

## **ATTACHMENT STYLES, ECONOMIC STRESS AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN LAFIA, NIGERIA**

**Suleiman Aliyu Abubakar<sup>1\*</sup>, Abubakar Musa Tafida<sup>2</sup>, Abdullahi Oyiwose Aliyu<sup>3</sup>,  
Sulaiman Babayo<sup>4</sup> & Gwarzo Shehu Sani<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, Nasarawa State University Keffi, Nigeria

<sup>3,4</sup>Department of Psychology, Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

<sup>5</sup>Department of Psychology, Nasarawa State University Keffi, Nigeria

\*suleiman220@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT:** The study examined Attachment styles, Economic stress and Intimate Partner Violence in Lafia, Nigeria. A sample of one hundred and twelve (112) participants, which involved 73 males and 39 females with an age range of 24-56, were used in the study. Also, a purposive sampling technique was used to select the participants for the study. Participants completed three validated instruments measuring attachment styles, economic stress, and IPV. Linear regression and multiple regressions were used to analyse the data collected. Hypotheses were tested using linear regression and Multiple Regression Analysis. The results of the analyses confirmed all three hypotheses: Hypothesis one shows that attachment styles significantly influence intimate partner violence (Mean = 12.34, SD = 7.34;  $R = 0.567 = R^2 = 0.321$  ( $F(5, 95) = 9.001, t = 10.899, p < .05$ ). Also, Hypothesis two indicated that economic stress significantly influences intimate partner violence (Mean = 13.43, SD = 8.56;  $R = 0.519; R^2 = 0.269$  ( $F(1, 99) = 25.630, t = 6.998, p < .05$ ). Similarly, hypothesis three (3) was tested and the result revealed that attachment styles and economic stress jointly and significantly influenced intimate partner violence (Mean = 11.56, SD = 5.38;  $R = .665 = R^2 = 0.465$  ( $F(3, 97) = 74.317, t = 3.718, p < .05$ ). The findings were discussed in line with other related works and it was recommended among others that, the government should implement programmes aimed at reducing IPV and should prioritize building social support networks for perpetrators.

**Keywords:** Attachment Styles, Economic Stress, Intimate Partner Violence

### **INTRODUCTION**

Intimate partner violence has been a global concern, especially in developing countries where women are most victims of crime with devastating consequences on their reproductive health and maternal wellbeing (Howaida & Seham, 2018). Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a pervasive and complex issue that affects millions of people worldwide. According to the World Health

Organization (WHO), IPV is defined as "any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological, or sexual harm to those in the relationship" (WHO, 2013).

Globally, IPV is recognised as a significant public health concern, affecting an estimated 30% of women worldwide (WHO, 2013). The United Nations (UN) has acknowledged IPV as a violation of human rights, emphasising the need for concerted efforts to prevent and respond to this issue (UN, 2015). In Africa, IPV is a deeply ingrained problem, perpetuated by societal norms, cultural beliefs, and power imbalances. According to a study by the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), IPV affects an estimated 36% of women in Africa (AWDF, 2016). In Nigeria, IPV is a widespread issue, with an estimated 28% of women experiencing physical violence from their partners (National Population Commission, 2019). Aderinto (2008) emphasized the need to address the cultural and societal factors that contributing to IPV in Nigeria. The Nigerian government has taken steps to address IPV, including the passage of the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act in 2015.

Intimate partner violence has been defined as the range of physically, psychologically and sexually coercive acts used against adults and adolescents by current or former intimate partners (Howaida & Seham, 2018). World Health Organization (2021) defines intimate partner violence (IPV) as physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by an intimate partner or ex-partner or spouse. Intimate partner violence has a severe effect on maternal health in several ways and has a high probability of resulting to injury or death; from all forms of violence, 1.3 million people worldwide die each year, accounting for 2.5% of global mortality (WHO, 2022). The recognition of IPV as a distinct form of violence has evolved over time. Early definitions often focused on physical violence within marriage and the family, neglecting emotional and psychological abuse. Cultural norms significantly influence the definition and perception of IPV. In many societies, including Nigeria, traditional gender roles and patriarchal structures contribute to the normalisation of violence in intimate relationships. Owoaje et al. (2018) noted that "cultural beliefs often perpetuate the idea that violence is an acceptable way to resolve conflicts within intimate relationships, thereby complicating the recognition of IPV". This cultural lens is critical in understanding the prevalence and forms of IPV. Legal definitions of IPV vary widely across countries, influenced by cultural attitudes toward domestic violence and women's rights. In Nigeria, the legal system has made strides to address IPV, but many gaps remain. Okonofua (2002) argues that "legal definitions of IPV must evolve to encompass the broader spectrum of abuse, including psychological and economic abuse, to effectively protect victims". This evolving legal framework is crucial for improving the definition and response to IPV.

