

# Partner violence among young adults in the Philippines: The role of intergenerational transmission and gender

Jessica A. Fehringer

Michelle J. Hindin

Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health  
Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

# Background: Partner violence

---

- Between 10% and 69% of women worldwide report being physically assaulted by an intimate male partner.
- Linked with adverse health outcomes in women (e.g. - HIV and other STDs, unintended pregnancy, depression).
- Common amongst youth, with suggestion of gender differences (higher female perpetration).

# Background (cont.)

---

- Little known about female perpetration/male victimization.
- A recurrent theme of literature is intergenerational transmission of violence, but:
  - Little known about gender differences, and
  - Studies limited by cross-sectional data, particularly in developing country settings.

# Study Objectives

---

- To determine:
  - The prevalence of and gender differences in partner violence perpetration versus receipt;
  - Whether exposure to inter-parental violence during childhood predicts current partner violence, and;
  - Whether the potential relationship between inter-parental violence exposure and current partner violence varies based on gender.

# Setting: Cebu, Philippines

---

- The data for this project come from the Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey (CLHNS).
- Cebu is the second largest metropolitan area (following Manila).
- Estimates of partner violence against women in the Philippines range from 11% to 26%.
- Recent research suggests that levels of any violence (male or female perpetrated) in a partnership may be much higher at 42%.

