In-Home Firearm Access and Intimate Partner Violence Among College Students in Florida

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Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) & Firearms

- The CDC recognizes four types of intimate partner violence (IPV):
  1. Physical
  2. Sexual
  3. Threats of physical or sexual
  4. Psychological

- 74 million people in the United States experienced IPV in 2010
- 35.6% of women and 28.5% men in the U.S. have experienced some form of IPV
- The CDC estimates that IPV costs $6 billion annually
- Initial onset of IPV typically occurs in adolescents or early adulthood

The most extreme form of IPV is intimate partner homicide (IPH)

- 16 out of every 1000 women have been threatened with a gun
- 7 out of every 1000 women have had an intimate partner use a gun against them
- The presence of a firearm during an IPV incident makes death 12 times more likely

In 2013, the President issued 23 executive orders for federal agencies to examine firearm-related violence

Study Purposes

1. Identify characteristics of college-aged students who:
   - Reported in-home access to a firearm(s)
   - Reported sexual abuse (attempted and/or forced)
   - Reported physical abuse (attempted and/or actual)

2. Identify the relationship between firearm access and reported sexual and physical abuse

Data

- Data were collected from college students enrolled in a Florida university
- Cross-sectional design using an internet-delivered questionnaire
- Data collected over 5 academic semesters
- Analyses of 670 participants with complete data
- Data Analyses:
  - Chi-squared tests
  - One-way ANOVA

Measures

Dependent Variables
- In-Home Firearm Access (No, Yes, Don't Know)
- Sexual Abuse (Attempted, Actual, Neither, Both)
- Physical Abuse (Attempted, Actual, Neither, Both)

Personal Characteristics
- Age; Sex; Race; Ethnicity; Sexual Orientation; Relationship Status; Insurance Source; Place of Residence; GPA

Affiliations
- Greek Affiliation; Military Affiliation

Health Indicators
- Binge Drinking (past 2 weeks); General Health Status

Results

Sample Characteristics
On average, 20.6 (3.0) years old
72% female
22% Hispanic
71% White; 13% African American; 10% Asian
96% heterosexual
50% not dating; 32% relationship; 14% dating
75% parents' insurance; 14% no insurance
57% apartment; 20% house; 18% on-campus dorm
27% fraternity/sorority; 1% pledging
97% never in military
On average, 3.4 (0.4) GPA
On average, 2.2 (1.9) times binge drink in the past 2 weeks

In-home Firearm Access	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Threats of Physical Abuse
19% Yes	2% Attempted	18% Attempted	10% Threatened
2% Don't Know	6% Abused	3% Forced	
	6% Both	5% Both	

	Total (n = 670)	Firearm in Home: No (n = 526)	Yes (n = 129)	Don't Know (n = 15)	χ^2 or *f*	P	Forced Sex and Attempted Forced Sex: Neither (n = 493)	Attempted (n = 124)	Forced (n = 20)	Both (n = 33)	χ^2 or *f*	P	Physical Abuse and Attempted Physical Abuse: Neither (n = 577)	Attempted (n = 13)	Abused (n = 39)	Both (n = 33)	χ^2 or *f*	P
Firearm in Home					--	--					1.92	0.927					24.20	<0.001
No	78.5%	--	--	--			78.5%	80.6%	75.0%	72.7%			81.3%	69.2%	59.0%	61.0%		
Yes	19.3%	--	--	--			19.5%	16.9%	20.0%	24.2%			16.5%	30.8%	41.0%	34.1%		
Don't Know	2.2%	--	--	--			2.0%	2.4%	5.0%	3.0%			2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%		
Forced Sex and Attempted Forced Sex					1.92	0.927					--	--					59.64	<0.001
Neither	73.6%	73.6%	74.4%	66.7%			--	--	--	--			76.6%	30.8%	64.1%	53.7%		
Attempted Forced Sex	18.5%	19.0%	16.3%	20.0%			--	--	--	--			17.7%	53.8%	17.9%	19.5%		
Forced Sex	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%	6.7%			--	--	--	--			2.4%	7.7%	10.3%	2.4%		
Both	4.9%	4.6%	6.2%	6.7%			--	--	--	--			3.3%	7.7%	7.7%	24.4%		
Physical Abuse and Attempted Physical Abuse					24.20	<0.001					59.64	<0.001					--	--
Neither	86.1%	89.2%	73.6%	86.7%			89.7%	82.3%	70.0%	57.6%			--	--	--	--		
Attempted Physical Abuse	1.9%	1.7%	3.1%	0.0%			0.8%	5.6%	5.0%	3.0%			--	--	--	--		
Physical Abuse	5.8%	4.4%	12.4%	0.0%			5.1%	5.6%	20.0%	9.1%			--	--	--	--		
Both	6.1%	4.8%	10.9%	13.3%			4.5%	6.5%	5.0%	30.3%			--	--	--	--		
Threatened with Physical Abuse					3.64	0.162					29.08	<0.001					345.13	<0.001
No	90.4%	91.4%	86.0%	93.3%			93.1%	87.9%	80.0%	66.7%			97.9%	38.5%	74.4%	17.1%		
Yes	9.6%	8.6%	14.0%	6.7%			6.9%	12.1%	20.0%	33.3%			2.1%	61.5%	25.6%	82.9%		

Major Findings

- Larger proportions of participants who reported attempted physical abuse, actual physical abuse, or both also reported in-home firearm access
- Large relationship between forced sex and physical abuse (and 'both' for each category)
- Not knowing if there was a firearm in the home was associated with 'both' for sexual and physical abuse
- No significant relationship between in-home firearm access and sexual abuse

Characteristics

Firearm Access
- Relative to those who <u>did not</u> have in-home access to a firearm…
- Larger portions of participants who reported access also reported that they were:
  - Older
  - White
    - African Americans and Pacific Islanders = "don't know"
  - Married or in a committed/steady relationship
  - Lived in a house
    - On-campus dorm = "don't know"
  - Physical abuse (attempted, actual, both)

Sexual Abuse
- Larger proportions of participants who reported <u>attempted</u> also reported that they were:
  - Female
  - White and Native American
  - Single/dating
  - In Greek system
- Larger proportions of participants who reported <u>forced</u> also reported that they were:
  - Female
  - White and Other
  - In a committed/steady relationship and married
  - In Greek system
- Larger proportion of participants who reported <u>both</u> also reported that they were:
  - Older
  - Female
  - White and African American
  - In a committed/steady relationship and married
  - In Greek System or pledging

Physical Abuse
- Larger proportions of participants who reported <u>attempted</u> abuse also reported that they were:
  - Not insured
  - In the Greek system
- Larger proportions of participants who reported <u>actual</u> abuse also reported that they were:
  - In a committed/steady relationship and married
  - No insurance
  - Pledging Greek system
- Larger proportions of participants who reported <u>both</u> also reported that they were:
  - Older
  - Single/dating, in a committed/steady relationship, married, and other
  - Not insured
  - Pledging Greek system

Conclusions & Implications

- The findings of this study support previously known relationships between:
  - In home firearm access and physical abuse
  - Physical abuse and sexual abuse

- In-home firearm access was not associated with sexual abuse
  - This may indicate variations in aggression origin and manifestation

- Men were under-represented, which is a limitation because they more predominately own firearms. This may be a contributing factor to why married and partnered participants had in-home firearm access.

- Opportunities for education and intervention that stand out from this study are with females, the Greek system, and lower socioeconomic status.