

The effects of childhood exposure to violence on experiences of IPV in adolescence and young adulthood: a cohort study in Uganda

Daniel J Carter

Raising Voices, UCL, MRC, LSHTM

Amiya Bhatia, Elizabeth Allen, Louise Knight, Anja Zinke-Allmang, Janet Nakuti, Angel Mirembe, Aggrey Akim, Lydia Atuhaire, Helen A Weiss, Janet Seeley, Simone Datzberger, Sophie Namy, Tvisha Nevatia, Jenny Parkes, Dipak Naker, Karen Devries

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Overview of Presentation

Introduction to CoVAC

Research Questions

Methods

Results

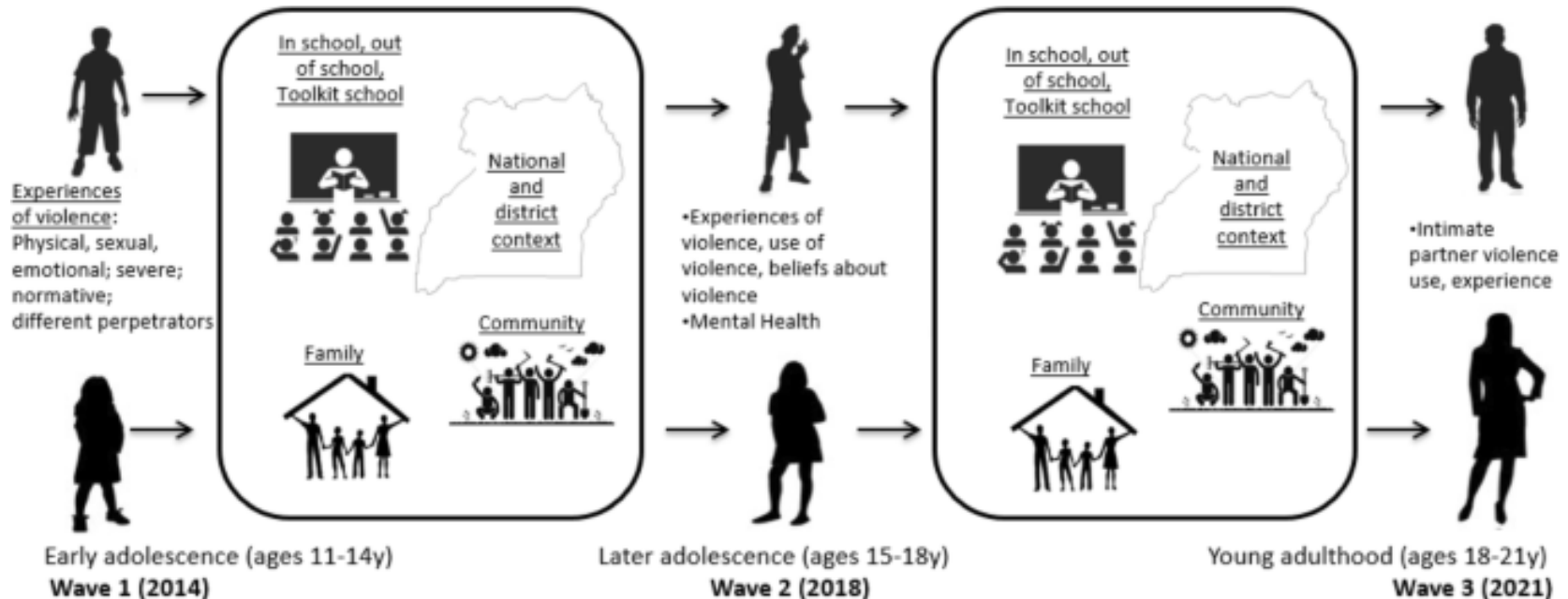
Implications

CoVAC cohort study

Contexts of Violence in Adolescence Cohort Study

Young people from 42 primary schools in Luwero District, Uganda

Interviews done in person (first two waves) and in person or on the phone (third wave)



Research Questions

Quantify the effect of distinct patterns of experiencing violence in childhood on IPV amongst ever partnered:

1. in adolescence
2. in young adulthood
3. in young adulthood independent of adolescence

Aiming for causal risk difference and causal risk ratio:

What is the difference in IPV in a world where everybody experiences no or low violence?

