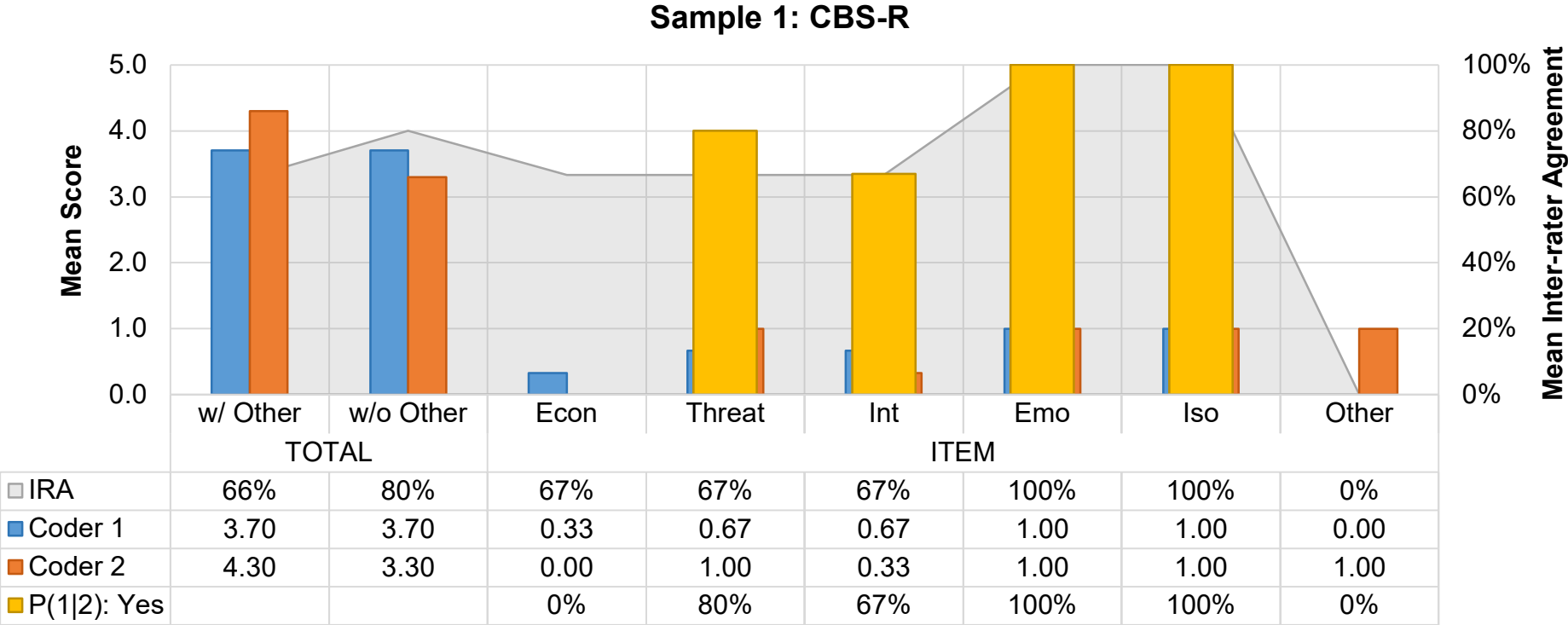
Phase 2: Inter-Rater Reliability Testing

- Sample 1:
 - Simulated police reports (2 coders, 3 cases)
- Sample 2:
 - ODARA 101 police reports (2 coders, 20 cases)
- Data analyses:
 - Total- and item-level score descriptive statistics
 - Inter-rater agreement (IRA)
 - Fleiss' kappa
 - Probability of response agreement between raters
 - Overall level of agreement and item response tendency