IPV is increasingly recognised as a public health issue, with significant implications for mental and physical health. Krug et al. (2002) state that "IPV can lead to a range of health problems, including physical injuries, psychological disorders, and even mortality, highlighting the need for comprehensive definitions that encompass its health impacts". This perspective emphasises the importance of defining IPV in a way that captures its health consequences.

Research has broadened the understanding of IPV beyond physical violence to include emotional, sexual, and economic abuse. Garcia-Moreno et al. (2005) highlight that "intimate partner violence includes a spectrum of behaviours, from emotional abuse to physical violence, requiring a comprehensive definition that reflects these variations". This scholarly work has contributed to a more nuanced understanding of IPV. Contemporary definitions of IPV reflect the complexity of relationships and the various forms of abuse. Smith et al. (2018) state that Intimate partner violence is characterised by behaviours that cause physical, sexual, or psychological harm, highlighting the need for definitions that encompass the spectrum of violence experienced by individuals in intimate relationships. This comprehensive definition underscores the multifaceted nature of IPV. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has garnered significant attention in scholarly research due to its pervasive nature and devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities. The study of IPV encompasses various disciplines, including psychology, sociology, public health, and criminology, highlighting its complexity and multifaceted nature. Understanding of IPV has evolved to recognise its diverse forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse. Scholars such as Stets and Straus (1990) introduced typologies of IPV, emphasising that not all intimate partner violence is the same; it can vary in severity, frequency, and impact.

Research has shown that individuals with insecure attachment styles, such as anxious or avoidant attachment may be more at risk for experiencing or perpetrating IPV. A study by Shorey et al. (2011) found that individuals with anxious attachment styles were more likely to engage in psychological aggression in their relationships, while those with avoidant attachment styles were more likely to engage in physical aggression. Individuals with anxious attachment styles were more likely to be victims of IPV, while those with avoidant attachment styles were more likely to be perpetrators of IPV (Johnson, 2015). This suggests that different attachment styles may influence the role individuals play in IPV dynamics.

Additionally, research has shown that individuals with a history of childhood trauma or insecure attachment are more likely to engage in maladaptive coping strategies, such as aggression, in response to conflict in their intimate relationships (Beck et al., 2019).

Overall, while attachment styles are not deterministic in predicting IPV, they can provide valuable insights into the risk factors and dynamics of intimate partner violence. Further research and exploration of the relationship between attachment styles and IPV is necessary to better understand and prevent this complex and troubling issue.

According to Hamby and Grych (2023), Economic stress is a significant factor that can contribute to Intimate Partner Violence. A study by Lammers et al. (2020) found that couples experiencing financial hardship are more likely to engage in violent behaviour. For instance, a study found that the rate of IPV was 2.7% for couples with low levels of subjective financial strain, compared to 9.5% for those with high levels of financial strain. Additionally, unemployment can also play a role in IPV. Research has shown that men who experience unemployment are more likely to perpetrate IPV. A study found that the rate of IPV was 4.7% for couples where the male was always employed, compared to 12.3% for couples where the male experienced two or more periods of

unemployment (Johnson et al, 2023). Other scholars have also explored the link between economic stress and IPV. For example, Jennifer (2022) found that economic factors, such as financial strain and unemployment, can increase the risk of IPV. Similarly, Sonia and Ronald (2020) found that low-income women who experience financial strain are more likely to experience IPV.

This study investigates the influence of adult attachment styles and economic stress on intimate partner violence in Lafia, with the hypothesis that insecure attachment and high stress levels will significantly predict IPV

### **Statement of the Problem**

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) remains a critical public health and social issue worldwide, affecting millions of individuals regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status, or cultural background. IPV encompasses a range of abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse, which can have devastating consequences for victims and their families (World Health Organization, 2013). Despite growing awareness and advocacy, the prevalence and impact of IPV continue to be alarming, with studies indicating that approximately one in three women and one in four men experience some form of IPV in their lifetime (Black et al., 2011).

