

# Psychopathy Facets and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Perpetration

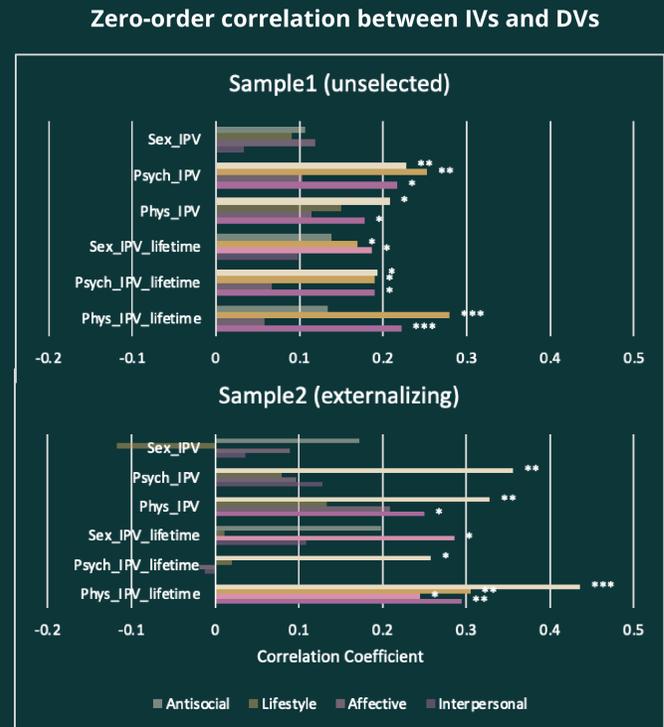
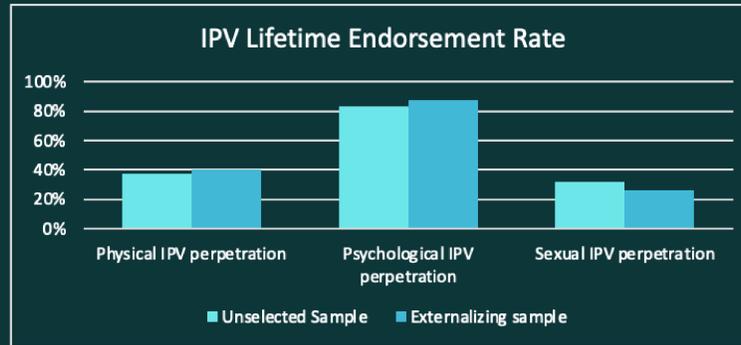
## Introduction

We identified 3 key research gaps in the IPV-psychopathy research field:

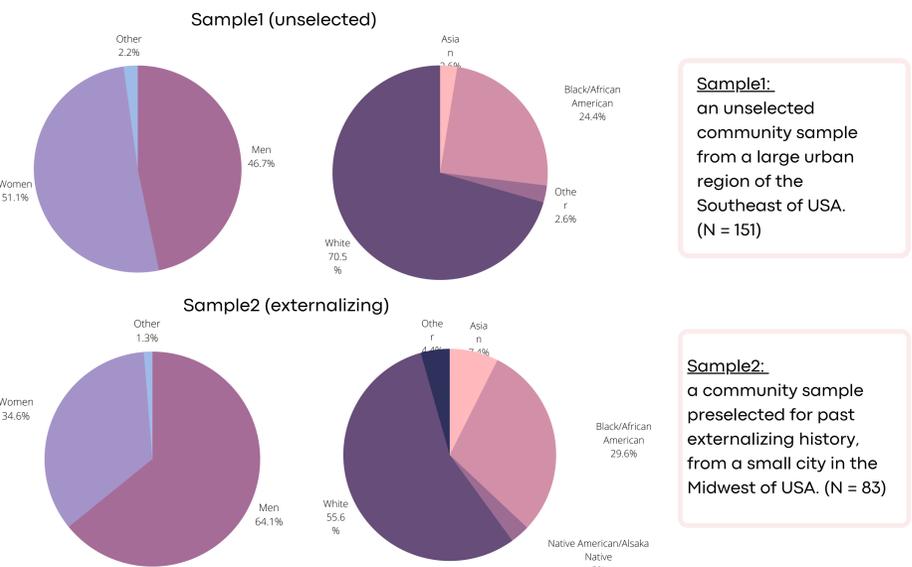
- IPV-psychopathy research has focused on overall or factor-level psychopathy (the 2 factors: interpersonal-affective and lifestyle-antisocial factors)
  - results are largely inconsistent regarding which factors correlate to IPV perpetration
- This field also has not compared various types of IPV and their differential correlations with psychopathy.
- The psychopathy-related studies in the IPV field often rely on incarcerated or domestic violence offender populations while we know IPV is present in the general community.

