

# **A family-based approach to understanding patterns of violence against women and children in Zambia**

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# Family violence: a critical public health challenge

- Intimate partner violence and violence against children are common and co-occur
  - 1 in 3 women experience physical/sexual IPV (Devries et al., 2013)
  - More than 1 in 5 children experience physical & 1 in 8 sexual abuse (Stoltenborgh et al. 2011; Stoltenborgh et al. 2013)
- Multiple forms of family violence place children at risk for poor health outcomes
  - Mental distress/disorder and behavioral problems into adulthood (Hillberg et al., 2011; Norman et al., 2012; Schiff et al., 2014)
  - Poor physical health across the life course (Irish et al., 2010, Springer et al., 2010)
- Family violence is cyclical (Fonseka et al., 2015; Abramsky et al., 2011)



# Family violence in Zambia

- Physical, emotional and/or sexual IPV reported by approximately half of ever-married women (Kishor et al., 2004)
- Estimated prevalence of child sexual abuse: 40% (Mbagaya et al., 2013)
- Prior qualitative research in Lusaka indicates recognition of sexual abuse as a significant problem faced by HIV-affected children (Murray et al., 2006)



# Study aims

1. Characterize clusters or “classes” of experienced violence types among families in which an adult woman has reported recent IPV
2. Determine child and adult correlates of class membership



# Dataset

- Secondary analysis of baseline data of a DFID-funded randomized control trial (RCT): “Preventing violence against women and girls in Zambia: An impact evaluation of a multi-level approach.” (Kane et al., in press at Global Mental Health)
  - n=129 (the 52% of families with an enrolled child aged 8-17)
  - Assessments conducted via Audio Computer Assisted Self Interviewing (ACASI).
- Recruitment: May-July 2016 in three compounds in Lusaka
- Eligibility
  - Adult female: total score  $\geq 38$  on the Severity of Violence Against Women Scale (SVAWS; physical violence)
  - Her male partner: total score  $\geq 8$  on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) by partner’s or own report





# Latent Class Analysis (LCA)

- Used when the goal is to characterize and measure a latent construct that is categorical (or group based) in nature
  - Allows us to identify subgroups based on responses to questions about violence
- Implications for programs and intervention development
  - Can identify who is most at risk using patterns of violence and better characterize complex experiences/exposures
  - Tailor intervention to the family, not just the individual