Due to the increased rate of intimate partner violence in Nasarawa State, the Nasarawa State House of Assembly (NSHA) held a public hearing on Gender-based Violence Prohibition Bill 2020 with a view to come up with a workable document that would holistically address issues of sexual violence against children and women in the State (Solomon, 2020). Therefore, since intimate partner violence has been recognized as a global issue, it is against this backdrop that this research will be conducted to investigate the influence of attachment styles and economic stress on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

The following questions guided this study:

1. What is the influence of attachment styles on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria?
2. What is the influence of economic stress on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria?
3. What is the joint influence of attachment styles and economic stress on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study looked at the following objectives:

1. Determine the influence of attachment styles on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.
2. Assess the influence of economic stress on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.
3. Investigate the joint influence of attachments styles and economic stress on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

## **Hypotheses**

The study tested the following hypotheses:

1. There will be a significant influence of attachment styles on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.
2. Economic stress will significantly influence intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.
3. Attachment styles and economic stress will jointly influence intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

## **Empirical Review of Literature**

### **Attachment Styles and Intimate Partner Violence**

Di Napoli et al. (2022) examined the relationship between attachment styles and intimate partner violence (IPV) among women. Participants of the study involved a sample of women who had experienced various forms of IPV, including physical abuse, control tactics, threatening behaviour, and coercion. Instruments Used were the Attachment Style Questionnaire (ASQ), which Assessed participants' attachment styles, categorising them into secure, anxious, or avoidant and the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), which Measured the extent and nature of IPV experienced by the participants. Results revealed Women with insecure attachment styles (anxious or avoidant) reported higher levels of IPV compared to those with secure attachment styles. Anxious attachment was particularly associated with experiencing controlling behaviours and threats from partners. Avoidant attachment correlated with experiencing physical abuse.

A 2023 study by Velotti et al. examined the role of complex trauma and attachment patterns in intimate partner violence (IPV). Participants: The study involved women who had experienced IPV. The instrument used was an Attachment Style Questionnaire (ASQ), which Assessed participants' attachment styles. Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS): Measured the extent and nature of IPV experienced. Symptom Checklist-90-Revised (SCL-90-R): Evaluated psychological symptoms and distress. Results showed Insecure attachment styles were associated with higher levels of psychological distress among IPV victims. Attachment anxiety correlated with increased acceptance of IPV myths and justification of violence. Attachment avoidance was linked to difficulties in seeking support and recognizing abusive behaviours.

### **Economic Stress and Intimate Partner Violence**

One important study on Economic stress and intimate partner violence in 2023 was conducted by Johnson (2023). The researchers used a mixed-methods approach, combining survey data with qualitative interviews. The participants in the study were 300 individuals who had identified as victims of intimate partner violence. They were asked to complete a survey assessing their levels of Economic stress and experiences of violence. A subset of participants was then selected for qualitative interviews further explore the impact of Economic stress on their relationships. The results of the study showed a strong correlation between high levels of Economic stress and increased incidence of intimate partner violence. Qualitative interviews revealed that Economic stress often exacerbated existing conflicts and heightened emotions, leading to an escalation of violence in relationships.

Smith and Johnson (2019) conducted a research on the Impact of Economic stress on Intimate Partner Violence among Young Adults. A cross-sectional study was conducted with a sample of 200 young adults aged 18-25. Participants completed surveys assessing their levels of Economic stress and experiences of intimate partner violence. The Economic Stress Scale and Conflict Tactics Scale were used to measure Economic stress and violence, respectively. Statistical analyses, including regression models, were employed to examine the relationship between Economic stress and intimate partner violence. The study found a significant positive correlation between high levels of Economic stress and an increased likelihood of experiencing intimate partner violence. Participants who reported higher Economic stress levels were also more likely to engage in aggressive behaviours within their relationships.

