

Protective Factors Against Intimate Partner Violence Among American Indian and Alaska Native Mothers

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Study Rationale and Significance

WHY EXAMINE PROTECTIVE FACTORS AGAINST INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AMONG AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN?

- Studies indicate that American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) women report higher rates of victimization than women from any other ethnic or racial background.
- Previous research has primarily focused on identifying risk factors.
- Less knowledge exists about protective factors, specifically among this population.
- Of particular interest, was the examination of cultural identity and familial ties.
- This knowledge could be central to the development of strategies and policies that assist tribes in strengthening their

Purpose of the Study

- Examine whether IPV rates will be lower among AI/AN mothers who report a strong attachment to their culture; and
- Examine whether mothers who identify having strong family relationships report lower rates of IPV as opposed to those who do not.



Conceptual and Theoretical Frameworks

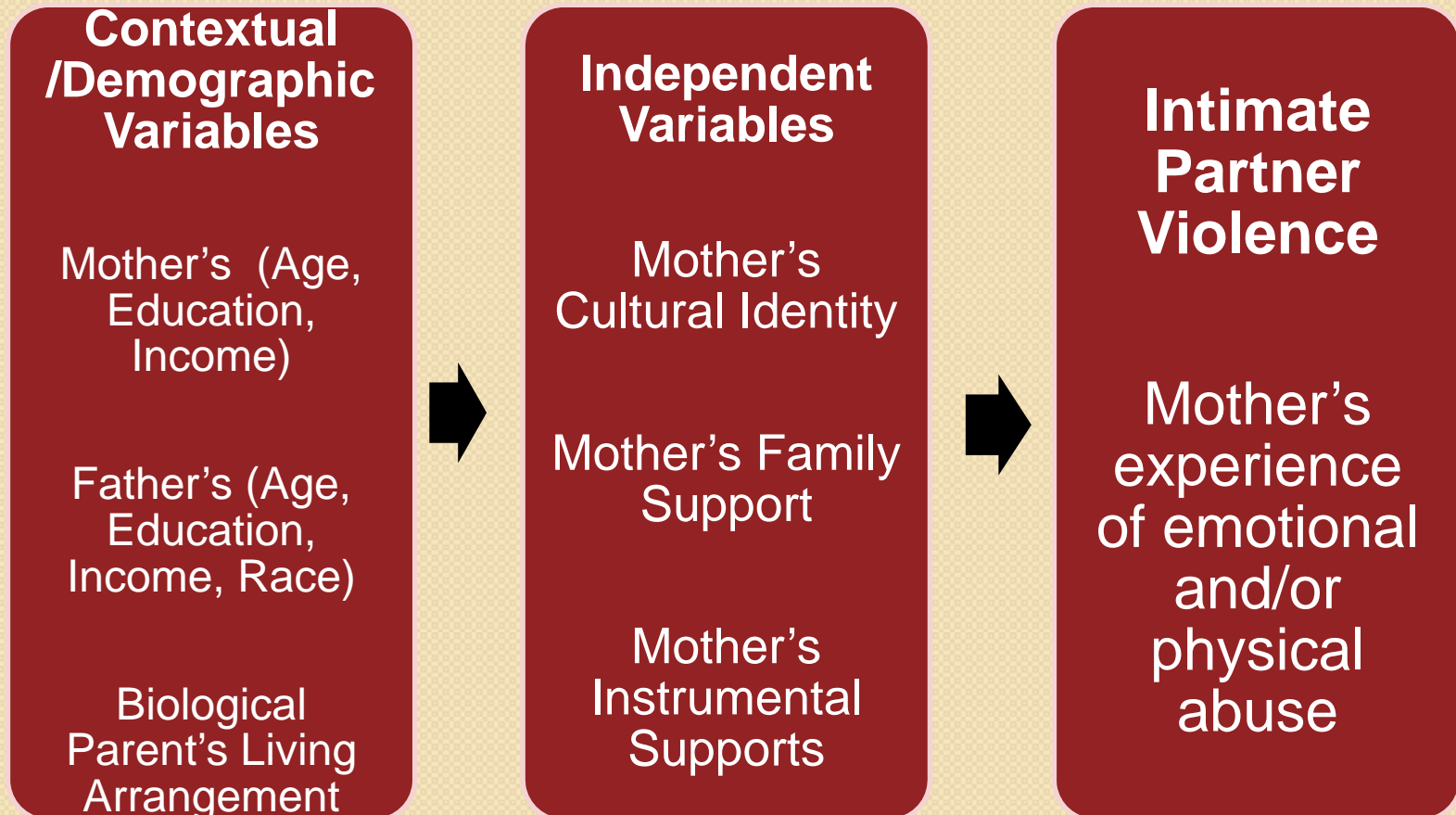
- Historical Trauma
- Cultural Identity

Data Source and Sample

- Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing (FFCW) Study Baseline and Year 1 data.
- Mothers who self-identified as “American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut” were included (n=154).

