

Trauma exposure and men's use of violence against women in a peri-urban settlement near Johannesburg

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Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) affect millions of children globally^a

The ACE study revealed the following estimates:*

ABUSE

Physical Abuse 28.3%

Sexual Abuse 20.7%

Emotional Abuse 10.6%

percentage of study participants
that experienced a specific ACE

NEGLECT

Emotional Neglect 14.8%

Physical Neglect 9.9%

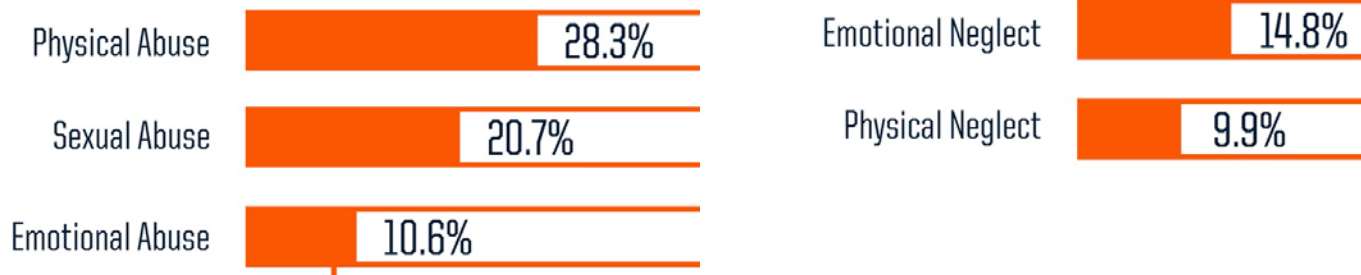
^a Stoltenborgh (2014) Child Abuse Review

* Available at www.cdc.gov/ace/prevalence.htm



ACEs & adult trauma are linked to violence against women (VAW)

- All forms of ACEs are associated with men's adult perpetration of IPV ^a



- ACEs linked to rape of a non-partner ^b
- Human rights violations or witnessing violations of friends or family linked to IPV ^c

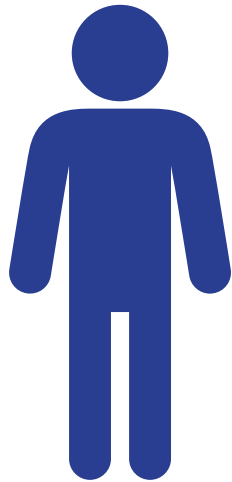
a. Godbout (2017) Trauma, Viol & Abuse; Smith-Merik (2015) J Fam Theory; Stith (2000) J Marriage & Family; Gil-Gonzalez (2007) J Public Health; Jewkes (2013) Lancet Global Health b. Jewkes (2006) Soc Sci Med c. Gupta (2010) J Epi Comm Health