Also, Mellar et al. (2023) conducted a cross-sectional study as part of the New Zealand Family Violence Study, adapted from the World Health Organization's Multi-Country Study on Violence against Women. Data included self-reported health outcomes and IPV experiences. Participants were 1,431 ever-partnered women, aged 18–65, representing diverse ethnic and socioeconomic groups in New Zealand. Findings showed 54% of participants reported lifetime IPV, with a significant association between IPV exposure and adverse physical and mental health outcomes. Women experiencing multiple types of IPV faced compounded health risks, including pain, poor general health, and mental health conditions like anxiety and depression.

### **METHOD**

#### **Research Design**

This study adopted a cross-sectional survey. This design is more appropriate considering the nature of the problem under study. It also complied with the kind of data that the study demands, as questionnaires were used to collect information on people's feelings, attitudes, and opinions from natural settings.



### **Population, Sample and Sampling Technique**

The populations for the study were inmates in Lafia Correctional Centre (103) and detainees in Nigeria Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID 53) Lafia, Nasarawa State, which amounted to One Hundred and Fifty-Six participants.

### **Sample Size**

The sample size for the participants was drawn using Robert Slovin's formula to ascertain the suitable size for the study.

The total population for the study consisted of 156 individuals. The study sample consisted of 112 participants.

### **Method of Data Collection**

Research assistants distributed and retrieved the questionnaires.

The instruments used were:

#### **Attachment Styles Questionnaire (ASQ)**

Attachment Styles Questionnaire (ASQ) was developed by Collins et al., 1996 and revalidated by Kyle D. Killian, 2018 to measure attachment styles of individuals. The scale contains 20 items. The answers are given on a five (5) Likert scale: Not at all a characteristic of me (0), A little (1), Moderately (2), Quite a bit (3), Very characteristics of me (4).

#### **Economic Stress Questionnaire (ESQ)**

The Economic Stress Questionnaire (ESQ) is a self-report measure designed to assess the level of economic stress and financial hardship experienced by individuals. The questionnaire aims to capture the emotional, cognitive, and behavioural aspects of economic stress, providing a comprehensive understanding of the impact of financial difficulties on mental health and well-being. The questionnaire was developed by Cohen et al. (2015). The scale contains 22 items. The answers are given in a four (4) Likert scale: Almost (1), Sometimes (2), Often (3), Usually (4).

#### **Intimate Partner Violence Questionnaire**

The Intimate Partner Violence Questionnaire (IPVQ) is a self-report measure designed to assess the presence and severity of intimate partner violence. The questionnaire was developed by Walter W. Hudson in 1993 and has since been widely used in research and clinical settings. The IPVQ

consists of 25 items, each rated on a 6-point Likert scale (1 = Never, 2 = Once, 3 = A few times, 4 = About once a week, 5 = Several times a week, and 6 = Almost every day)

### Techniques for Data Analysis

The researcher employed various statistical approaches to analyse the collected data, including linear regression analysis and multiple regression analysis.

To test Hypothesis 1, linear regression analysis was used to analyse the collected data.

To test Hypothesis 2, linear regression analysis was used to analyse the collected data.

To test Hypothesis 3, linear regression analysis was also used to analyse the collected data.

To test Hypothesis 4, multiple linear regression analysis was used to analyse the collected data.

## RESULTS

**Table 4.1: Linear Regression analysis showing there will be a significant influence of attachment styles on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria**

Variables	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>F</i>	$\beta$	<i>T</i>	<i>P(sig)</i>
Constant	.567	.321	9.001			.000
Attachment styles				.893	10.899	.000

*Dependent Variable: Intimate Partner Violence*

The results presented in Table 4.1 show that attachment styles have a significant influence on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. (Mean = 12.34, SD = 7.34;  $R = 0.567$  =  $R^2 = 0.321$  ( $F(5, 95) = 9.001$ ,  $t = 10.899$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This means that attachment styles contributed 32.1% variation in intimate partner violence. This finding implies that attachment styles are likely to bring about Intimate Partner Violence. Therefore, this hypothesis has been accepted.

**Table 4.2: Linear Regression analysis showing a significant influence of economic stress on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria**

Variables	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>F</i>	$\beta$	<i>T</i>	<i>P(sig)</i>
Constant	.519	.269	36.476		6.998	.000
EStress				.519	6.040	.000

*Dependent Variable: Intimate Partner Violence*



The results presented in Table 4.2 show that economic stress has a significant influence on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. (Mean = 13.43, SD = 8.56;  $R = 0.519$ ;  $R^2 = 0.269$  ( $F(1, 99) = 25.630$ ,  $t = 6.998$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This means that economic stress contributed 26.9% variation in intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. This finding implies that economic stress is significantly associated with increased IPV risk. Therefore, this hypothesis is also confirmed in the study.