Methods: Exposure

Latent class analysis:

- Look at the underlying item-responses for experiences of violence to identify underlying distinct typologies

59 items measured across perpetration from teachers, caregivers, other adults, peers, & intimate partners

A range of items capturing experiences of emotional (10 items), physical (30 items) and sexual (19 items) adapted from ICAST-CI

Measured at about age 13, collected in 2014

Methods: Outcome

Past year:

- Women: experience of IPV (emotional, physical, sexual)
- Men: perpetration of IPV (emotional, physical)

At two timepoints:

- Adolescence (measured about age 17, collected 2018)
- Young adulthood (measured about age 21, collected 2022)

Adapted from ICAST-CI and WHO Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women Questionnaires

Marginal structural models with IPTW:

- upweight people who are underrepresented
- downweight people who are overrepresented
- confounders balanced in exposure classes
- analyse and interpret like an RCT

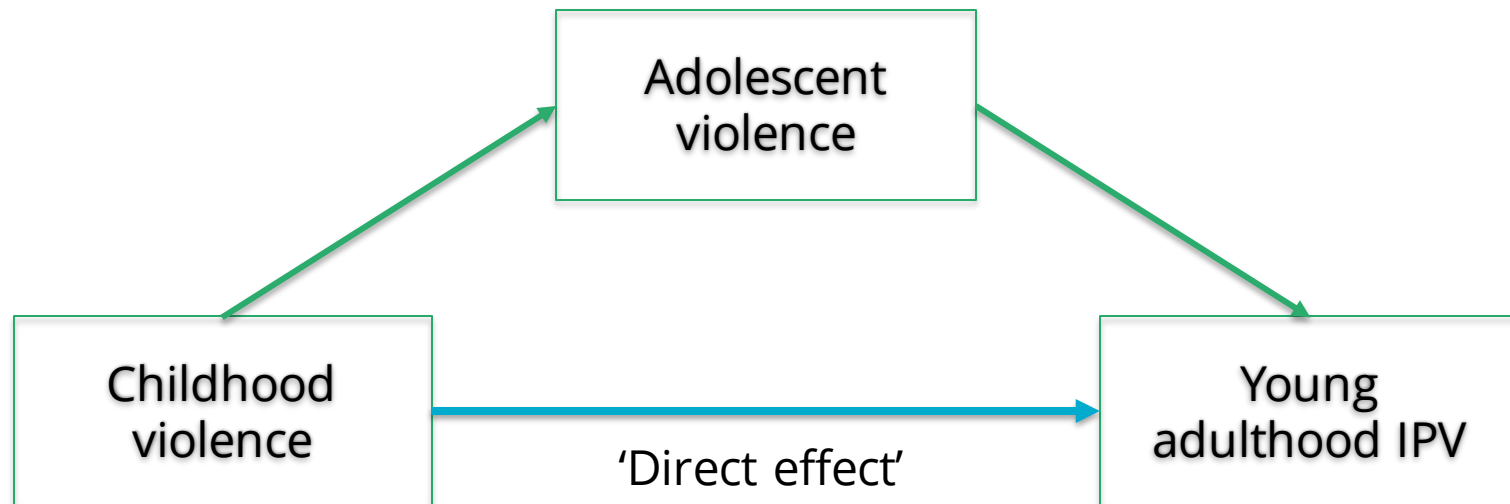
Population average estimates:

- In a world where everybody is in a particular violence class, how much IPV do we expect to occur compared to if everybody were in the lower violence class?

Methods: Mediation

Mediation analysis extends this idea:

- What happens to the difference in IPV risk if no young person experienced violence in adolescence?



