Is there an association between controlling behaviour and intimate partner violence revictimization?

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Background

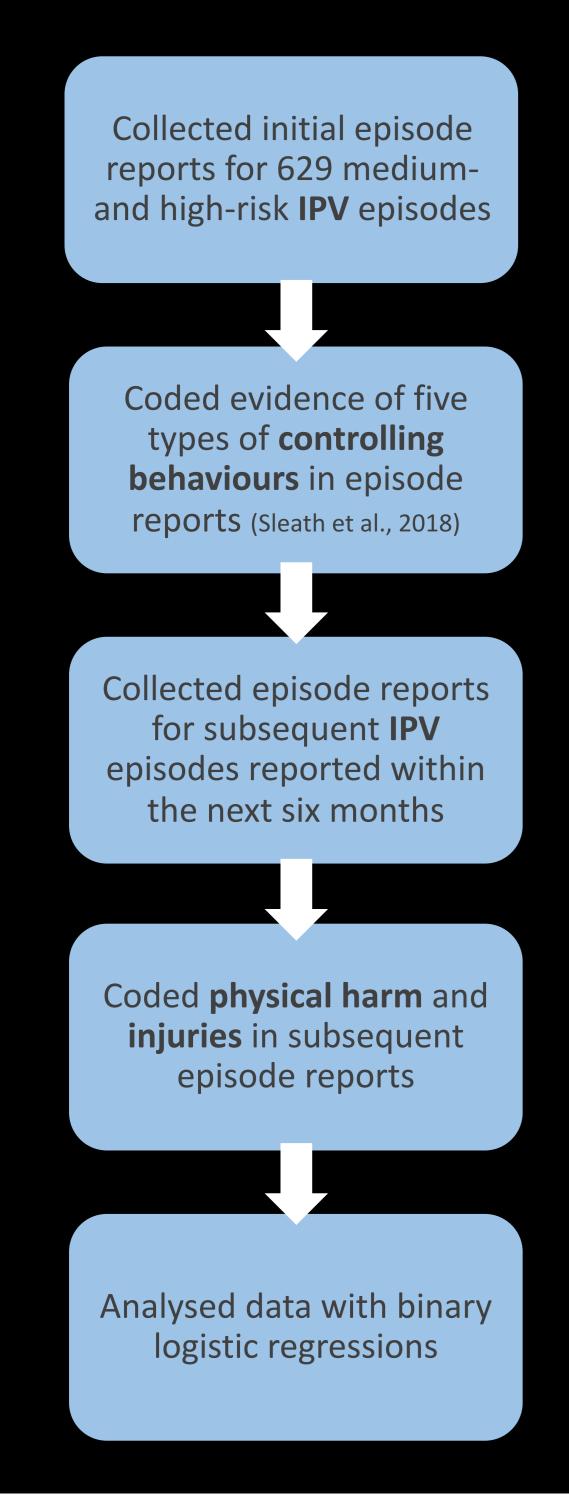
 Controlling behaviours are common forms of harm experienced by victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) (Hamberger et al., 2017).

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- 'Coercive control' the repetitive and systematic use of controlling behaviours over time has become a criminal offence in countries including the United Kingdom (Serious Crime Act, 2015, s 76).
- But, the extent to which controlling behaviours are detected by police (Weiner, 2017), and whether this information can be used to predict revictimization (e.g., further physical harm or injuries to the victim), remains unclear (Graham-Kevan & Archer, 2008).

Method



Controlling
behaviours in police
reports for IPV episodes
were associated with
physical harm to the
victim during the next
six months.

References

https://doi.org/10.1111/hojo.12227

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Weiner, C. (2017). Seeing what is 'Invisible in plain sight': Policing coercive control. *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*, *56*, 500-515.

Results Economic control (OR = 2.51 [1.29, 4.89], p = .007) Threatening control (OR = 0.51 [0.30, 0.86], p = .011)

- There was evidence of at least one type of **controlling behaviour** in 46% of the initial episode reports.
- A model containing the five types of controlling behaviours predicted physical harm to the victim in the following six months.
- The two strongest predictors of physical harm were economic control and threatening control.
- The five types of **controlling behaviours** did not predict subsequent **injuries** to the victim.

Discussion

- There is evidence of **controlling behaviours** in episode reports, suggesting police can detect and record those behaviours.
- Victims experiencing **economic control** may be forced to seek help, leading to increased reporting of **physical harm**.
- Victims experiencing threatening control may be less likely to report physical harm because of those threats.
- We need to further investigate how and why different types of control are related to IPV revictimization.