Recommendations for interpreting level of inter-rater agreement



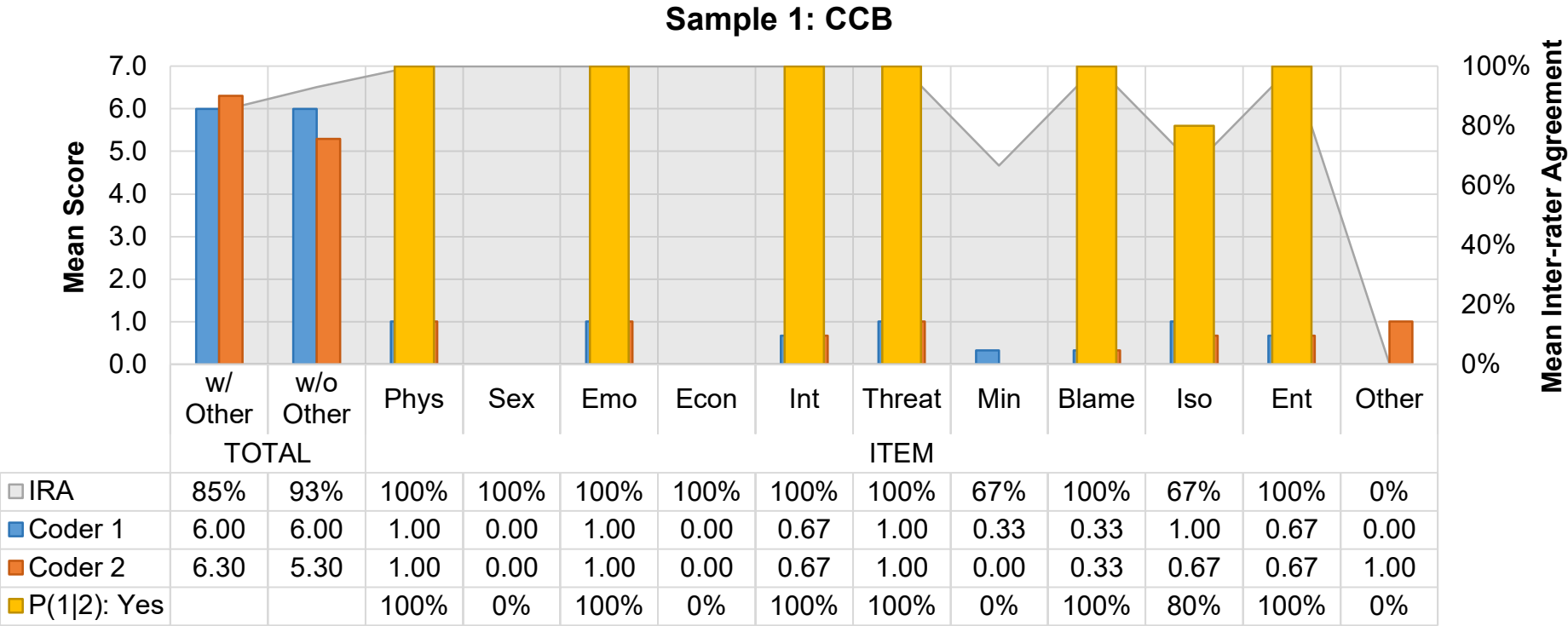
Sample 1: CBS-R



	TOTAL		ITEM					
	w/ Other	w/o Other	Econ	Threat	Int	Emo	Iso	Other
Level of Agree.	3	4	3-4	3-4	3	4	4	0
Resp. Tendency	—	—	No	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	—

0 = unacceptable (.00 - .20)
1 = questionable (.20 - .40)
2 = good (.40 - .60)
3 = very good (.60 - .80)
4 = excellent (.80 - 1.00)