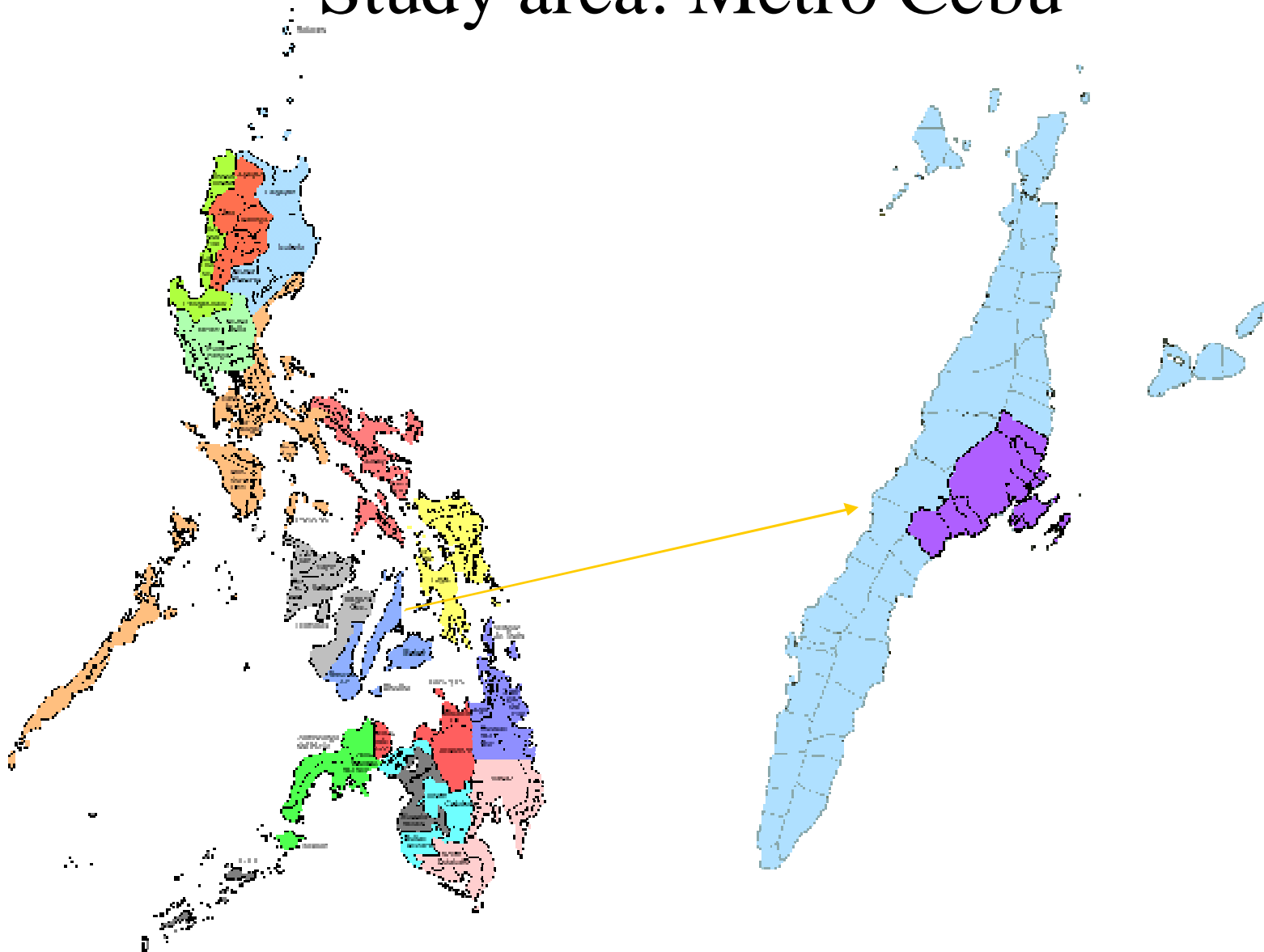


# The CLHNS

---

- A sample of women who were followed beginning in 1983, based on a random sample of 33 communities (barangays) in Metro Cebu.
- A baseline and 12 follow-up surveys were conducted in 1983-84 on all women beginning when they were 6-7 months pregnant.
- Follow-up surveys (1991, 1994, 1999, 2002, and 2005) on the woman and her child.

# Study area: Metro Cebu





# Study sample and analysis

- Data from the 1994, 2002 and 2005 CLHNS surveys.
- Final sample: 472 married or cohabitating young adults (age 20-22).