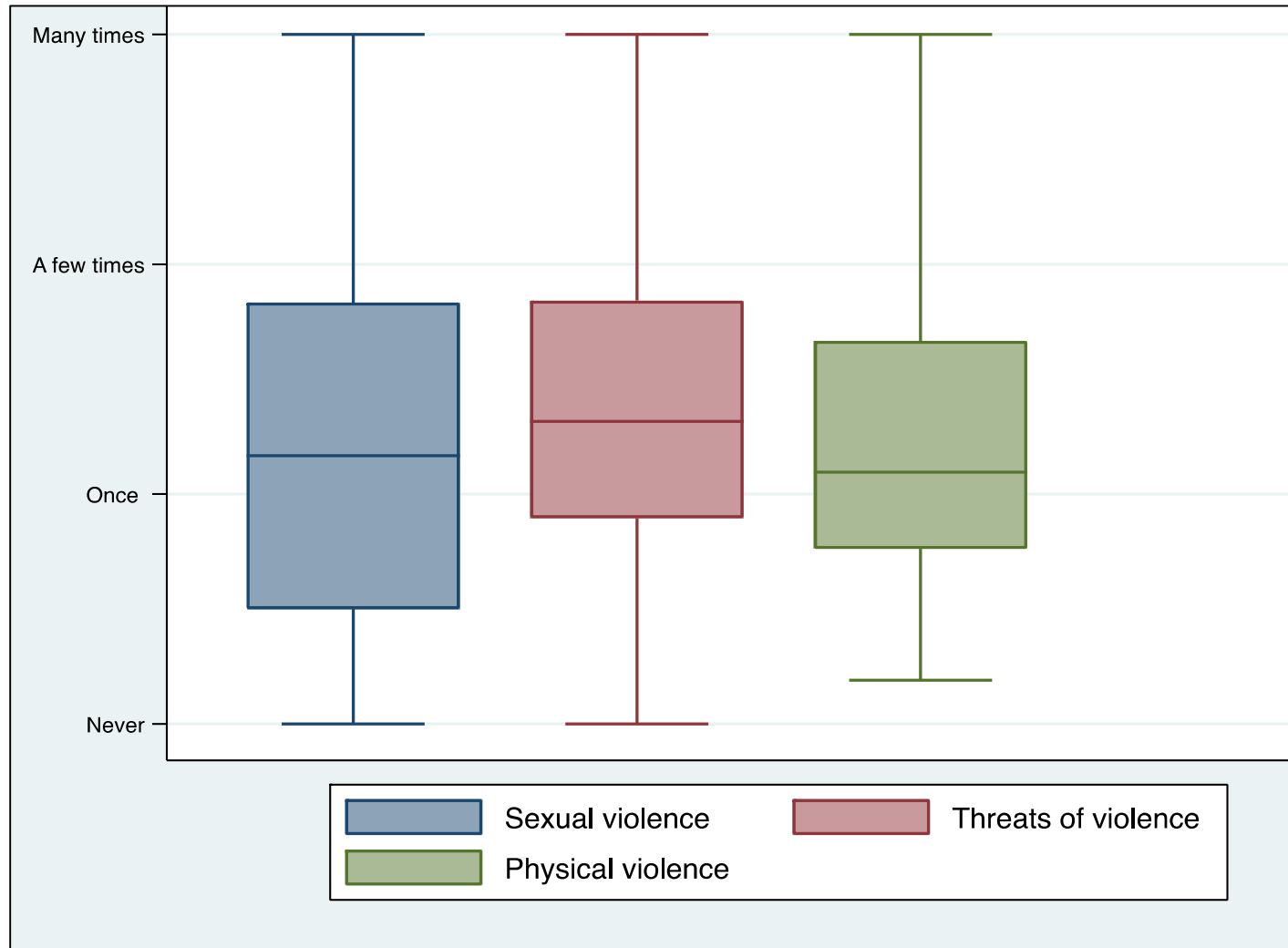
# Measures

	<b>Women</b> <i>violence perpetrated by partner</i>	<b>Children</b> <i>violence experienced within home</i>
Physical violence	SVAWS 20-item (Marshall 1992) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example items: slapped you with palm of hand; pushed or shoved you; beat you up</li> </ul>	5 YVS items (Nadel et al. 1996) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hit; kicked; pushed or shoved; badly beaten up; shot at; attacked with a knife or sharp weapon</li> </ul>
Threats of violence	SVAWS 19-item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example items: acted like a bully toward you; shook a finger at you; made threatening gestures or faces at you</li> </ul>	2 YVS items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threatened with a knife or sharp weapon; threatened with a gun</li> </ul>
Sexual violence	SVAWS 6-item sub-scale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example items: demanded sex whether you wanted it or not, made you have sex against your will, physically forced you to have sex</li> </ul>	1 YVS item (binary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexually assaulted</li> </ul>
Psychological violence	N/A	1 YVS item (binary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbally or emotionally abused</li> </ul>

SVAWS = Severity of Violence Against Women Scale; YVS = Youth Victimization Scale



