

Intimate Partner Violence, Economic Abuse, Depression, & Anxiety: Impacts on Later Economic Outcomes for Women with Children

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Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) includes physical, psychological and economic forms of abuse, and is found disproportionately among low-income women. The impact of Economic Abuse (EA) on women's later financial stability is largely untested.

Background

- Economic Abuse (EA) is one form of IPV. It Includes:
 - Disrupting employment or education
 - Stealing checks or withholding support
 - Destroying Credit
 - Preventing economic decision making
- The extent of EA in non-IPV service seeking populations is unknown.
- IPV is seven times as prevalent among the poorest Americans compared to the most wealthy.
- Previous studies of the financial realities of IPV survivors have not considered EA separately from other forms of IPV.

Research Goals

- Assess the extent of EA among a nationally representative sample of non-service receiving women.
- Evaluate the association between EA, IPV, and later economic indicators for women with children.
- Investigate the role of depression and anxiety in the link between IPV and later economic indicators.

Data

- Data are from 3215 women who were interviewed in the five and nine year waves of the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, a nationally representative cohort study of mothers who gave birth from 1998-2000.

Measures and Results

Table 1.
IPV/Mental Health Indicators (Year 5)

Indicator	Percentage
Economic Abuse	14.2%
Psychological Abuse	19%
Physical/Sexual Abuse	8%
Depression (CIDI Threshold)	17%
Anxiety (receiving treatment)	6%

Table 2.
Economic Indicator (Year 9)

Economic Indicator	Percentage / Mean (SD)
Material Hardships (0-11)	1.5 (1.9)
TANF Recipient	13.26%
Household Income	44,999 (50,116)
Bank Account Ownership	72.03%
Car Ownership	74.38%
Home Ownership	11.35%
Number of Assets Owned (0-3)	1.6 (.86)

Table 3.
Adjusted Odds Ratios for Economic Outcomes

	Material Hardship	Asset Ownership	Family Poverty Ratio
Economic Abuse	1.61***	.77*	.75*
Psychological Abuse	1.18	.88	.95
Physical/Sexual Abuse	1.15	.91	.75
Depression	2.26***	.77*	.79*
Anxiety	1.09	1.25	1.20

All Independent Variables are from year 5, All Dependent Variables are from year 9
Models are Using Ordered Logistic Regression, Reporting Odds Ratios
***p<.001 **p<.01 *p<.05