- Multinomial logistic regression used for multivariate analysis.



# Covariates

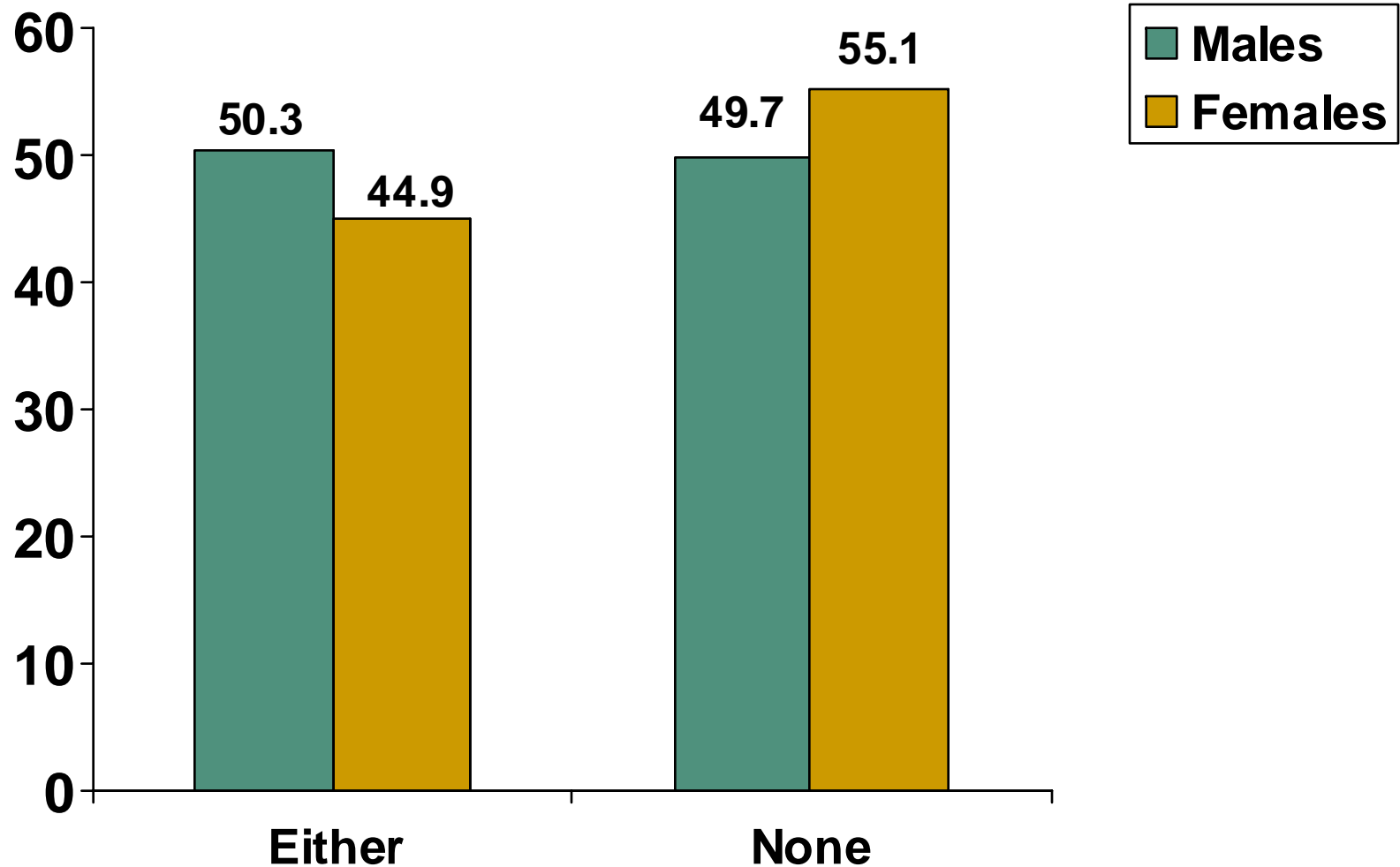
- Model adjusted for:
  - Individual characteristics
    - Alcohol use
    - Gender
    - Last school grade completed
    - Church attendance
    - Household decision-making
  - Maternal & household characteristics
    - Mother's age
    - Mother's Last school grade completed
    - Mother's church attendance
    - Household purchase of alcohol at age 11
    - Household socioeconomic status at age 11
    - Urban residence at age 11
    - Parental household decision-making at age 11