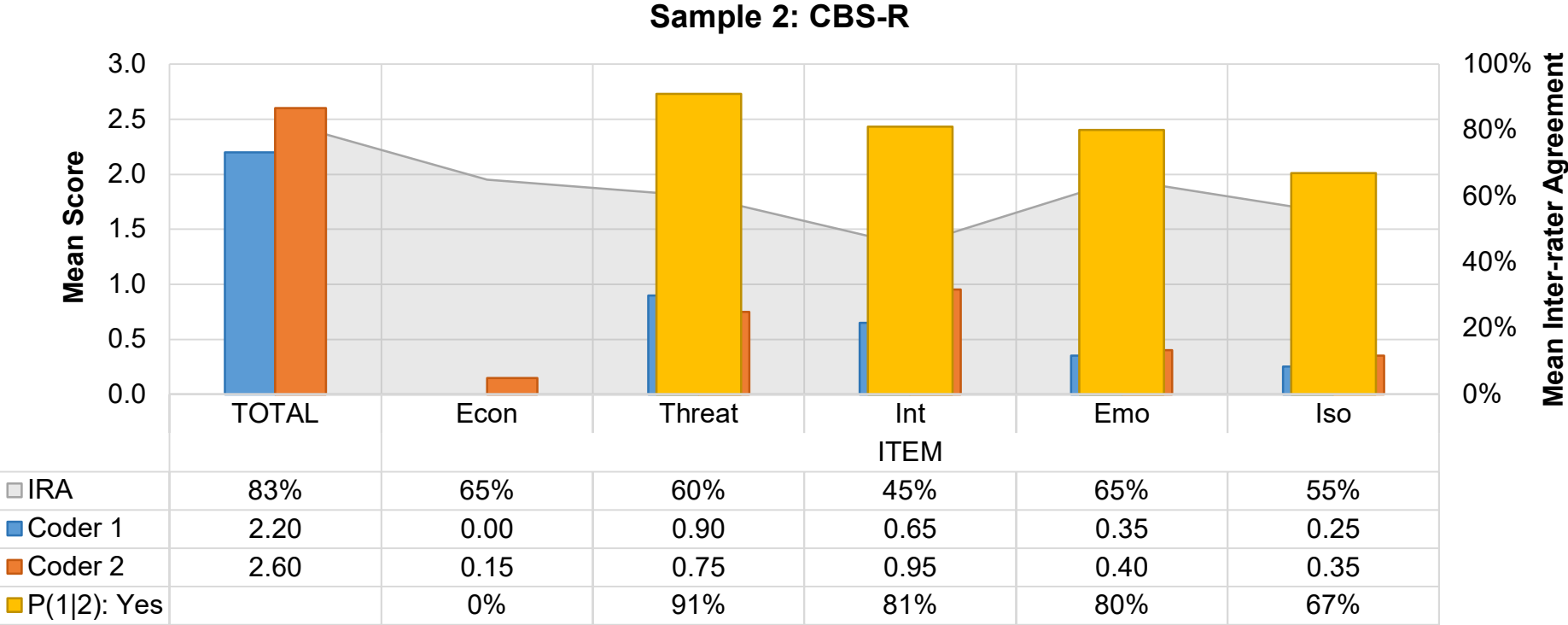
Sample 1: CCB



	TOTAL		ITEM										
	w/ Other	w/o Other	Phys	Sex	Emo	Econ	Int	Threat	Min	Blame	Iso	Ent	Other
Level of Agree.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3-4	4	3-4	4	0
Resp. Tendency	—	—	Yes	No	Yes	No	~Yes	Yes	~No	~No	~Yes	~Yes	—