Research Design

VARIABLES



Method/Analysis

- Analysis was undertaken using SPSS
- Descriptive statistics were used to analyze all variables for appropriate ranges, standard deviations and measures of central tendency
- T-tests, analysis of variance (ANOVA), and correlations were employed to explore bivariate relationships
- Based on bivariate results, significant variables ($p < .05$) were used in separate hierarchical logistic regression models to analyze the association between the potential protective factors and IPV, controlling for the contextual

Sample Characteristics

Nearly 80% reported cohabitating with the father

Mothers

- Age range (15-43)
- 58.4% between 19-24
- 71.3% < HS education (23% < 8th grade)
- 15% reported earning no income in last year
- 33.1% reported earning < 10,000 in the past year

76.6 % were reported to be AI and/or AN by the mothers

Fathers

- Age range (17-46)
- 41% between 19-24
- 60.4% < HS education (26.4% < 8th grade)
- 19% reported earning < 10,000 in the past year

Sample Characteristics, cont'd.

- Nearly 80% of mothers and fathers reported an attachment to their race/ethnicity and engaging in cultural activities.
- Roughly two-thirds reported living with their biological parents at age 15.
- Nearly a quarter reported having at least one grandparent residing with them.
- Mothers reported high levels of informal support with nearly three quarters reporting “yes” to all three items.

Intercorrelations of Contextual and Independent Variables

- Older mothers were more likely to indicate receiving instrumental supports ($r = .318, p < .01$).
- For mothers and fathers, a stronger attachment to one's race was associated with greater participation in cultural activities, $r = .45$ ($p < .01$) and $r = .48$ ($p < .01$) respectively.
- For mother and baby's father, living with their biological parents at age 15 indicated a positive association with the level of their biological fathers' involvement in their lives. For mothers it was a moderate association ($r = .46, p < .01$) and a much stronger association for father's ($r = .61, p < .01$).
- Living arrangement was highly correlated with relationship status ($r = .84, p < .01$).

Intercorrelations of Contextual, Independent and Dependent Variables

Variables	Total Abuse Score
Race	.071
Age (mother)	.112
Education (mother)	.088
Living Arrangement	-.285**
Attachment to Race (father)	.005
Participate in Cultural Activities (father)	-.051
Living with bio-parents (father)	-.047
Bio-father involved in life (father)	.052
Attachment to Race (mother)	-.035
Participate in Cultural Activities (mother)	.032
Living with bio-parents (mother)	.119
Bio-father involved in life (mother)	.120
Instrumental Supports – total score (mother)	.123
Relationship Status	-.383**

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	B	β	B	β	B	β
Step 1- Contextual Variables						
Mother's Age	.331	.074	.342	.076	.713	.159
Education	.259	.055	.256	.076	.105	.023
Living Arrangement	.672	.121	.644	.116	.762	.137
Difference in Race	.010	.002	-.033	-.006	-.028	-.005
Relationship Status	-3.193	-.515***	-3.170	-.511***	-3.242	-.523***
Step 2 – Cultural Identity						
Attachment to Race			-.294	-.068	-.187	-.043
Participates in Cultural Activities			.101	.023	.104	.024
Step 3- Family Support						
Living w/bio-parents @15					.256	.058
Bio-father involved growing up					.251	.087
Total Instrumental Support					.501	.199*
TOTAL R²	.195		.199		.248	

Limitations

- FFCW Study does not specifically focus on the research questions identified in this study;
- Results cannot be generalized across the diversity of AI and AN people;
- Notable limitations to IPV measures (self-report and how defined);
- Construction of Cultural Identity and Familial Support measures.



Implications

- Major findings were that: (1) no longer having a relationship with the biological father reduced exposure to IPV and (2) the presence of instrumental supports lowered the risk of IPV to mothers.
- Level of education and income findings are a stark reminder of the disproportionate way in which AI/ANs continue to fare in this country.
- Cultural identity findings suggest interactions and interventions might be framed within a cultural context to be more meaningful for the individuals.
- Given the finding that nearly a quarter of respondents indicated living with a grandparent, incorporating elder's knowledge and wisdom might empower the tribal family.

Are there any questions?

◦ *Thank You!*

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