# Recall of inter-parental violence

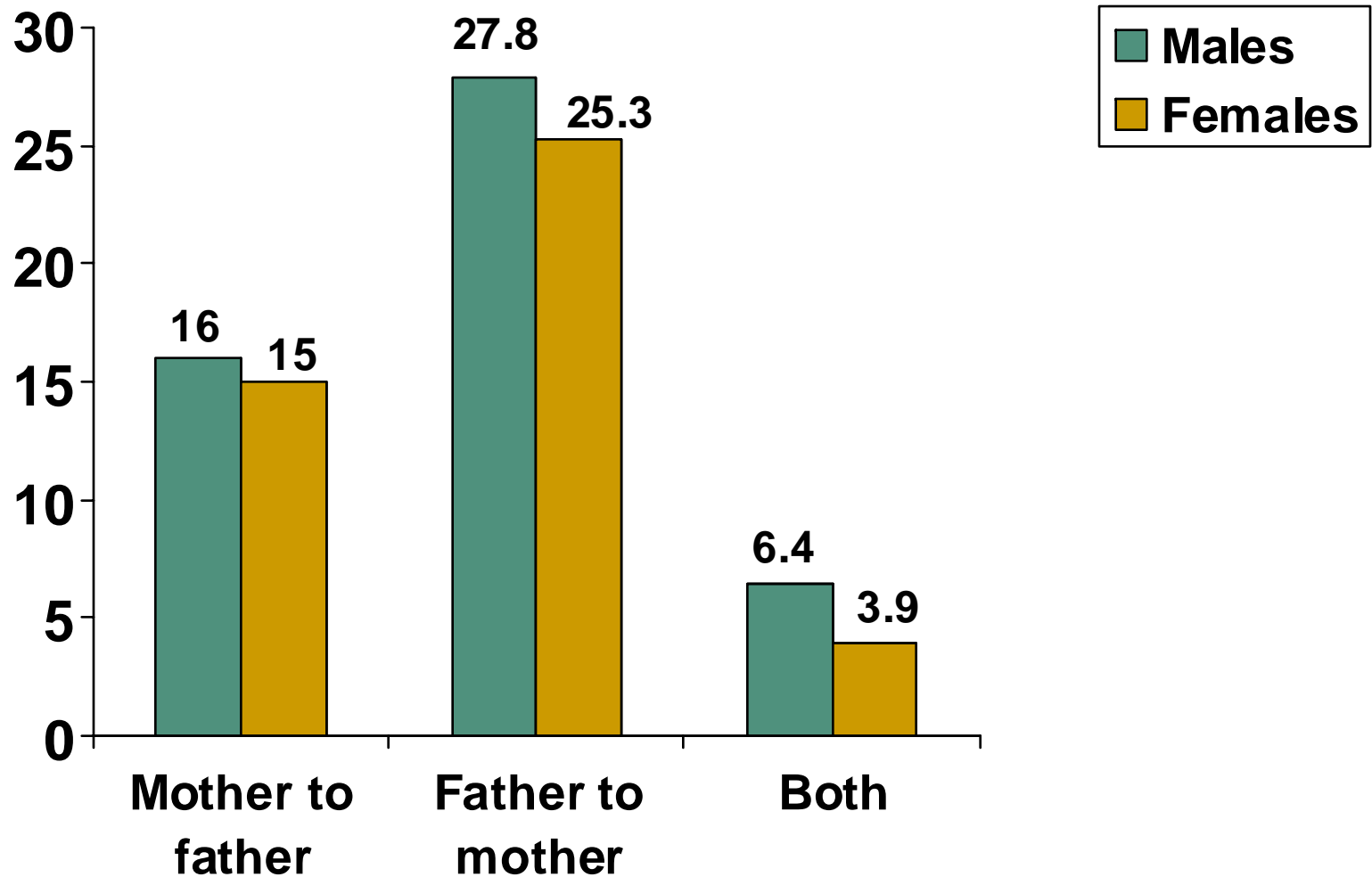
---

- “Do you remember if either of your parents/caretakers ever hit, slapped, kicked, or used other means like pushing or shoving to try to hurt the other physically when you were growing up?”
- “Who hurt the other physically?”