0 = unacceptable (.00 - .20)
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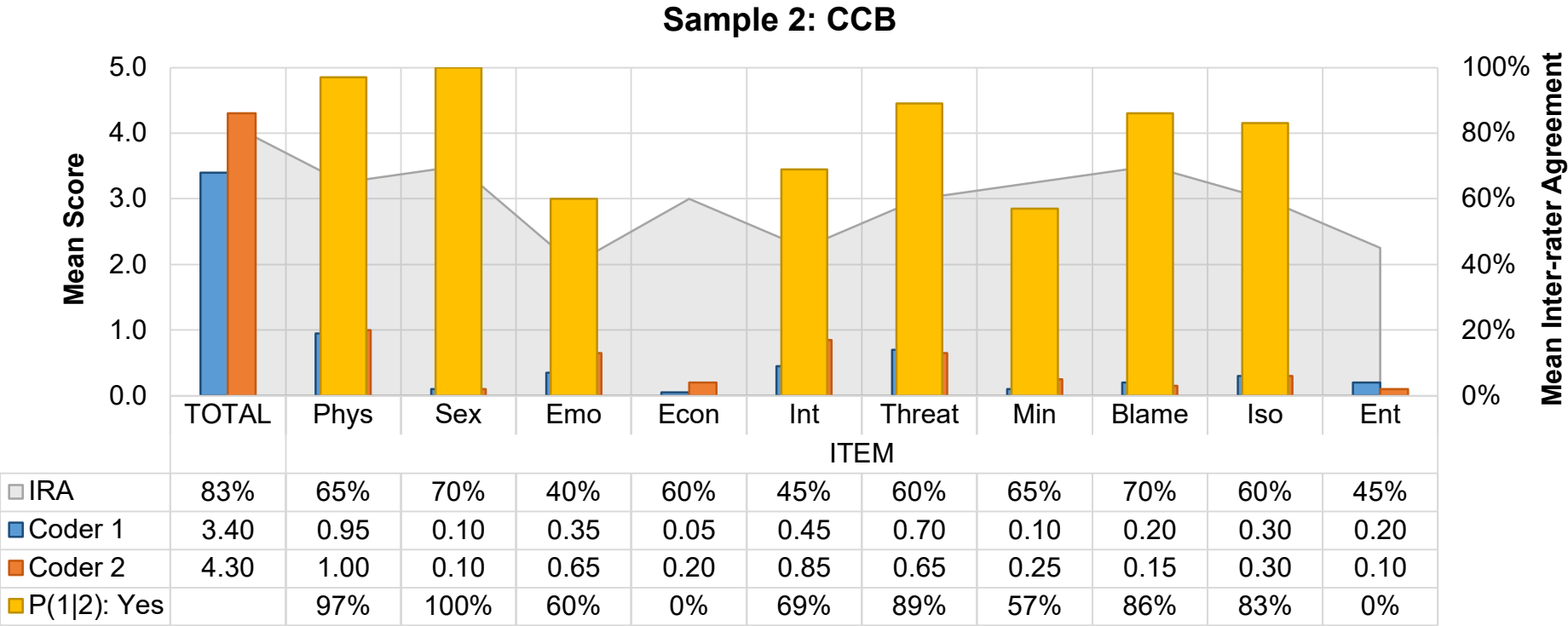
Sample 2: CBS-R



	ITEM					
	TOTAL	Econ	Threat	Int	Emo	Iso
Level of Agree.	4	3-4	3	2	3	3
Resp. Tendency	—	No	Yes	Yes	~No	No

0 = unacceptable (.00 - .20)
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Sample 2: CCB



	ITEM										
	TOTAL	Phys	Sex	Emo	Econ	Int	Threat	Min	Blame	Iso	Ent
Level of Agree.	4	3-4	3-4	2	3-4	2	3	3	3-4	3	2-3
Resp. Tendency	—	Yes	No	—	No	~Yes	~Yes	No	No	No	No

0 = unacceptable (.00 - .20)
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Conclusions

- CBS-R and CCB performed well as third-party measures of CC in (simulated) police reports
 - CCB performed better than CBS-R initially, BUT difference disappeared after “Other” excluded
 - Categorical ID of CC behaviour not as effective, specific behaviours are better (less subjective)
- Some forms of CC are more likely to be identified in (simulated) police reports than others