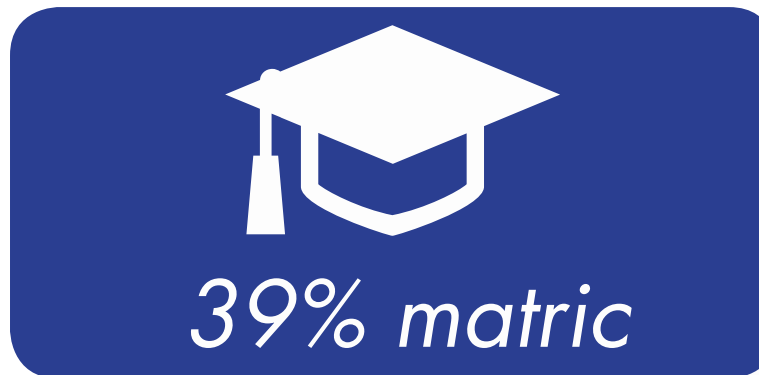


Socio-demographics

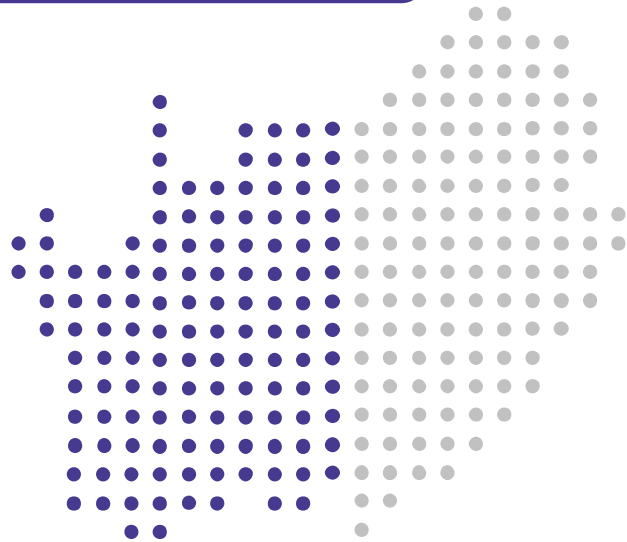
2 603 men



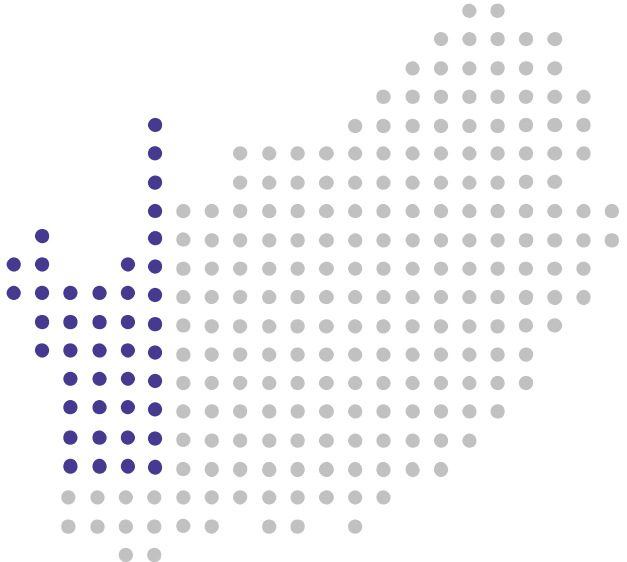
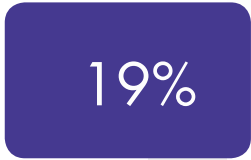
Age Median:
27 years
Range: 18-40



Violence Against Women in a South African informal settlement



Informal settlement^b



Nationally^c

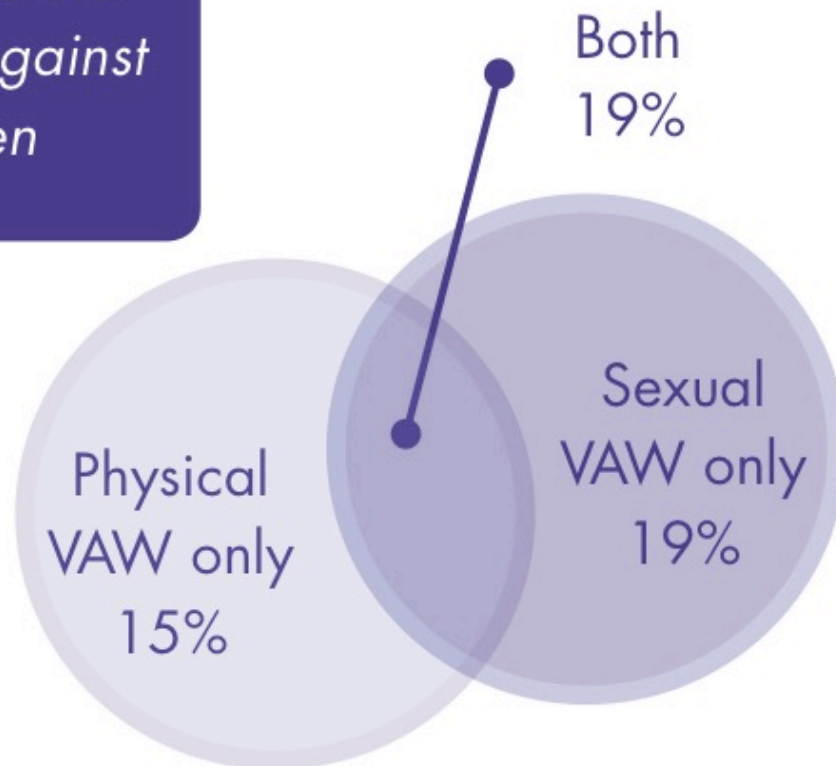
^a Violence against women is any physical and/or sexual act of violence towards a partner or any rape of a non-partner
^b Data on men's perpetration from What Works, c. Data from the Men's Health and Violence Study, Jewkes et al.(2010) - aligns with national data on women's victimisation Stats SA (2017) Demographic Health Survey