**Table 4.3: Multiple regression analysis showing the joint influence of attachment styles and economic stress on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State**

Variable	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F	Coeff.	P(sig)
Constant	.665	.465	74.317	4.1597	3.7188 .000
Attachment styles				.2005	4.5575 .000
Economic stress				.0958	2.6444 .0062

*Dependent Variable: Intimate Partner Violence*

The results presented above revealed that attachment styles and economic stress jointly and significantly influenced intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State. (Mean = 11.56, SD = 5.38;  $R = .665$ ;  $R^2 = 0.465$  ( $F(3, 97) = 74.317$ ,  $t = 3.718$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This means that attachment styles, economic stress significantly influenced intimate partner violence by 46.5%. This hypothesis is also confirmed in the study.

## DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

Hypothesis 1: This states that there will be a significant influence of attachment styles on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The result of the study has confirmed the hypothesis. This means that intimate partners with attachment are prone to intimate partner violence. This finding supports the work of Di Napoli et al. (2022), who examined the relationship between attachment styles and intimate partner violence (IPV) among women. Participants of the study involved a sample of women who had experienced various forms of IPV, including physical abuse, control tactics, threatening behaviour, and coercion. Instruments Used were the Attachment Style Questionnaire (ASQ), which Assessed participants' attachment styles, categorising them into secure, anxious, or avoidant and the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), which measured the extent and nature of IPV experienced by the participants. Results revealed Women with insecure attachment styles (anxious or avoidant) reported higher levels of IPV compared to those with secure attachment styles. Anxious attachment was particularly associated with experiencing controlling behaviours and threats from partners. Avoidant attachment correlated with experiencing physical abuse.

Hypothesis 2: which states there will be a significant influence of economic stress and intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The result of the study confirmed the hypothesis. This finding collaborated with the work of Johnson et al. (2023) who used a mixed-methods approach, combining survey data with qualitative interviews. The participants in the study were 300 individuals who had identified as victims of intimate partner violence. They were asked to complete a survey assessing their levels of Economic stress and experiences of violence. A subset of participants was then selected for qualitative interviews to further explore the impact of Economic stress on their relationships. The results of the study showed a strong correlation between high levels of Economic stress and increased incidence of intimate partner violence. Qualitative interviews revealed that Economic stress often exacerbated existing conflicts and heightened emotions, leading to an escalation of violence in relationships.

The work is also in agreement with the work of Smith and Johnson (2019), who conducted a research on the Impact of Economic stress on Intimate Partner Violence among Young Adults. A cross-sectional study was conducted with a sample of 200 young adults aged 18-25. Participants completed surveys assessing their levels of Economic stress and experiences of intimate partner violence. The Economic Stress Scale and Conflict Tactics Scale were used to measure Economic stress and violence, respectively. Statistical analyses, including regression models, were employed to examine the relationship between Economic stress and intimate partner violence. The study found a significant positive correlation between high levels of Economic stress and increased likelihood of experiencing intimate partner violence. Participants who reported higher Economic stress levels were also more likely to engage in aggressive behaviours within their relationships. Factors such as coping strategies and social support were found to moderate the relationship between Economic stress and violence.

The work is also in line with the work of Mellar et al. (2023) who conducted a cross-sectional study as part of the New Zealand Family Violence Study, adapted from the World Health Organization's Multi-Country Study on Violence against Women. Data included self-reported health outcomes and IPV experiences. Participants were 1,431 ever-partnered women, aged 18–65, representing diverse ethnic and socioeconomic groups in New Zealand. Findings showed 54% of participants reported lifetime IPV, with a significant association between IPV exposure and adverse physical and mental health outcomes. Women experiencing multiple types of IPV faced compounded health risks, including pain, poor general health, and mental health conditions like anxiety and depression.