Results: Sample

Childhood (~ 13 years):

- Sample size: 3431 – 54.0% girls
- Ever relationship: 4.6%

Adolescence (~ 17 years):

- Sample size: 1496 – 52.1% young women
- Ever relationship: 54.4%
- In school: 55.0%
- Ever had paid work: 43.8%

Young adulthood (~ 21 years):

- Sample size: 1966 – 49.8% women
- Ever relationship: 86.0%

Results: Exposure

Overall prevalence of childhood violence was 89.7%, mostly teacher (85.5%) and peer (50.2%), but also caregivers (18.0%) – low IPV (2.5% of 4.6% partnered)

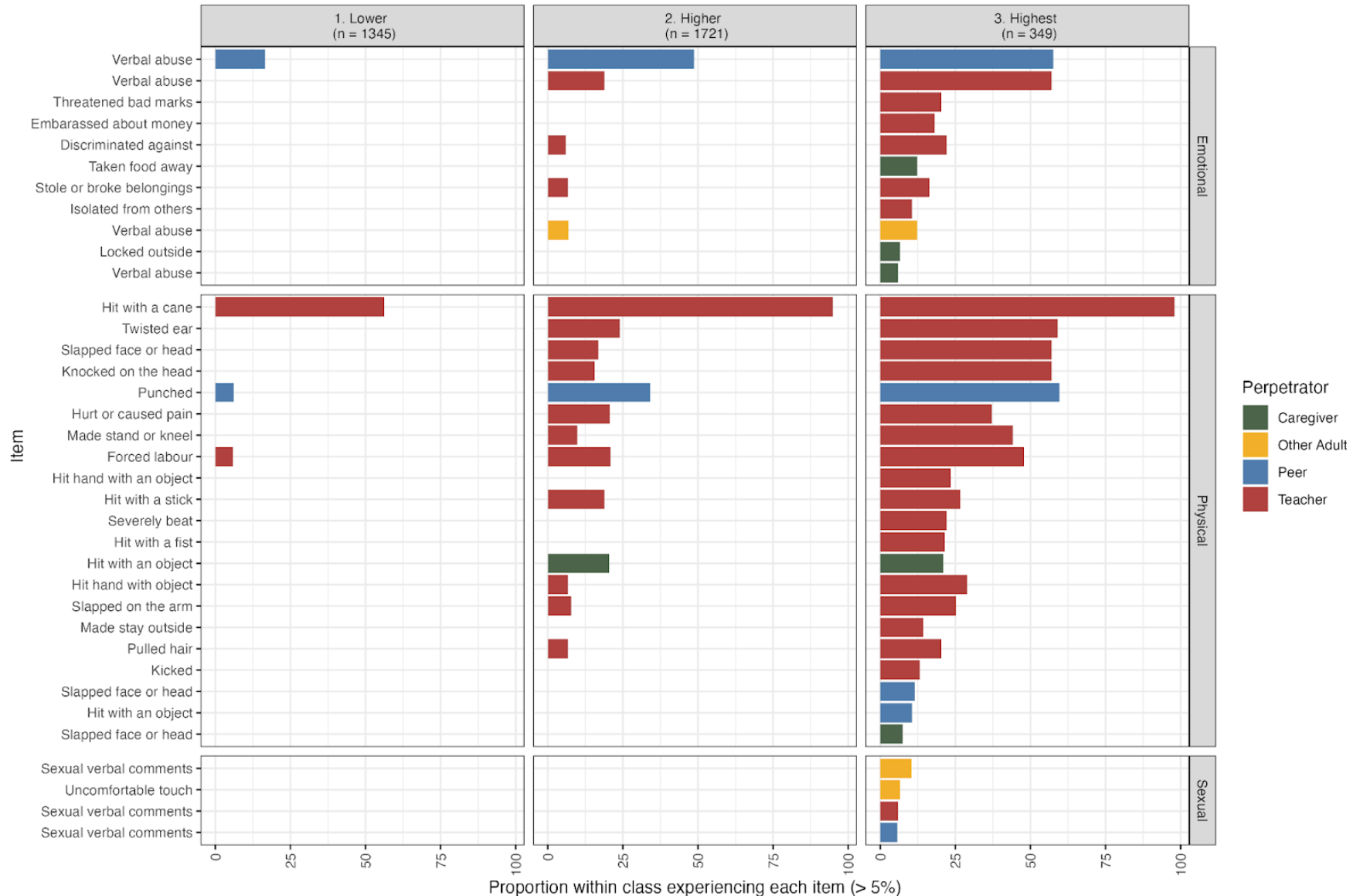
Latent classes:

- Lower (1.1 items): n = 1345, 39.4% of sample
 - 72.5% experienced at least one form of violence
- Higher (4.3 items): n = 1721, 50.4% of sample
- Highest (10.1 items): n = 349, 10.2% of sample

In higher classes:

- more disability, fewer meals, lower connectedness, higher alcohol use, more work, more emotional difficulties

Results: Exposure



Results: Exposure & Outcome

Clear gradient in prevalence of IPV victimization & perpetration moving between classes before weighting

| Victimisation | Overall | 'Lower' | 'Higher' | 'Highest' |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Adolescence | 53.1% | 48.2% | 53.0% | 69.9% |
| Young Adulthood | 34.9% | 29.0% | 36.9% | 47.4% |
| Perpetration | Overall | 'Lower' | 'Higher' | 'Highest' |
| Adolescence | 18.8% | 16.3% | 18.9% | 24.7% |
| Young Adulthood | 19.2% | 17.8% | 19.5% | 22.1% |

Results: Headline – Adolescence

- 5% more experiencing IPV if all in 'Higher' exposure class
- 14% more experiencing IPV if all in 'Highest' exposure class
- 11% more perpetrating IPV if all in 'Highest' exposure class

| Any past year IPV victimization (women) – after weighting | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Violence class | Risk difference | Risk ratio |
| Lower | 48.4% (41.3%, 55.4%) | 1.00 (ref) |
| Higher | 4.5% (-4.2%, 13.1%) | 1.09 (0.92, 1.30) |
| Highest | 13.9% (-3.4%, 31.2%) | 1.29 (0.96, 1.72) |

| Any past year IPV perpetration (men) – after weighting | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| Violence class | Risk difference | Risk ratio |
| Lower | 17.5% (11.8%, 23.2%) | 1.00 (ref) |
| Higher | 1.10% (-5.8%, 8.0%) | 1.06 (0.72, 1.57) |
| Highest | 10.8% (-3.6%, 25.1%) | 1.61 (0.91, 2.85) |

Results: Headline – Young Adulthood

6% more experiencing IPV if all in 'Higher' exposure class
15% more experiencing IPV if all in 'Highest' exposure class
Similar impacts to adolescence for experience of IPV

Any past year IPV victimization – after weighting

| Violence class | Risk difference | Risk ratio | Direct effect |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lower | 30.3% (24.8%, 35.7%) | 1.00 (ref) | 1.00 |
| Higher | 6.2% (-0.6%, 13.1%) | 1.21 (0.97, 1.49) | 1.25 (1.01, 1.67) |
| Highest | 14.5% (-1.9%, 30.9%) | 1.48 (1.00, 2.18) | 1.54 (0.72, 2.47) |

Any past year IPV perpetration – after weighting

| Violence class | Risk difference | Risk ratio | Direct effect |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lower | 17.8% (13.2%, 22.3%) | 1.00 (ref) | 1.00 (ref) |
| Higher | 1.4% (-4.3%, 7.1%) | 1.08 (0.79, 1.48) | 0.87 (0.61, 1.31) |
| Highest | 4.6% (-8.2%, 17.3%) | 1.26 (0.69, 2.27) | 0.88 (0.32, 1.80) |

Discussion: Results Summary

Different VAC profiles:

- Large group who experience 'common' acts of violence, with a small but significant group experiencing violence across multiple domains

IPV outcomes:

- VAC affects experiences of IPV up to 10 years later
- VAC affects experiences of IPV in young adults independent of what happens in adolescence
- VAC affects IPV perpetration in adolescence but longer term effects less clear
- Even common acts of violence have these impacts

Discussion: Implications

Preventing violence against children is preventing violence against women

1. Preventing even common acts of violence in childhood can impact later life IPV outcomes
2. Schools are an important locus of intervention but some individuals experience violence across domains
3. Suggestion for both targeted and universal interventions to address distinct patterns of violence

More than just shared risk factors
More than just co-occurrence