



Namoro &

Noviazgo

Adolescent Relationship Violence in Brazil and Honduras

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Why Exploring Adolescent IPV?

Globally, more research on adult IPV / VAW

- In LAC, 17-53% of women in the region report having experienced IPV at some point during their lives
- In LAC, more focus on male youth violence and ado. teen pregnancy

Adolescent IPV has both short and long-term consequences, incl. increases likelihood of adult IPV

- Physical aggression before marriage: indicative of a 51 % probability that aggression will be repeated throughout the first 1.5 years of cohabitation

The study intends to offer insights for practitioners, exploring:

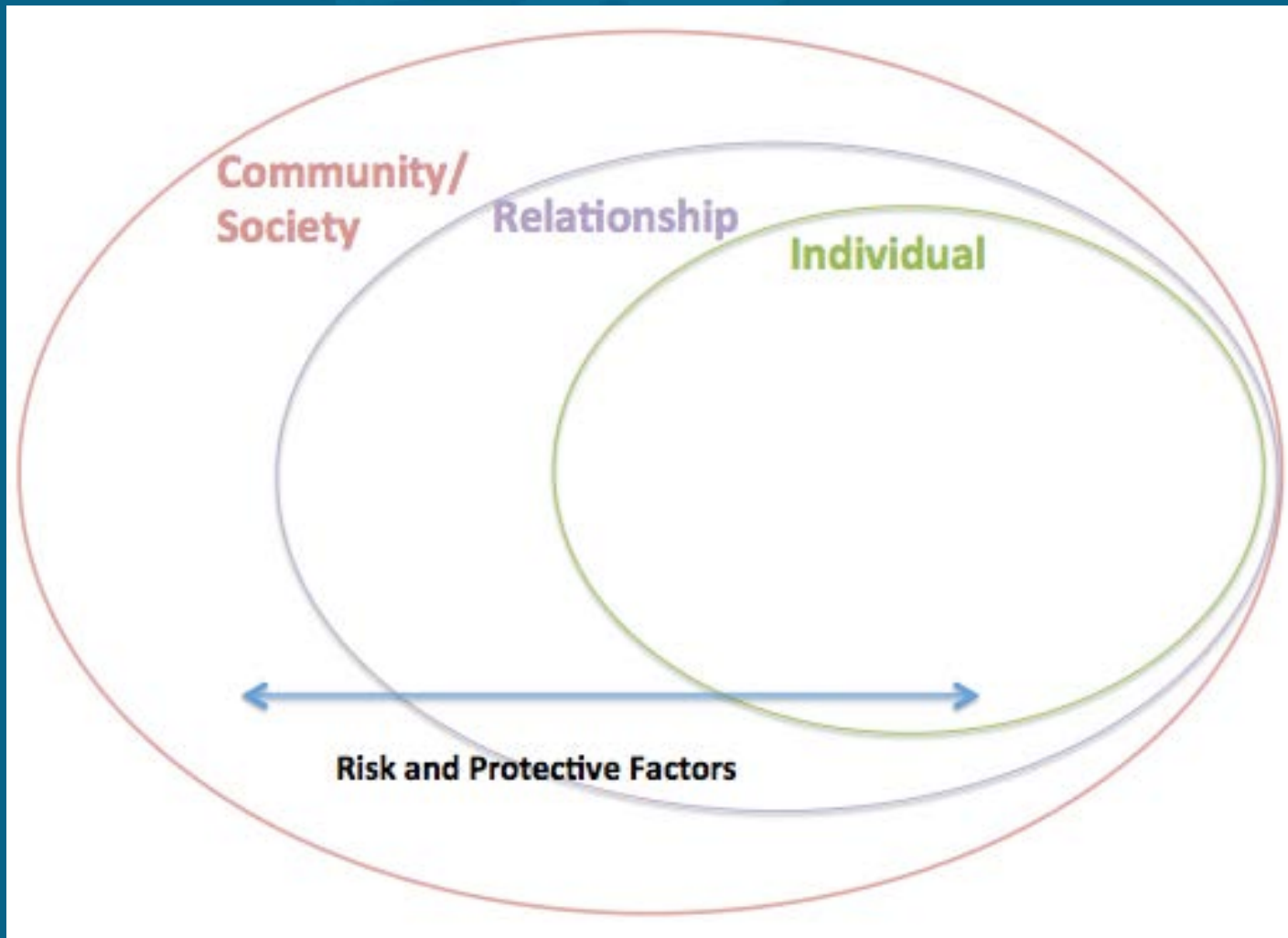
- Girls' and boys' experiences, in- and out-of-school contexts, urban and rural

Qualitative Research in Brazil & Honduras

- ✓ Workshops with adolescents, key informant interviews, literature review
- ✓ 147 in-depth interviews with adolescent girls and boys aged 14-24
 - Brazil: Rio de Janeiro and Codó, Maranhão
 - Honduras: Tegucigalpa and the department of Intibucá



Study Focus: Risk & Protective Factors



Key Findings (1)

Adolescents told us about:

- ✓ TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS – i.e. casual ‘dating’, sexual experiences, cohabitation/unions – and how they influence IPV
- ✓ TYPES OF VIOLENCE (describing situations without violence being named by the interviewer)
- ✓ RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

“I had sex with a girl, because she said I was ‘gay’, so I did it... [When I did it], I felt like a king.. it was as if I had done a good deed.”

*“... And why do you think you did it?”
“Fear, fear of what others would think”
(19 y.o. young man, Rio high school)*

Key Findings (2)

Widespread acceptance of (reciprocal) relationship violence

“I told [my mom] that I had problems with my boyfriend, she would tell me that it was normal, that women had to put up with it.” (Young woman, Honduras)

Highly pervasive controlling behaviors, including “consensual” control to prevent conflict

“I would stay silent to not give him a reason to hit me” (15 y.o. girl from a favela in Rio de Janeiro)

“You know, I wanted to continue studying. He told me ‘no,’ continuing my studies was (...) foolishness. I’m not studying now...so I don’t have problems with him.” (20 y.o. woman from Intibucá)

Bystanders discouraged from intervening in couples’ matters, and effect of urban insecurity on help-seeking behaviors

Key Findings (3)

Widespread social isolation from peers, with friends often seen as threats rather than as allies

Overlap of risk and protective factors

“It’s good to socialize with other people.. One should socialize (...), go out, try and forget a little about the relationship” (22 y.o. woman from Tegucigalpa)

Assertiveness and ability to learn from the past

“I have told him that he doesn’t have a word on how I act. (...) He shouldn’t concern himself with how I dress, because (...) he is he, and I am me, we are different people, together but two people” (17 y.o. girl from Tegucigalpa)

Implications for Programs and Policy

1. Adapt existing gender transformative programming targeting adolescents to include a specific focus on healthy relationships (incl. CSE)
2. Adapt and evaluate adolescent IPV prevention programs in LAC
3. Support the healing of young women and men from violence
4. Develop healthy spaces for teens to interact with their peers
5. Encourage community norm change across generations
6. Leverage digital technology that promote equitable, non-violent relationships
7. Train providers to offer services that are accessible, meaningful and supportive to adolescents

Areas for future research

1. Links between adolescent relationship violence and other forms of violence
1. Role of controlling behaviors as precursors of adolescent IPV
1. Constructions of adolescent sexuality, and the gendered ways in which this impacts girls and boys
1. The role of structural factors

Thank you
Obrigada

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