Violence Against Women



Of whom
60.2%
*enacted VAW
multiple times*





beaten
witnessed mother
being abused
sexually abused
raped
humiliated
lacked food

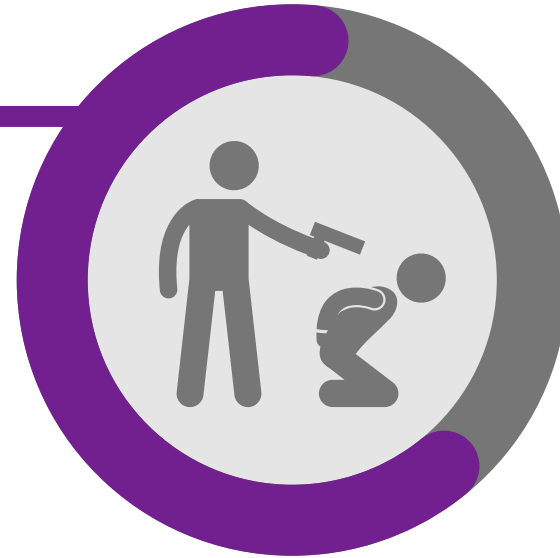
85%
Abused or neglected
as children



a. Measured using the 12-item Childhood Trauma Scale



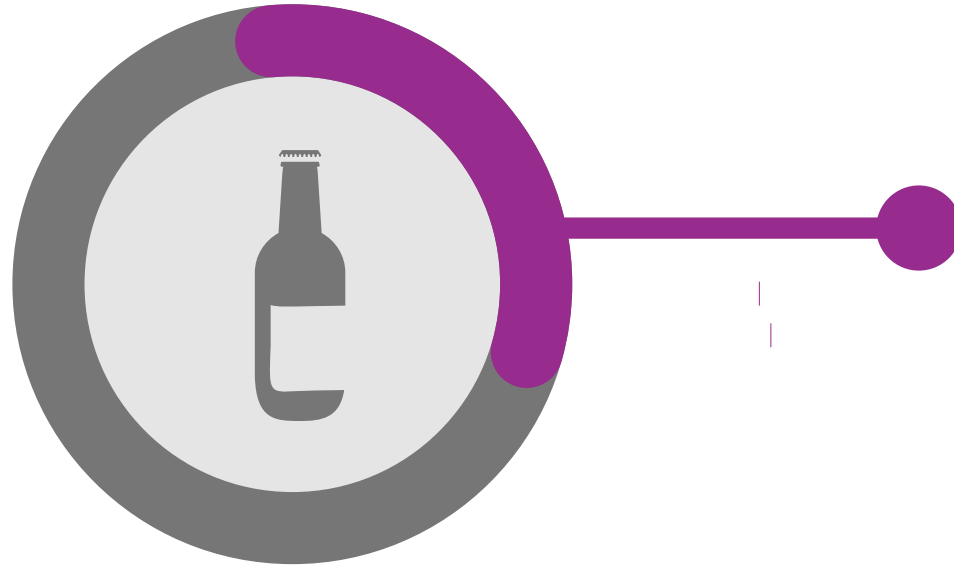
witnessed a murder
witnessed rape
sexually assaulted
tortured
robbed at gunpoint



60%
One or more
adult traumas^a

a. Measured using the 15-item Harvard Trauma Questionnaire





days drinking
number drinks
binge drinking
feeling of guilt
blackouts

31%

Harmful alcohol use^a



a. Measured using the Alcohol Use Disorders Scale, cutoff of 10



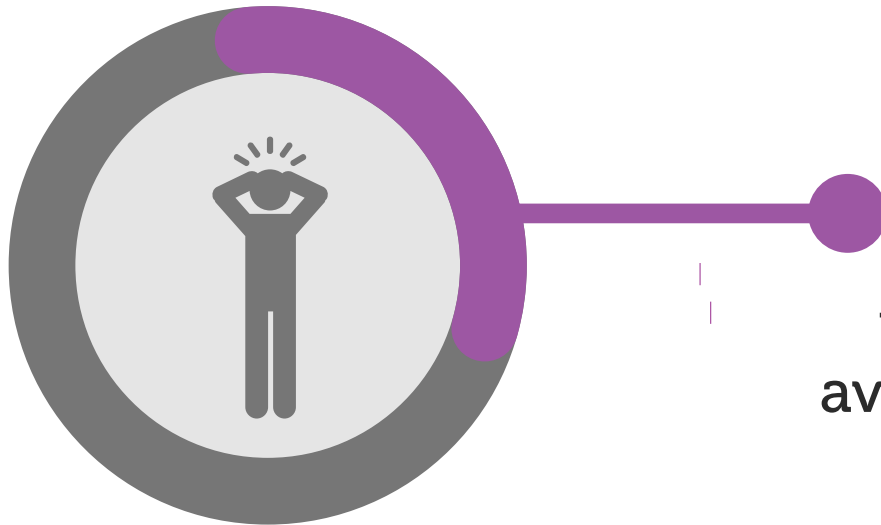
bothered by things
not hopeful
fearful
lonely
felt like a failure
crying spells