# Percentage of respondents reporting witnessing inter-parental violence during childhood



# Percentage of respondents reporting witnessing inter-parental violence during childhood



# Experience of current partner violence

---

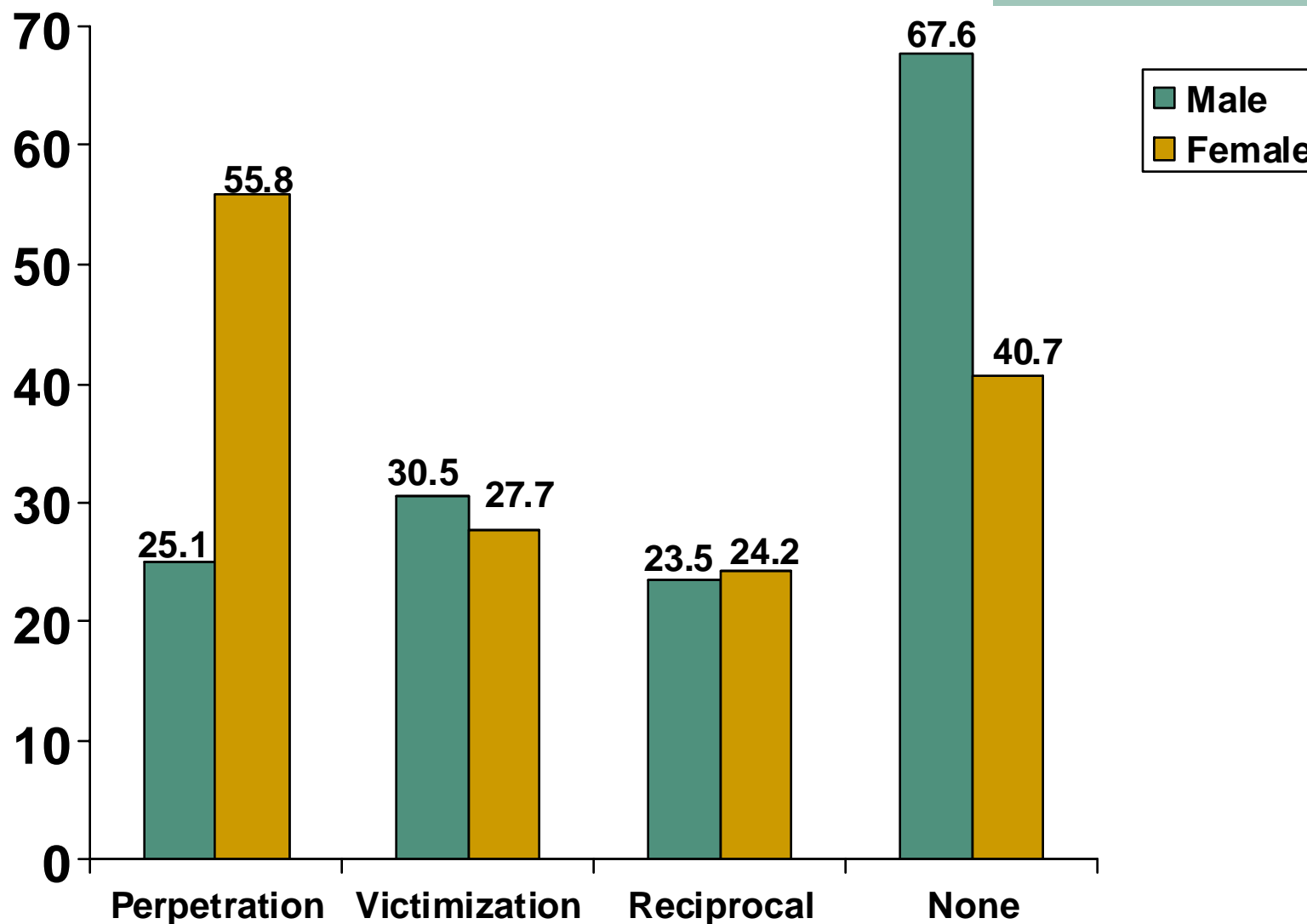
- Based on the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), the types of violent actions included the following actions towards someone else:
  - Threw something;
  - Pushed, grabbed, or shoved,
  - Hit (not with anything);
  - Hit with something hard, and;
  - Harmed enough to need medical attention.