Thus, this research project analyzes how the more nuanced psychopathy elements--interpersonal, affective, lifestyle, and antisocial facets--correlate with 3 types of IPV, physical, psychological and sexual IPV perpetration, in two community samples (one unselected and one pre-screened for past externalizing behaviors).

**Authors:** Haomin Chen (Ivy): chen119@usf.edu, Dr. Edelyn Verona: everona@usf.edu  
**Affiliation:** University of South Florida  
 Online registration: [https://osf.io/c2kab/?view\\_only=e526543fb54c40d99b19efa3f2d81138](https://osf.io/c2kab/?view_only=e526543fb54c40d99b19efa3f2d81138)



## Methods



**Sample1:** an unselected community sample from a large urban region of the Southeast of USA. (N = 151)

**Sample2:** a community sample preselected for past externalizing history, from a small city in the Midwest of USA. (N = 83)

## Measures

- **Conflict Tactics Scale 2**
  - 78-item scale that measures physical, psychological, and sexual violence between romantic partners in the past year and in the lifetime. It measures both perpetration and victimization.
  - 8 frequency responses from 0 = "this has never happened" to 7 = "more than 20 times in the past year."
- **Self-Report Psychopathy Scale III**
  - 64-item scale that assesses respondent's psychopathy traits using 5-point Likert system (ranges from "disagree strongly" to "agree strongly").
  - The four sub-scales--interpersonal manipulation, callous affect, erratic lifestyle, and antisocial behavior--correspond to interpersonal, affective, lifestyle and antisocial facets respectively.

## Hypotheses:

- Physical IPV perpetration would correlate positively w/ antisocial and lifestyle facets
- Psychological IPV perpetration would correlate with interpersonal, affective and antisocial facets
- Sexual IPV perpetration would correlate with interpersonal facet

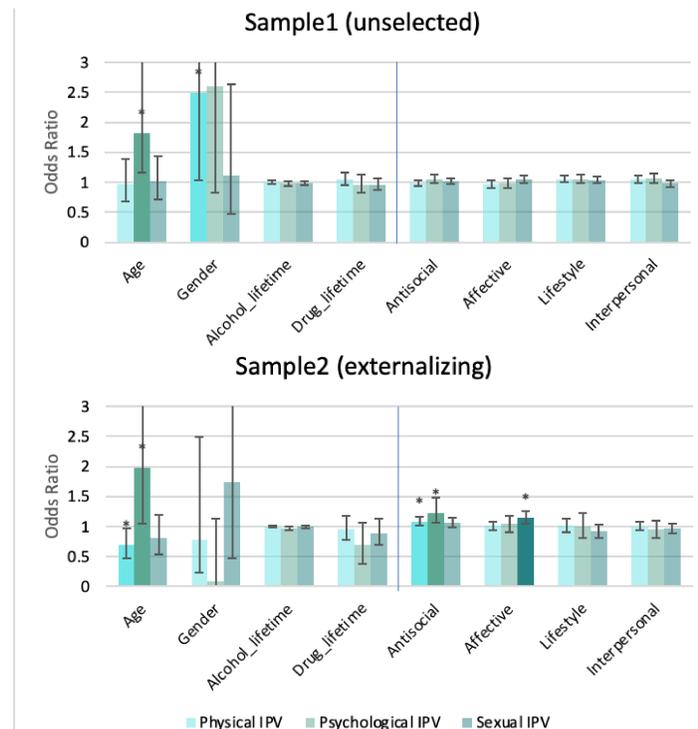
## Total variance explained by psychopathy in addition to the covariates

	Sample1	Sample2
Physical IPV lifetime	.041	.106
Psychological IPV lifetime	.100	.217
Sexual IPV lifetime	.036	.149

## Analysis 1: Logistic regression

How do psychopathy facets relate to whether a person has ever committed the various types of IPV?