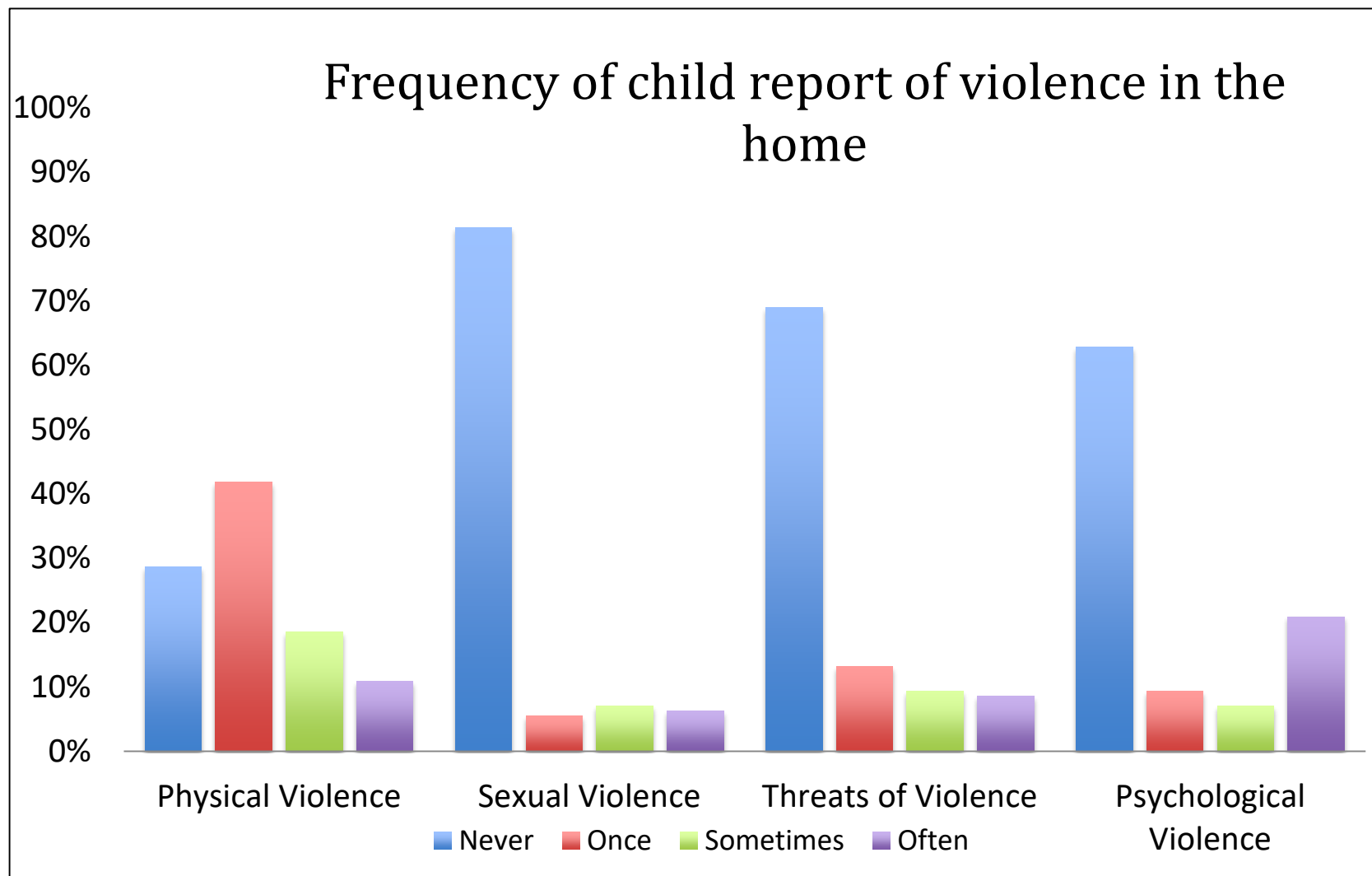
# IPV experiences of adult women







# Child violence experiences at home



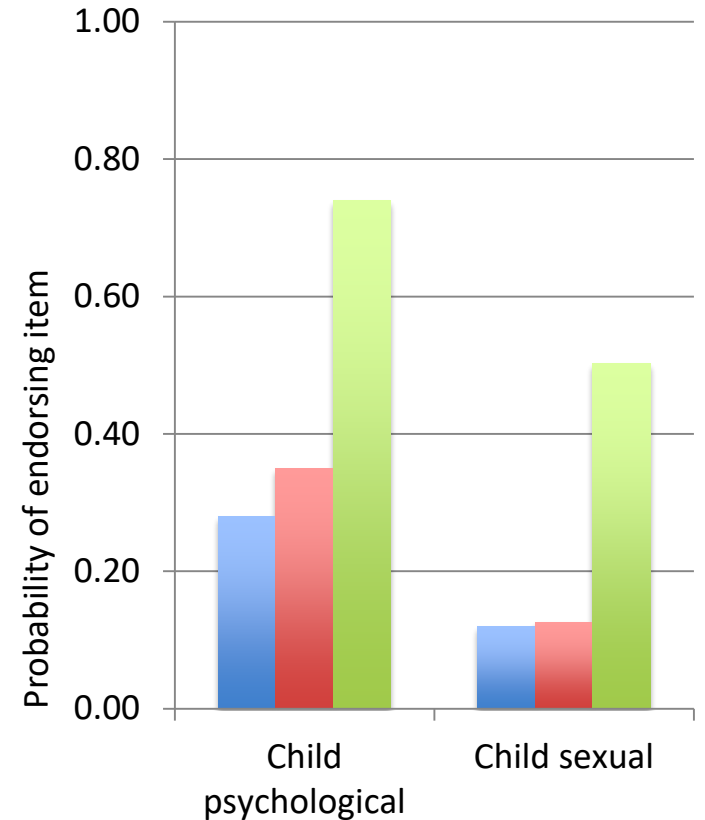
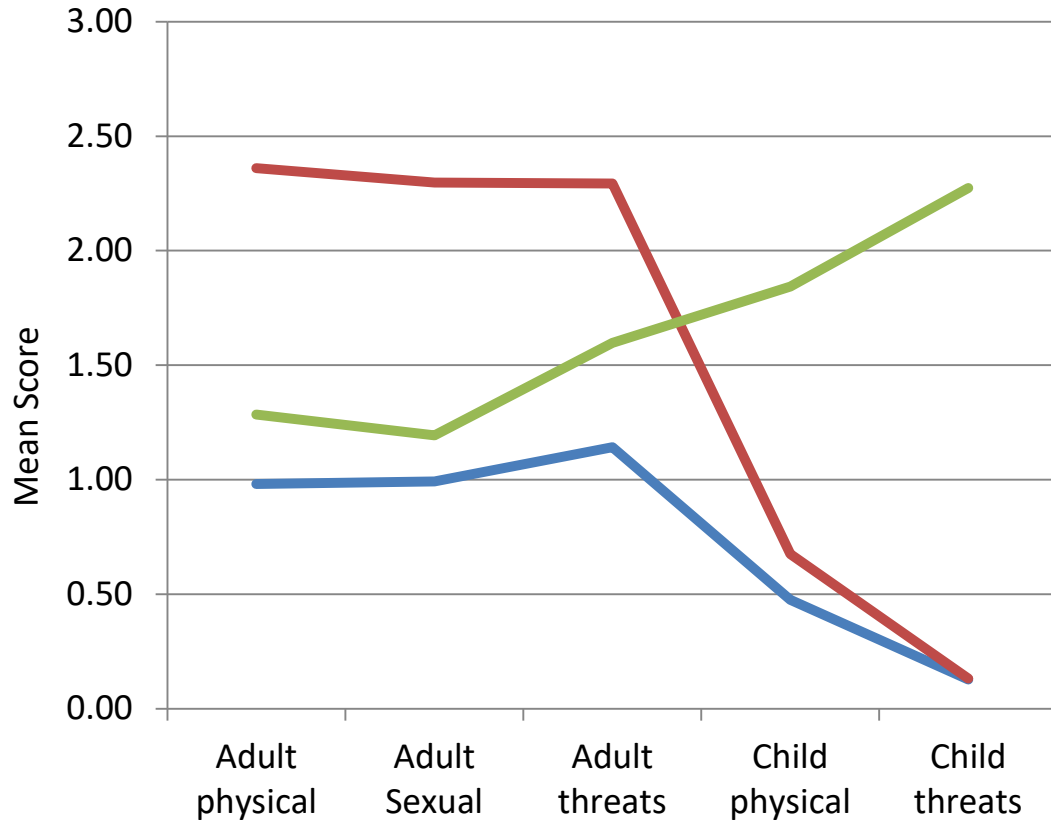