Present		Agreement		Absent		Agreement	
• Physical abuse*	Very good – Excellent	• Sexual control	Very good – Excellent	• Economic control	Very good – Excellent	• Minimization	Very good – Excellent
• Threatening control	Very good – Excellent	• Victim blaming	Very good – Excellent	• Entitlement	Good – Excellent		
• Intimidating control	Good – Excellent						
• Emotional Control	Good – Excellent						
• Isolating control	Very good – Excellent						

Future Directions & Next Steps

- CELIA Project
 - Combined modified items from BOTH measures into checklist format
 - Code for presence/absence of specific behaviours, not category of behaviour
 - Added items to assess for CC behaviours not captured in included measures
 - E.g., animal cruelty, technological surveillance, counselling suicide
 - Currently in use for data collection!
- Continuing research to better understand how CC may present during LE contact for IPV
 - Incorporation into existing IPV tools used by LE

Thank you for listening!

Questions?



A scoping review of the lived experience, measurement, and policing of coercive control in 2SLGBTQQIA+ relationships

Project team

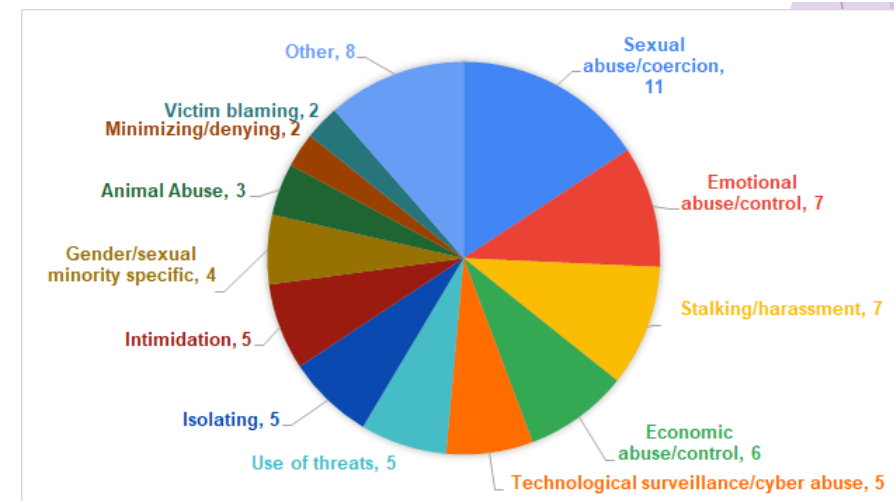
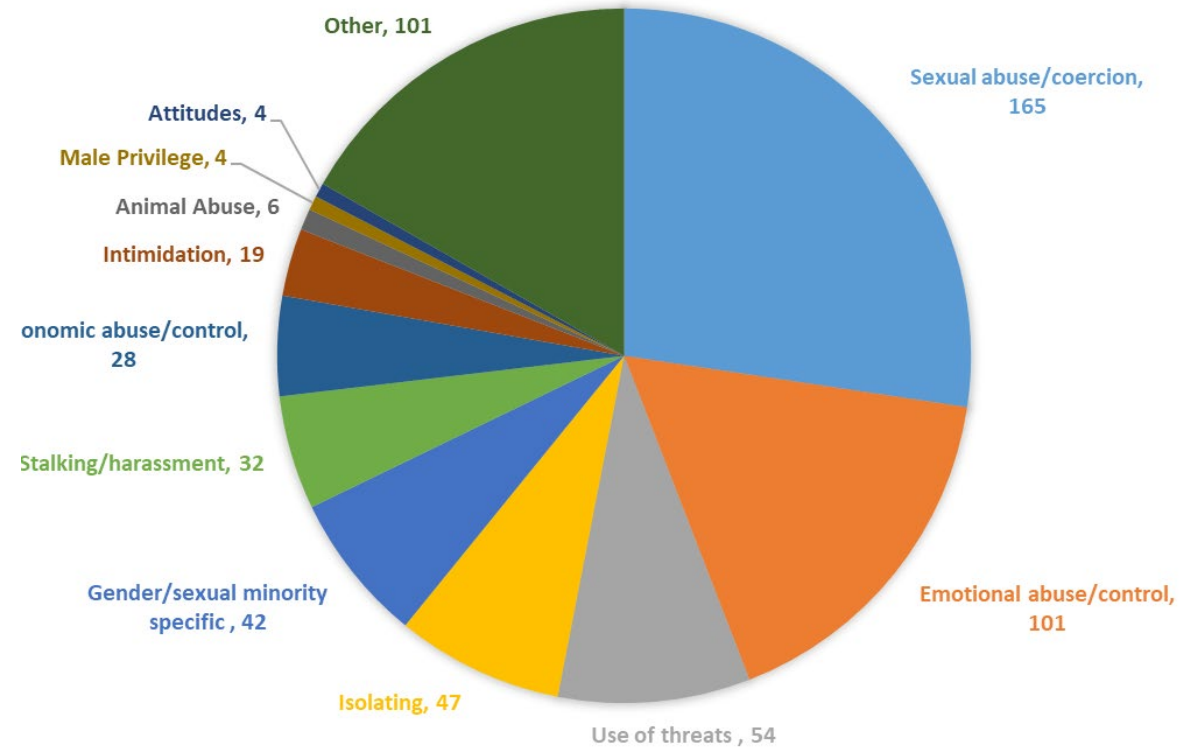
N. Zoe Hilton^{1,2}, Elke Ham², Dana L. Radatz³, Chris M. Smith⁴,
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Coercive Control and “Male Privilege”?