- DV (3): physical, psychological, sexual IPV perpetration across lifetime (yes/no)
- IV (4): antisocial, affective, lifestyle, interpersonal psychopathy facets
- Covariates (4): age, gender, # of alcoholic drinks/month averaged across lifetime (termed "alcohol\_lifetime"), drug use frequency/month averaged across lifetime (termed "drug\_lifetime")



## Findings & Conclusions

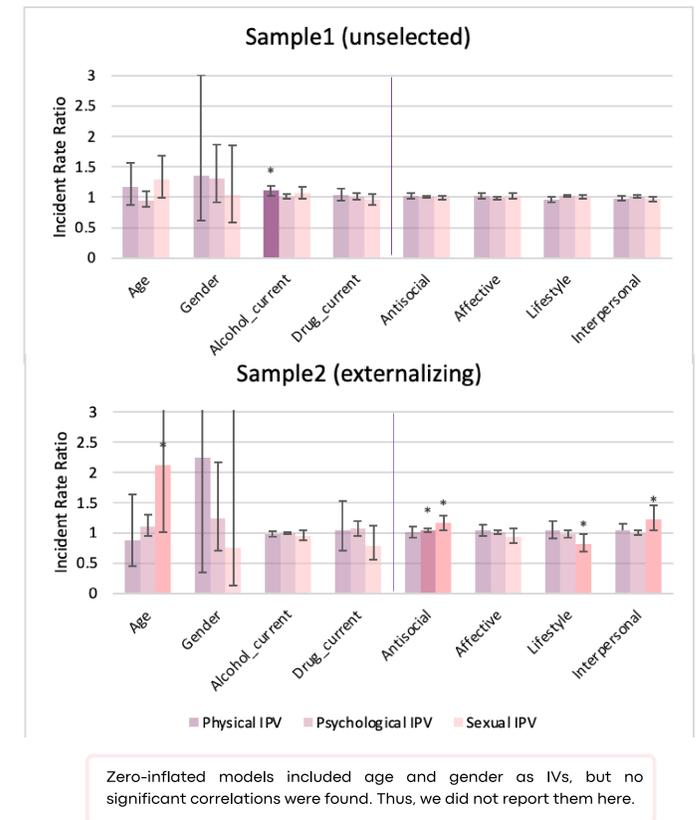
• Contrary to our hypotheses, we did not find specificity in relationships between certain psychopathy facets and types of IPV perpetration. According to zero-order correlations, the antisocial facet showed medium-sized, positive relationships with various forms of IPV, with stronger effects in the externalizing sample. The other facets also showed relationships with different forms of IPV, although effect sizes were smaller.

• There was evidence of some consistency in results across the two samples. According to regression models, variance unique to the antisocial facet was related to psychological and physical IPV across samples, and the unique variance in the affective facet was related to physical IPV. However, the externalizing sample but not the unselected sample showed unique relationships between the antisocial, lifestyle (negative correlation) and interpersonal facets with sexual IPV, at medium effect sizes.

## Analysis 2: Zero-inflated negative binomial

How do psychopathy facets relate to the frequency of various types of IPV perpetration in the last 12 months?

- DV (3): physical, psychological, sexual IPV perpetration in past year (frequency count)
- IV and covariates stay the same, except drug and alcohol use averaged across the past 12 months.



• The correlations were generally smaller in the regressions relative to the zero-order correlations. This suggests that the common variance shared by the facets (e.g., antagonism) explains variance in IPV perpetration. The average odds ratios in regressions were close to 1 (no effect) in both samples (i.e., 1.01 vs. 1.03 in unselected and externalizing samples, respectively).

• Nonetheless, psychopathy facets accounted for a decent amount of variance across samples, with 10.6-21.7% of variance in IPV variables explained by psychopathy in the externalizing sample - versus 3.6-10.0% of variance in the unselected sample. Larger variance explained by psychopathy facets in the externalizing sample can partly be due to the greater representation of higher scorers on the psychopathy facets in the externalizing relative to the unselected sample.
 

- Another possible explanation is the higher endorsement of the severe perpetration items in the externalizing vs. unselected sample.