Hypothesis 3 which states that there will be a joint significant influence of attachment styles and economic stress on intimate partner violence in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The result of the study has confirmed the hypothesis, and it is hereby accepted. The work is also in line with the work of Thompson and Harris (2023), who conducted a study on the Influence of social support, attachment styles, and economic stress on intimate partner violence (IPV). The method used was a Cross-sectional survey design. Participants involved 500 individuals (250 men and 250 women) who have experienced intimate partner violence within the past year. Instruments used were The Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS), which measured social support;

the Experiences in Close Relationships Scale (ECR), which assessed attachment styles; and the Economic Stress Scale (ESS), which evaluated economic stress levels. The study found that low social support and insecure attachment styles (anxious and avoidant) were significantly associated with higher levels of IPV. Additionally, economic stress exacerbated the risk of IPV, indicating that individuals with insecure attachment styles and limited social support were more vulnerable when facing financial difficulties.

## **Conclusion**

The present study investigated the influence of attachment styles and economic stress on intimate partner violence (IPV) in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study provides significant insights into the complex dynamics of intimate partner violence (IPV) highlighting attachment styles and economics stress as influencers of intimate partner violence. This study affirms that emotional bonds and financial strain are significant psychosocial risk factors for IPV, with implications for trauma-informed policy design.

## **Recommendations**

1. Government should assess for economic stress and provide financial counselling and assistance to address underlying economic issues. The findings of this study have important implications for policy.
2. Policymakers should prioritize initiatives aimed at promoting social support and community connections, such as funding for support groups and community programs.
3. Policymakers should consider the importance of addressing economic stress and providing financial assistance to individuals and families in need.

## **Limitations of the Study**

The study on the influence of attachment styles and economic stress on intimate partner violence (IPV) in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. has several limitations:

1. Sampling bias: The study's sample may not be representative of the larger population of IPV perpetrators, which may limit the generalizability of the findings.
2. Self-report measures: The study relies on self-report measures, which may be subject to biases and limitations, such as social desirability bias.
3. Cross-sectional design: The study's cross-sectional design limits the ability to establish causality between the variables.
4. Lack of control variables: The study may not control for other variables that could influence the relationship between attachment styles, economic stress, and IPV.

## REFERENCES

- Beck, A. R., Pietkiewicz, I. J., & Gackebach, J. (2019). Intimate relationships and mental health. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 75(1), 13-25. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.22693>
- Black, B. M., Weisz, A. N., & Bennett, L. W. (2022). *Intimate partner violence: A clinical training guide for mental health professionals*. Springer Publishing Company.
- Black, B. M., Weisz, A. N., & Bennett, L. W. (2022). Understanding intimate partner violence: Prevalence, risk factors, and mental health consequences. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 78(1), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.23207>
- Garcia-Moreno, C., Heise, L., Jansen, H. A., Ellsberg, M., & Watts, C. (2005). Violence against women: An urgent public health priority. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 83(1), 1-10.
- García-Moreno, C., Jansen, H. A. F. M., Ellsberg, M., Heise, L., & Watts, C. H. (2005). Prevalence of intimate partner violence: Findings from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. *Lancet*, 366(9485), 1260-1269. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(05\)67130-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(05)67130-8)
- Hamby, S. L., & Grych, J. H. (2023). The web of violence: Relations among child, adult, and community levels of violence. *Journal of Family Violence*, 28(5), 475-489. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-013-9513-5>
- Johnson, A. (2023). The role of stress in intimate partner violence: A mixed-methods study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 38(2), 345-362.
- Johnson, S. M. (2015). Attachment and intimate partner violence. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 41(2), 147-158. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmft.12059>
- Johnson, S. M. (2015). Attachment and the dance of intimacy. In J. A. Levine & S. A. Levine (Eds.), *Attachment and sexuality* (pp. 33-46). Karnac Books.
- Krug, E. G., Dahlberg, L. L., Mercy, J. A., Zwi, A. B., & Lozano, R. (2002). *World report on violence and health*. World Health Organization.
- Lammers, M., Ritchie, L. L., & Woods, S. J. (2011). The effects of stress on intimate partner violence. *Journal of Family Violence*, 26(6), 519-527. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-011-9385-9>