# LCA Results

Model Fit Statistics					
Model	Parameters	AIC	BIC	Lo-Mendell-Rubin	Entropy
2 class	20	1606	1663	0.001	0.97
<b>3 class</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1486</b>	<b>1566</b>	<b>0.035</b>	<b>0.94</b>
4 class	36	1428	1531	0.202	0.96

3 Class Model		
Class	Prevalence	Description
<b>1</b>	<b>63%</b>	Moderate violence experienced by woman, child violence relatively uncommon
<b>2</b>	<b>20%</b>	Severe violence experienced by woman, child violence relatively uncommon
<b>3</b>	<b>17%</b>	Moderate violence experienced by woman, child violence common

# Patterns of violence in the home: 3 class model



Class indicators (items and scales)





# Results: Latent Class Regression

Demographic Correlates	High IPV vs. Moderate IPV		High VAC vs. Moderate IPV	
	Estimate (SE)	P-value	Estimate (SE)	P-value
Age difference	0.06 (0.88)	0.94	1.11 (0.60)	0.07
Education difference	-0.35 (0.68)	0.61	0.24 (0.38)	0.52
Relationship status	-0.16 (0.65)	0.81	0.09 (0.37)	0.81
Child's gender	0.14 (0.97)	0.89	0.06 (0.51)	0.91
Gender equitable men's scale	-0.66 (1.09)	0.54	0.26 (0.53)	0.63





# Results: Latent Class Regression

Mental Health Correlates	High IPV vs. Moderate IPV		High VAC vs. Moderate IPV	
	Estimate (SE)	P-value	Estimate (SE)	P-value
PTSD				
Man	0.74 (1.00)	0.46	0.89 (0.46)	0.06
Woman	3.19 (1.05)	<b>&lt;0.01</b>	0.28 (0.46)	0.53
Partner report of man's alcohol use	0.16 (0.06)	<b>0.01</b>	0.03 (0.03)	0.42
Man's Trauma Exposure	-0.02 (0.09)	0.85	0.01 (0.06)	0.85

# Key messages and next steps

- Limitations
- Clusters were not distinguished by types of violence (either child or intimate partner)
- Experience of abuse by woman can not be used to determine if child abuse is also occurring and is severe in nature
  - More severe abuse of partner does not indicate that a child will also be experiencing abuse in the home



# Key messages and next steps

- Different correlates were found to be associated with belonging to a family where severe violence against the woman was occurring and where violence against children was more common
- Women's trauma symptoms and men's alcohol use were key factors related to severe IPV
- Evidenced based treatments exist that are feasible in LMIC for children and adults
  - Interpersonal therapy
  - Cognitive-behavioral therapies (CBT, CPT, TF-CBT)
  - Transdiagnostic approaches (CETA) – evidenced for mental health. Testing for men's alcohol use and IPV



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# Questions?

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**Thank you!**