# Experience of current partner violence (cont.)

---

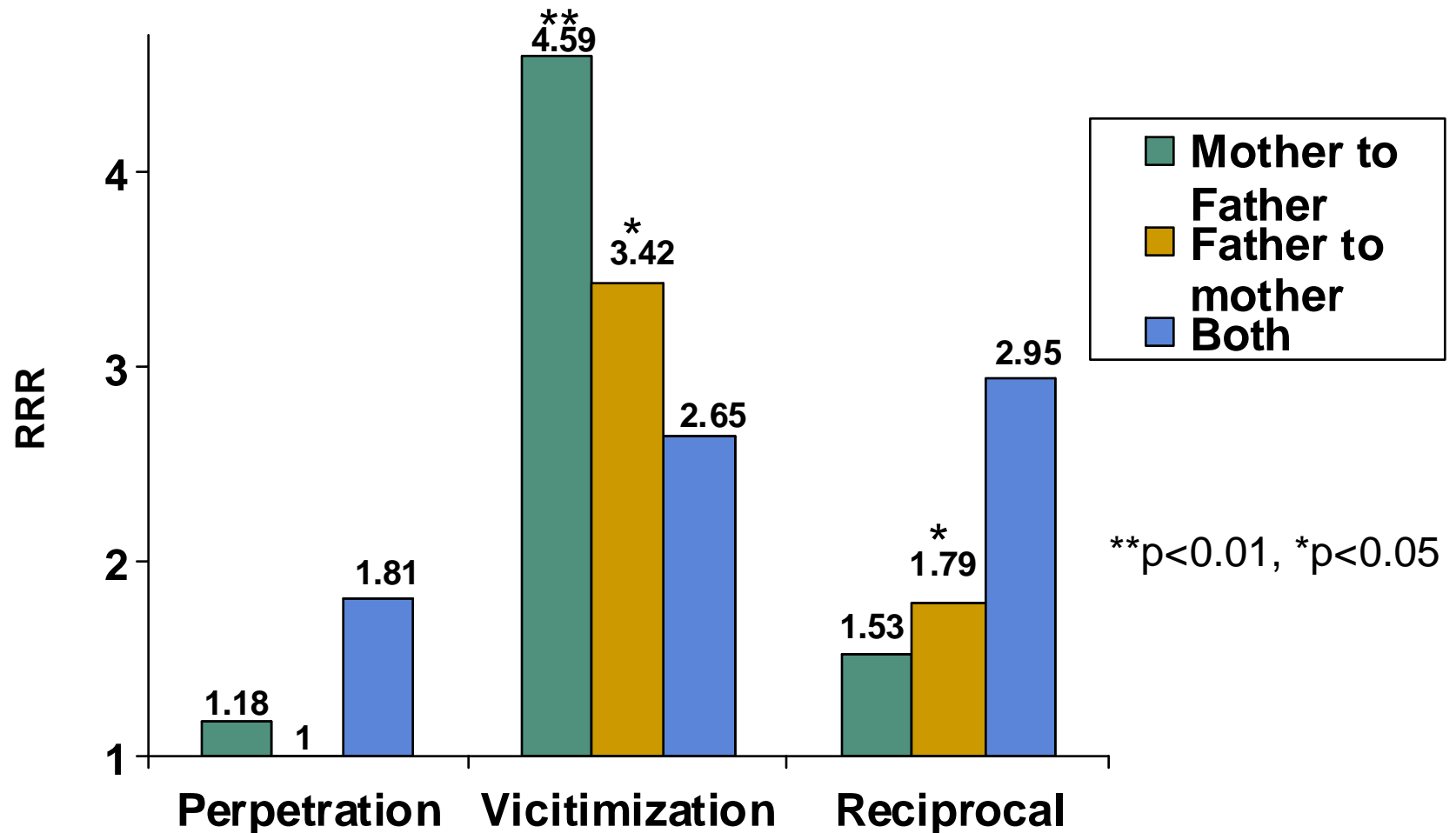
- Both perpetration and victimization as well as frequency asked for each type of violence.
- We focus on three dichotomous measures—perpetration, victimization, and reciprocal violence.
- We focus on violence between intimate partners in the past year.

# Percentage of respondents reporting current violence in partnerships





# Adjusted Relative Risk Ratios of partner violence, by witnessing inter-parental violence and type of current violence



Model adjusted for maternal, individual and household during childhood characteristics noted earlier. All standard errors and p-values are corrected for clustering at the barangay level.

# Other key results

---

- Only gender significantly predicts violence perpetration, with males having a lower risk.
- Greater parental joint decision-making was associated with a lower risk of violence victimization.
- Greater joint household decision-making and being male was significantly associated with less reciprocal violence.

# Gender interactions

---

- Compared to males, female respondents were less likely to perpetrate with greater household income during childhood and older mothers.
- Males had a lower risk of reciprocal violence if their mothers attended church more often and higher risk if their household purchased any alcohol when they were age 11, as compared to females.

# Limitations

---

- Under-reporting of violence is common in research.
- The finding of high female violence perpetration rates could be due to reporting differences by gender.
- Early partnership sample – may be different from those who enter partnerships later.
- Did not have data on child abuse.
- Did not look at community level violence.

# Implications

---

- Early partnerships are an ideal point at which to break family cycles of violence – focus programs and policies here.
- Need to broaden the conceptualization of intimate partner violence with recognition that intergenerational violence transmission knows no gender boundaries.
- High perpetration levels in females – need for further exploration, as most research on male perpetration and correlates.