- Mellar, B. M., Hashemi, L., Selak, V., Gulliver, P. J., McIntosh, T. K. D., & Fanslow, J. L. (2023). Association between women's exposure to intimate partner violence and self-reported health outcomes in New Zealand. *JAMA Network Open*, 6(3), e231311. Available at: JAMA Network Open.
- Okonofua, F. E. (2002). Addressing the challenge of violence against women in Nigeria. *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, 6(1), 15-24.
- Okonofua, F. E. (2002). Intimate partner violence: A review of the literature. *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, 6(1), 9-23.
- Owoaje, A. A. (2018). Intimate partner violence: A qualitative study of experiences of women in Nigeria. *Journal of Family Violence*, 33(5), 357-367.
- Owoaje, E. T., OlaOlorun, F. M., & Adebayo, A. M. (2018). Intimate relationships and domestic violence among married women in Nigeria. *Journal of Family Violence*, 33(5), 651-661. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-018-9976-5>
- Shorey, H. S., Critchfield, K. L., & Duncan, J. W. (2001). Attachment style and intimate partner violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 16(10), 1039-1053. <https://doi.org/10.1177/088626001016010004>
- Shorey, J., Febres, J., Brasfield, H., Zucosky, H. (2020). Attachment style and intimate partner violence perpetration among men entering substance use treatment. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 35(1-2), 265-284.
- Shorey, R. C., & Cornelius, T. L. (2019). Attachment style, emotional dysregulation, and intimate partner violence. *Journal of Family Violence*, 34(5), 531-543. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-019-00135-5>
- Smith, A., & Johnson, R. (2019). The impact of stress on intimate partner violence among young adults. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 44(2), 189-205.
- Smith, A., & Wilson, L. (2019). Stressful life events and intimate partner violence recurrence: A longitudinal follow-up. *Journal of Trauma & Dissociation*, 20(4), 489-504.
- Smith, B., & Brown, C. (2023). Longitudinal study of stress and intimate partner violence in couples. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 45(3), 212-228.
- Smith, P. H., Homish, G. G., Leonard, K. E., & Cornelius, J. R. (2020). Intimate partner violence and specific substance use disorders: Findings from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 34(2), 277-290.

- Smith, S. G. (2018). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief – Updated Release. *National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.
- Smith, S. G., Zhang, X., Basile, K. C., Merrick, M. T., Wang, J., & Kresnow, M. (2018). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2015 data brief. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.
- Straus, M. A., & Gelles, R. J. (1993). *Physical violence in American families: Risk factors and adaptations to violence in 8,145 families*. Transaction Publishers.
- Stuart, G. L. (2020). Substance use and intimate partner violence among young adults: A longitudinal study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 35(1), 3-23.
- Stuart, G. L., Moore, T. M., Elkins, S. R., O'Farrell, T. J., Temple, J. R., Ramsey, S. E., & Shorey, R. C. (2013). The temporal association between substance use and intimate partner violence among women arrested for domestic violence. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 81(4), 681-690.
- Stuart, G. L., Moore, T. M., Ramsey, S. E., & Kahler, C. W. (2006). Hazardous drinking and relationship violence perpetration and victimization in women arrested for domestic violence. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 67(3), 332-340.
- Stuart, G. L., Ramsey, S. E., Moore, T. M., & Kahler, C. W. (2008). Hazardous drinking in incarcerated women: The role of adverse childhood experiences. *Addictive Behaviors*, 33(3), 405-412.
- Stuart, G. L., Temple, J. R., & Moore, T. M. (2006). Improving batterer intervention programs through theory-based research. *JAMA*, 296(5), 560-562.
- United Nations. (2015). *The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*.
- Velotti, P., Beomonte Zobel, S., Rogier, G., & Tambelli, R. (2018). Exploring relationships: A systematic review on intimate partner violence and attachment. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 1166. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.01166>
- Velotti, P., Garofalo, C., & Zavattini, G. C. (2021). Attachment insecurity and intimate partner violence: The mediating role of emotion dysregulation. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(7-8), NP3893–NP3912. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518793975>



- Velotti, P., Rogier, G., & Tambelli, R. (2023). Violence against women: Attachment, psychopathology, and beliefs. *Social Sciences*, 12(6), 346.
- Velotti, P., Zobel, S. B., Rogier, G., & Tambelli, R. (2022). Attachment style and intimate partner violence among young adults: A systematic review. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(1), 1-23.
- World Health Organization. (2013). *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*.