42%
Probable
depression^a

a. Measured using 20-item Center for Epidemiology Depression Scale, cutoff 16





nightmares
detached
jumpy
trouble sleeping
avoiding thoughts

8.6%
Probable PTSD^a

*a. Measured using the Harvard Trauma Questionnaire, cutoff 25
measured only among men experiencing 1+ adult traumas*



Association between VAW and trauma or mental health predictors^a



a. Adjusted odds ratios controlling for age, food security, education, cluster



Linear relationship between VAW and trauma^a



Each additional type of Child Abuse
→ 23% greater odds of VAW use



Each additional type of Adult Trauma
→ 23% greater odds of VAW use

a. Adjusted odds ratios controlling for age, food security, education, cluster



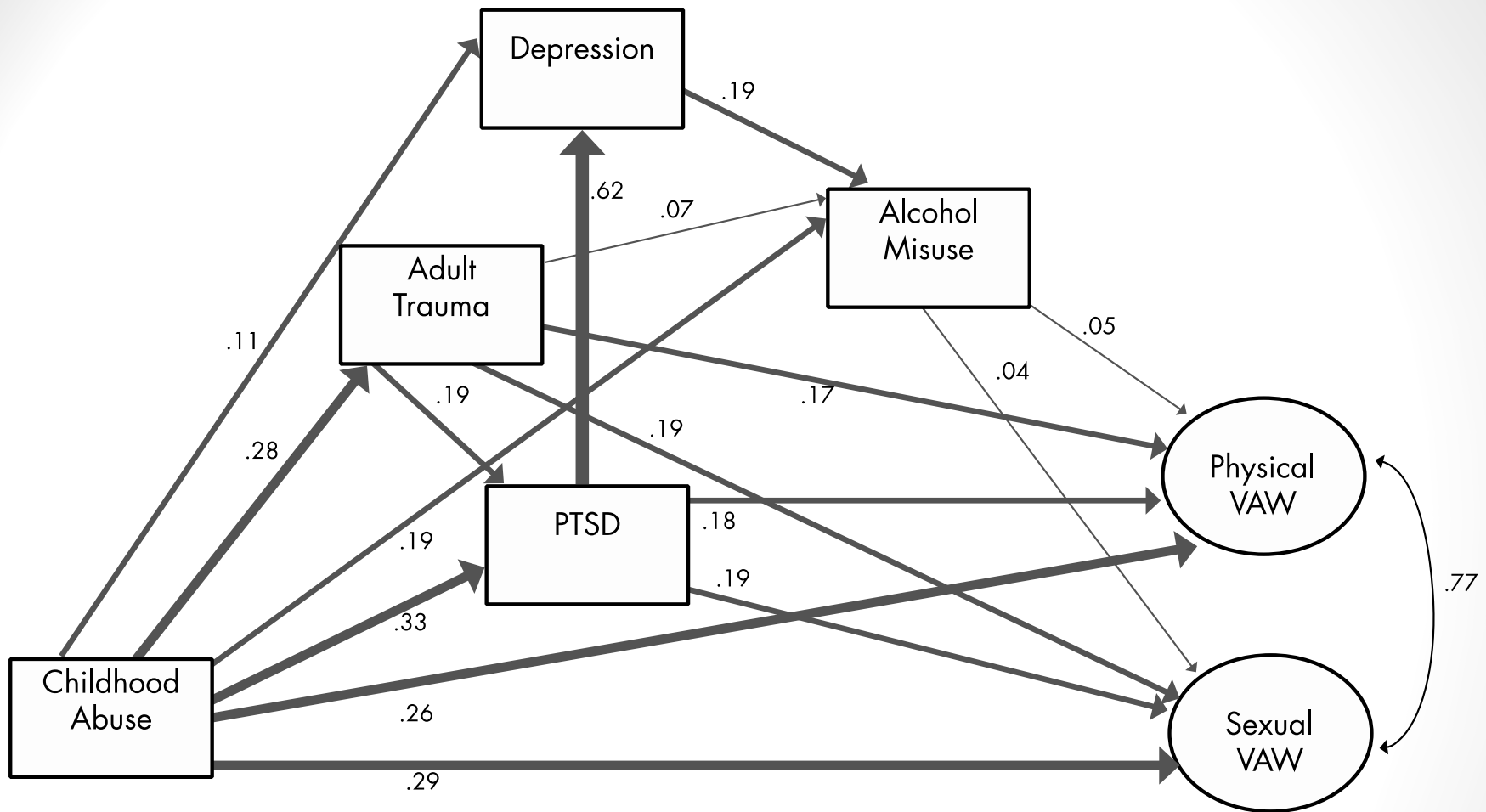


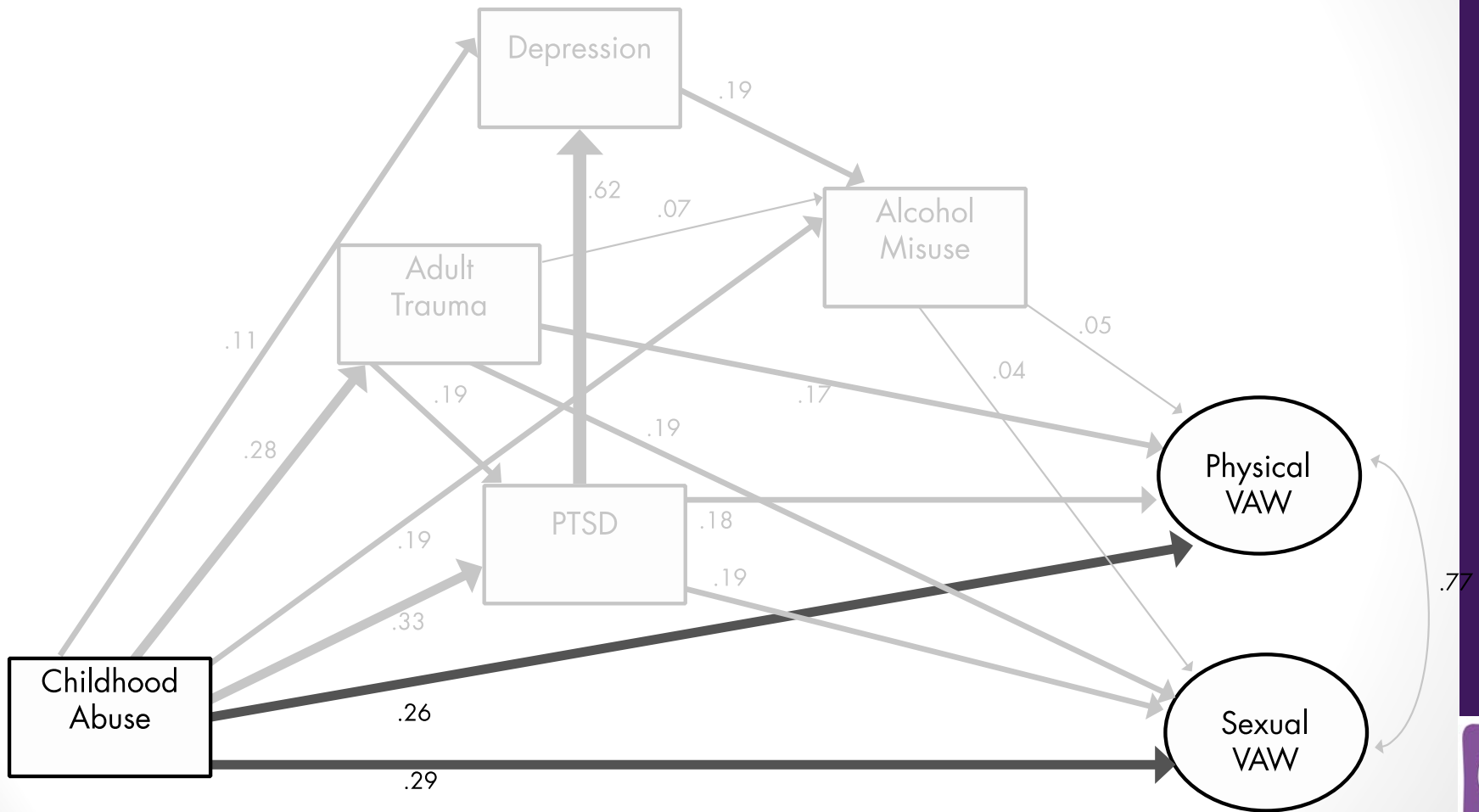
Figure 1. Structural equation model of trauma, mental health, and violence against women use among men (n = 2,597). Relationships represented by standardized parameter estimates, with boxes indicating measured variables and oval representing latent variable. All relationships significant at the $p < 0.05$ level. Model controls for age, education, food security.