Types of coercive control reported in 2SLGBTQQIA+ relationships

Academic (264) and grey (13) studies





Gender- and sexual-minority specific acts in the context of coercive control

- identity abuse
(e.g., pejorative names, questioning identity)
- threats to “out”
- deliberate misgendering
- deadnaming
- gender belittling
- pressure to de-transition
- controlling hormone use
- being told to “act straight”
- etc.

Policing Context

- ▶ Individuals are reluctant to report to police
 - ▶ But generally have positive experiences with police
- ▶ Dual arrest more likely in same-gender couples (US context)
- ▶ Difficulty distinguishing perpetrator and victim (vignettes)

Protocol, reports, summaries online

<https://celiaproject.squarespace.com/coercive-control-2slgbtqqia>



Coercive Control: Research and Practice Implications



Defining and measuring coercive control



Violence

- Breadth vs precision
- Violence prediction



Effects

- Self-report
- Clinical tools



Documents

- Bill C-332
- Police reports

Implications for clinical practice



Screen for coercive control
Risk factor: IPV and general

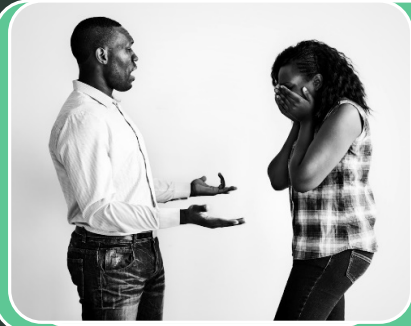


Responsivity: engagement, delivery
Trauma-informed care



Coercion in therapy setting
Therapist training, support

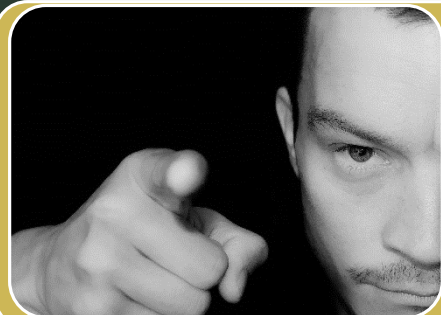
Implications for policing & criminal justice



Recognizing the behaviour
Identifying the aggressor



Acknowledging identities
Using preferred language



Documenting coercive control
Assessing IPV risk



Thank you! Questions?

This project was supported in part by the Social Sciences
and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Find publications, presentations, and more at:

<https://celiaproject.squarespace.com/>