Results

Fig 1. Mean Number of Material Hardships at Year 9, by Year 5 Predictors

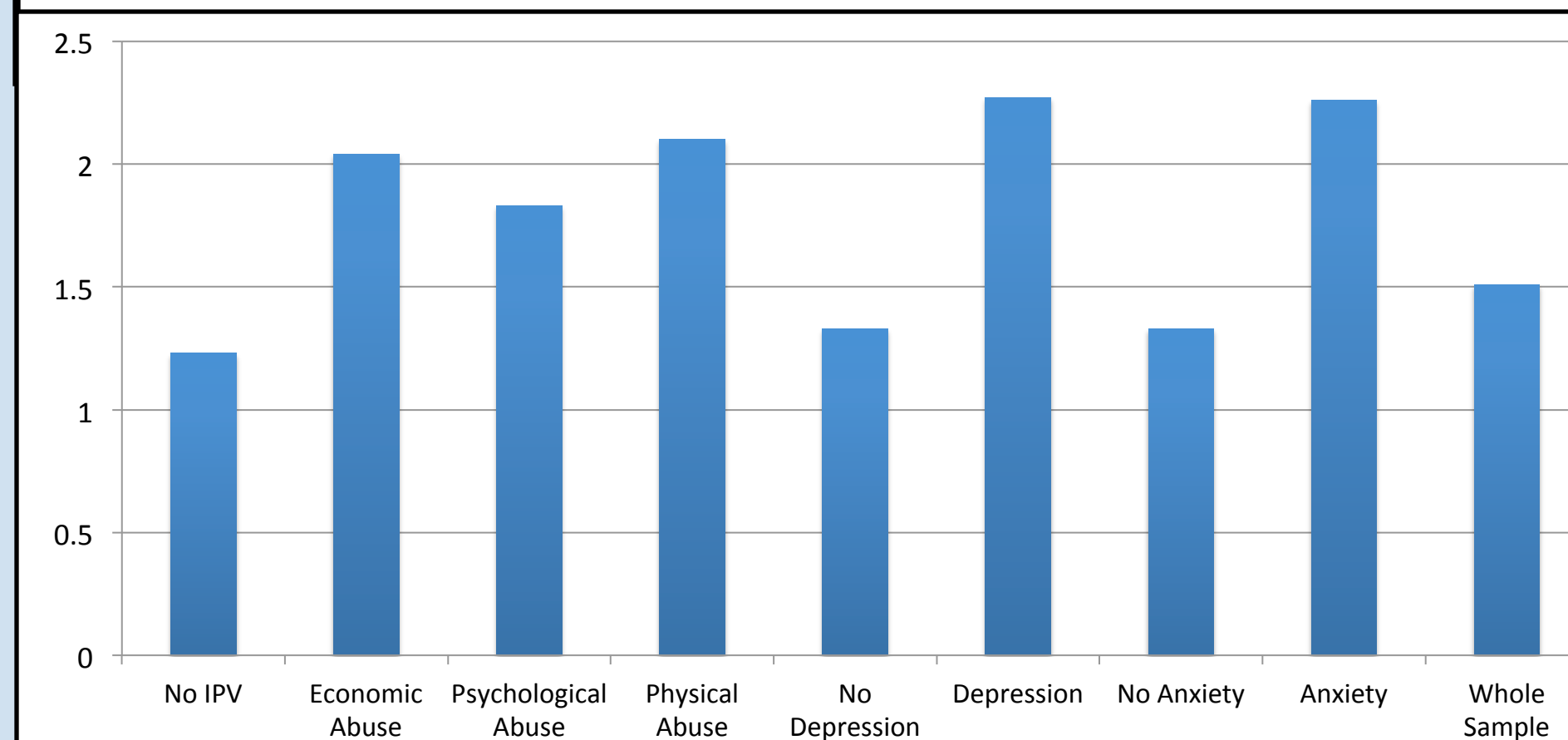


Figure 2. Ordered Logistic Regression Model for Depression as a Mediator Between Forms of IPV and Later Material Hardship, Reporting Odds Ratios