PTSD: Post-traumatic stress disorder; VAW: violence against women.

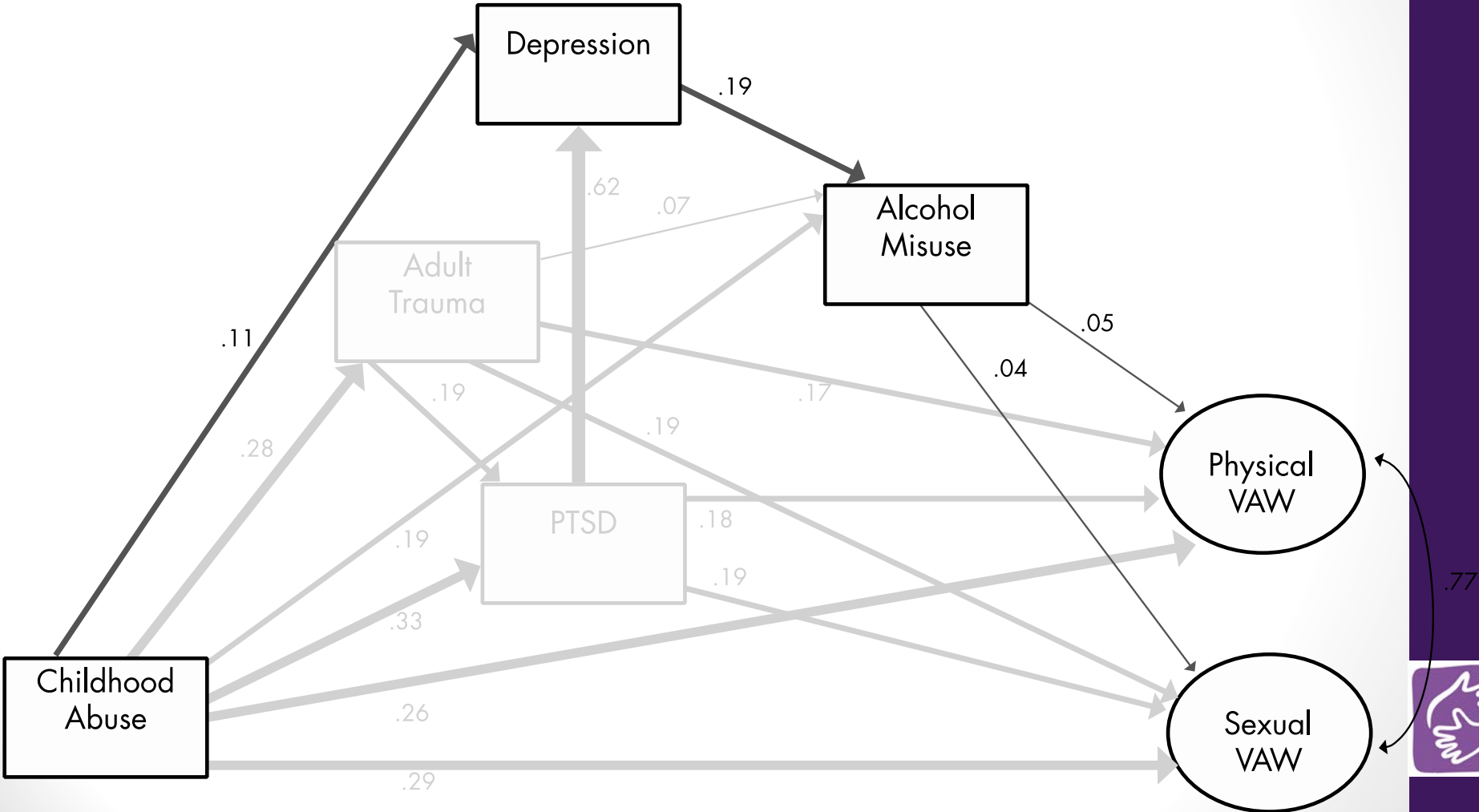
Goodness of model fit Chi-square = 611 $p = 0.000$; CFI = 0.978; RMSEA = 0.032 (90% CI 0.029 - 0.034).



