

# IPV, Mental Health, and Food Insecurity

**Alaska Maternal Child Health &  
Immunization Conference**

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# Intimate Partner Violence in Alaska

- Serious public health issue
- Most recent NISVS estimates on IPV
  - 46% of Alaska native women, and 45% of Alaska native men have experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in lifetime
- Most recent UCR estimates on Rape and Sexual Assault
  - Alaska reported rape rate increased 13% from 2012-2013
  - 8.8 forcible rapes per 10,000 residents
  - Highest rates in the Nation
- However, very little research on this particular group of victims

# IPV and Food Insecurity

- Food security is defined as “consistent, dependable access to enough food for active, healthy living.” (US Dept of Agriculture)
  - 14% of households were “food insecure” at some point during 2014.
- Far reaching consequences
- Limited research on relationship between IPV and food insecurity
  - Preliminary evidence suggests IPV victimization impacts food insecurity
  - Even less research across racial/ethnic groups
  - Notably missing from this research are American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals

# Mental Health Outcomes of IPV and Food Insecurity

- In particular, food insecurity is associated with adverse mental health problems.
  - Especially among women
  - Higher rates of anxiety and depression
- Consistent relationship between IPV victimization and adverse mental health
  - Depression most common
- Disparate mental health outcomes for particular racial/ethnic groups, who are victims of IPV
  - Only 1 study that researched the specific impacts of the AI/AN population

# Gaps in Research and Understanding

- While IPV and food insecurity are related, serious lack of research on the differential relationship across racial/ethnic groups.
- How mental health interacts with these key variables is unclear.
- No research on food insecurity among the AI/AN population.

# Purpose of the Current Research

- Extend prior research on IPV and food insecurity by:
  - 1) including mental health
  - 2) including AI/AN as a comparison
- Why is this important?
- Research Question: What is the relationship between IPV victimization and food insecurity, and how does mental health interact with this relationship?

# Data and Measures

- **Alaska Victimization Survey**
  - 2015 Statewide Survey
  - 2,905 adult women throughout AK in Fall of 2015
    - 2,507 adult women included in this analysis
- **Measures**
  - Dependent variable: Food insecurity
    - Never and At some point food insecure in last 12 months
  - Independent variables: Physical violence victimization and Psychological aggression victimization
    - Yes or No lifetime but not last 12 months victimization
  - Interaction Effect variable: Mental Health
    - Excellent/very good/good and poor/fair mental health
  - Demographic variables: Race and Education
- **Analysis: Logistic Regression models including an interaction effect**

# Sample Characteristics of Main Variables

	Percentage (%) Weighted	Frequency (N)
Food Insecurity		3021
At some point	46.4	
Never	53.6	
Physical Violence Victimization		2855
Yes	37.8	
No	62.2	
Psychological Aggression Victimization		2686
Yes	45.2	
No	54.8	
Mental Health		3016
Fair/Poor	12.9	
Excellent/Very Good/Good	87.1	



# Sample Characteristics of Demographic Variables

	Percentage (%) Weighted	Frequency (N)
Race		2806
American Indian/Alaska Native	18.1	
Caucasian	81.9	
Education		3017
High school or lower	27.0	
Some college	57.0	
Post graduate	16.0	

# Food Insecurity Correlated with IPV Victimization

	Odds Ratio	Standard Errors
<u>Model 1</u>		
Physical Violence	2.11***	0.28
Race	1.87*	0.36
Education	0.50***	0.05
<u>Model 2</u>		
Psychological Aggression	2.31***	0.32
Race	1.88**	0.38
Education	0.45***	0.05

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

# Interaction of Mental Health and IPV on Food Insecurity for Physical Violence Victimization

	Odds Ratio	Standard Error
<u>Model 1</u>		
<b>Physical Violence X Mental Health</b>		
No Victimization & Good Health	Reference	Reference
No Victimization & Fair/Poor Health	3.39***	1.10
Victim & Good Health	2.01***	0.29
Victim & Fair Poor Health	<b>6.52***</b>	2.15
Race	1.90**	0.37
Education	0.53***	0.06

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

# Interaction of Mental Health and IPV on Food Insecurity for Psychological Aggression Victimization

	Odds Ratio	Standard Error
<u>Model 2</u>		
<b>Psychological Aggression X Mental Health</b>		
No Victimization & Good Health	Reference	Reference
No Victimization & Fair/Poor Health	4.50***	2.09
Victim & Good Health	2.23***	0.33
Victim & Fair Poor Health	<b>5.00***</b>	1.50
Race	1.89**	0.39
Education	0.48***	0.05

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .

# Interaction of Mental Health and IPV on Food Insecurity for Physical Violence Victimization split by Racial/Ethnic Group

Only Significant Results Displayed

	Odds Ratio	Standard Error
<u>Model 1</u>		
<b><i>Caucasian Women (N=2319)</i></b>		
<b>Physical Violence X Mental Health</b>		
No Victimization & Good Health	Reference	Reference
No Victimization & Fair/Poor Health	3.69***	1.27
Victim & Good Health	2.19***	0.33
Victim & Fair Poor Health	<b>7.08***</b>	2.51
Education	0.54***	0.06
<u>Model 2</u>		
<b><i>AI/AN Women (N=333)</i></b>		
Education	0.50*	0.06

# Interaction of Mental Health and IPV on Food Insecurity for Psychological Aggression Victimization split by Racial/Ethnic Group

Only Significant Results Displayed

	Odds Ratio	Standard Error
<u>Model 1</u>		
<b><i>Caucasian Women (N=2319)</i></b>		
<b>Psychological Aggression X Mental Health</b>		
No Victimization & Good Health	Reference	Reference
No Victimization & Fair/Poor Health	<b>7.43***</b>	3.54
Victim & Good Health	2.53***	0.40
Victim & Fair Poor Health	5.15***	1.50
Education	0.48***	0.06
<u>Model 2</u>		
<b><i>AI/AN Women (N=333)</i></b>		
Education	0.48*	0.15

# Conclusions

- Interaction between IPV & mental health has differential effects on race/ethnicity
- Type of IPV matters
- Race/ethnicity is important when trying to understand food insecurity.

# Recommendations

- Addressing the issue of food insecurity should take into account differential racial and ethnic differences for women.
  - Tailor prevention and interventions
- More focus on the interaction of mental health and IPV
- More research on food insecurity is needed; inclusion of AI/AN groups
- Limitations



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