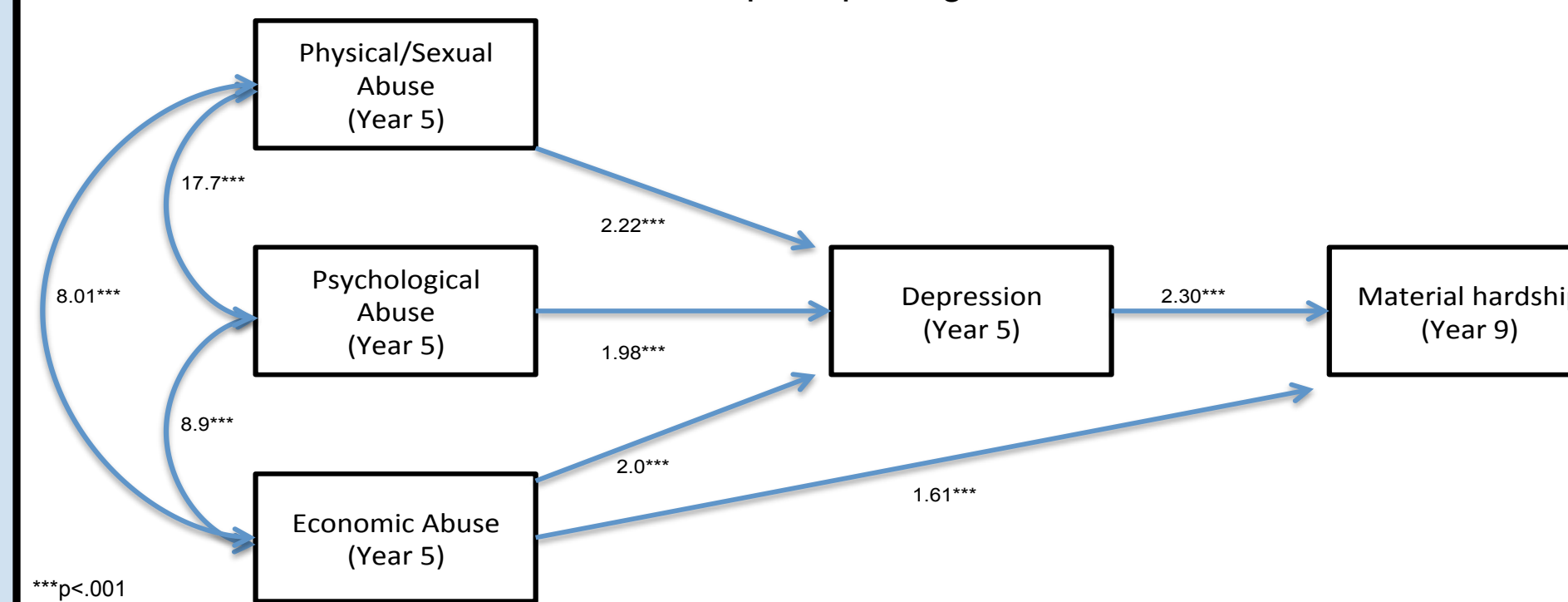
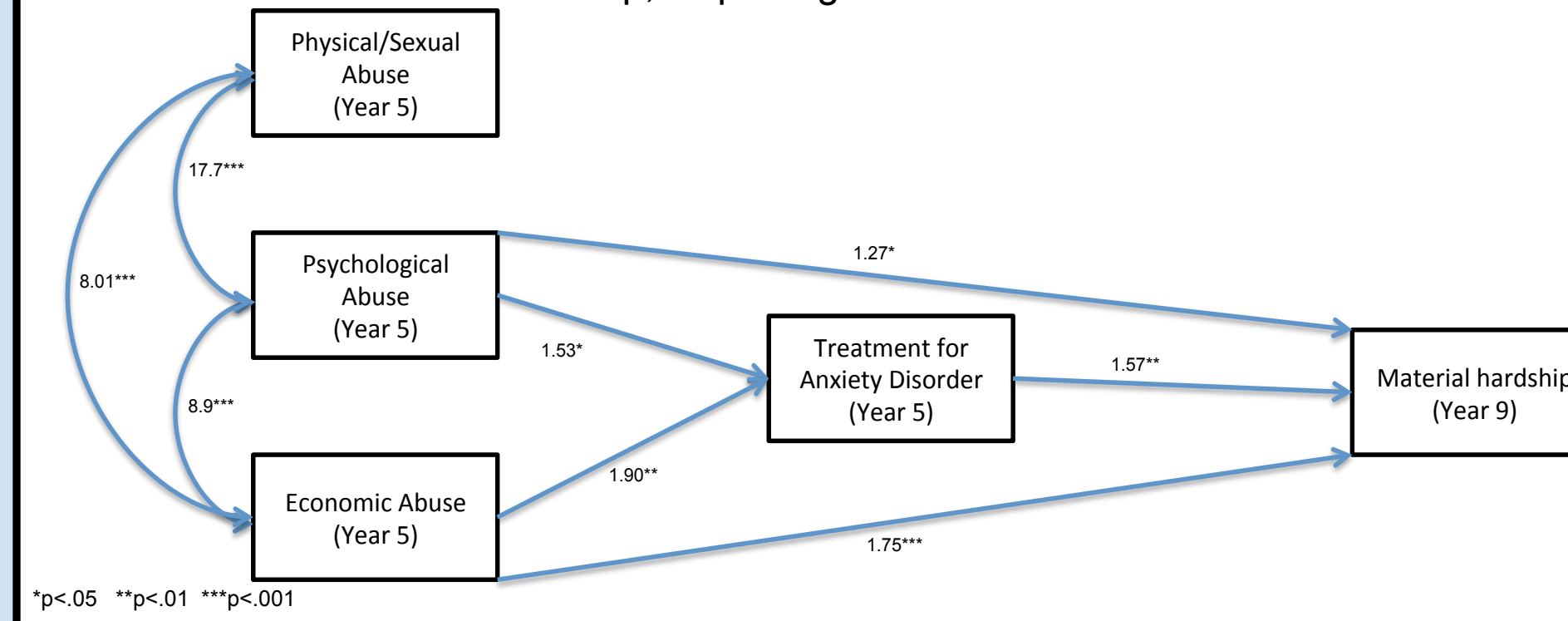


Figure 3. Ordered Logistic Regression Model for Anxiety as a Mediator Between Forms of IPV and Later Material Hardship, Reporting Odds Ratios



Discussion & Limitations

- High rates (14.2%) of EA in a nationally representative sample suggest the need for further investigation.
- When included with other forms of IPV, EA uniquely predicts later poor economic outcomes.
- Depression mediates the relationship between physical and psychological abuse and material hardship, but does not mediate the relationship between EA and material hardship.
- Economically Abusive tactics may be a unique cause of the link between IPV and poverty.
- Limitations:
 - Constructs are measured imprecisely.
 - Sample is limited to only urban new mothers.
 - Future research should include other populations with greater precision in measurement.

Implications

- Economic Abuse has distinct consequences for women, and thus requires separate attention from researchers, policy makers, and practitioners.
- Further research should test the potential mediating effects of mental health on the relationship between IPV and economic outcomes.
- Service providers should consider the economic impacts of abuse when supporting survivors of IPV.

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Addressing the impacts of Economic Abuse may uniquely serve to move women towards safety and economic security.