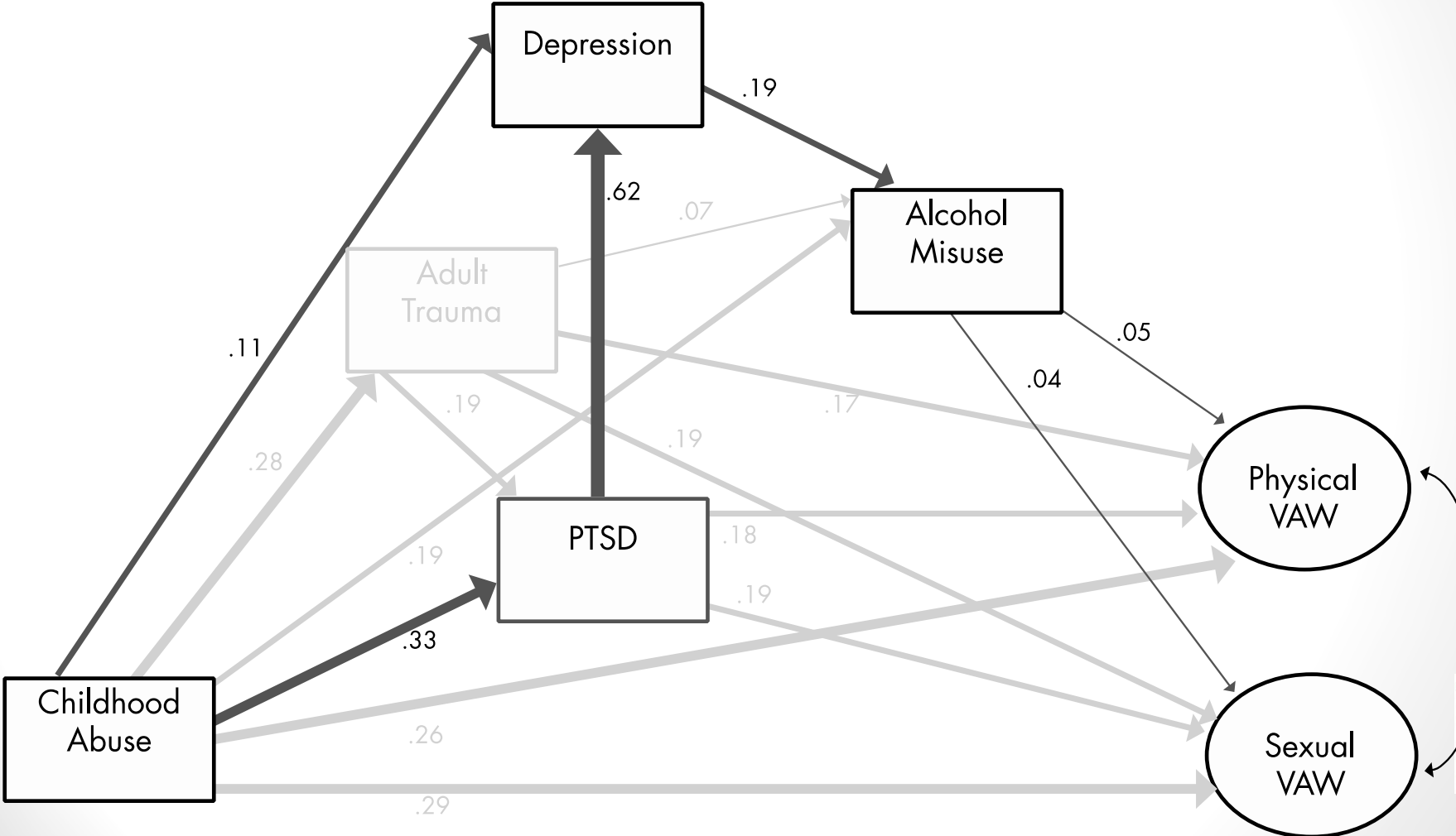
Direct effects of Childhood Trauma on IPV



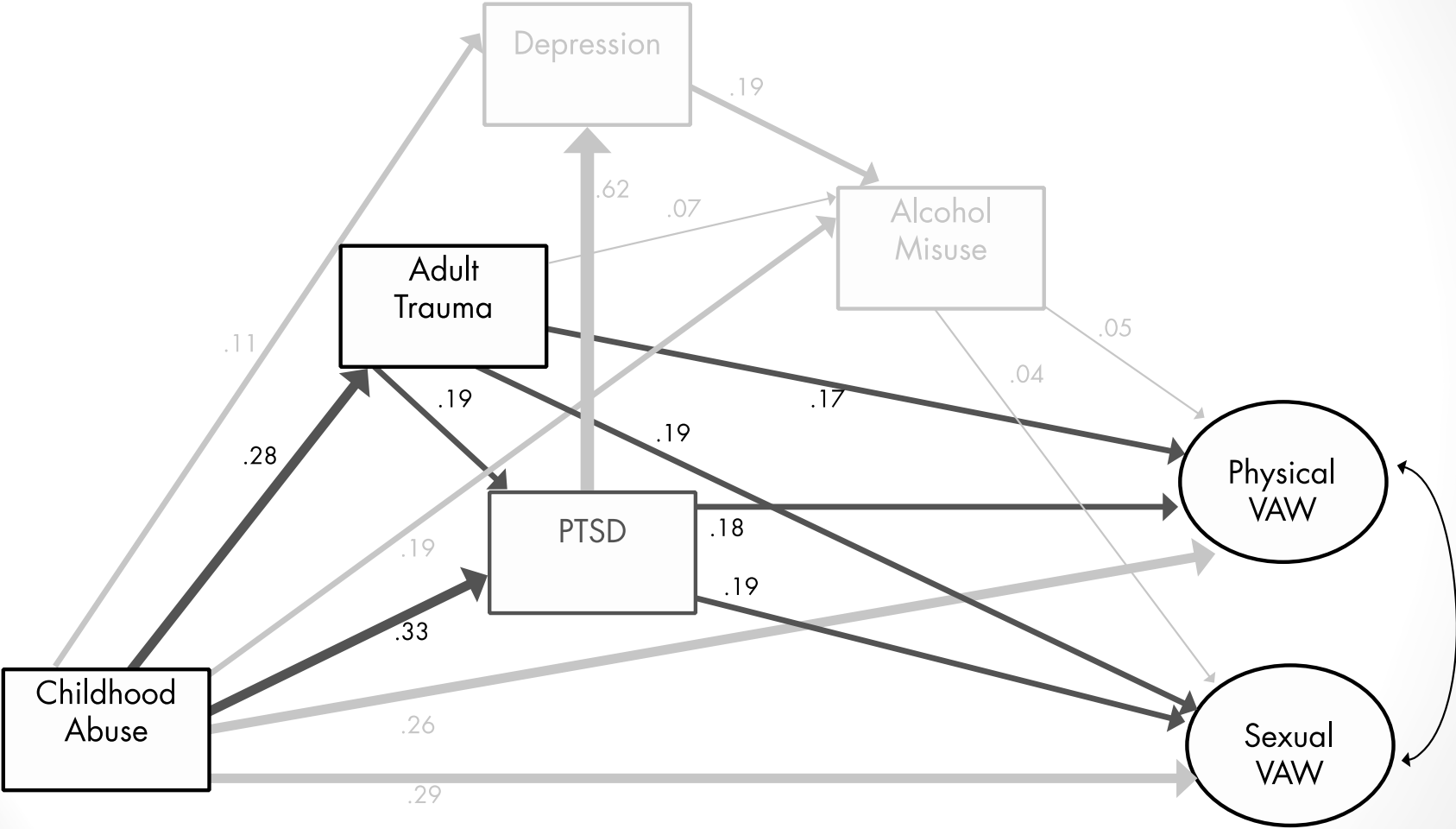
Path 1: Depression + Alcohol



Path 1: Depression + Alcohol



Path 2: Continued trauma + PTSD



Key Findings

- High rates of childhood trauma in our setting are consistent with new studies from SSA^a
- Childhood adversities seem to directly influence men's use of VAW and operate through key pathways:
 - Depression -> Alcohol Misuse
 - Further adult traumas -> PTSD

a. VanderEnde (2016) Annals of Epi
b. Gupta (2010) J Epi Comm Health



Recommendations

- Alcohol use may be an unhealthy coping strategy for dealing with previous trauma
 - not a “stand-alone” cause for IPV
- Provide safe, therapeutic spaces for men to process childhood adversities
- Consider mental health symptomology in programming
- Must be integrating IPV work with prevention of violence against children



Acknowledgements

- Men participating in this research
- Researchers and fieldworkers
- Sonke Gender Justice
- Funders:



WhatWorks

TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

A Global Programme To Prevent
Violence Against Women and Girls



UKaid

from the Department for
International Development

