Psychometric characteristics of the Revised Attitudes toward Intimate Partner Violence Scale among College students in Costa Rica

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Attitudes toward dating violence

- Key points about dating violence
    - Dating violence is a global problem that affects young adults around the world
        - Indeed, adolescents and emerging adults are disproportionally affected by partner abuse
    - Dating violence might lead to long term consequences
        - Survivor, perpetrator, family, and society
    - Extent and nature of dating violence might be different among and within countries
        - In Costa Rica indicate that DV is a multi-causal phenomenon, and is strongly influenced by cultural values and practices
    - Attitudes toward dating violence (ATDV) has been identified as a prominent area to target efforts addressing this problem
        - Approval of dating violence has been linked to blaming the victim, normalization, and justification of violence
        - Healthy attitudes toward dating violence has been related to low prevalence of dating violence

- (Ellsberg, Jansen, Heise, Watts, & Garcia-Moreno, 2008; Campbell, 2002Family Violence Prevention Foundation [FVPF], 2012)

Purpose

- Valid assessment tools are required to study this phenomena.

- Yet, few instruments have been develop to assess dating violence attitudes among college students

- Only a small number have been validated outside of the US, compromising our understanding about dating violence experiences in other countries

- This study examined the psychometric characteristics of the Revised Intimate Partner Violence Attitude Scale (R-IPVS, Smith et al., 2005)

Revised-Attitudes toward Intimate Partner Violence

- The *Intimate Partner Violence Attitude Scales* (IPVAS) was developed by Smith, Thompson, Tomaka, & Buchanan (2005)

  - Revised by Fincham, Cui, Braithwaite, & Pasley (2008)

- Provides an independent assessment of the attitudes held by the participants toward violence in intimate relationships

- Likert scale that ranges from one (*strongly disagree*) to 4 (*strongly agree*).

- Higher scores indicate a more a favorable attitude toward dating violence behaviors, while lower scores indicate a more unfavorable attitude toward IPV behaviors

- Time of administration ranges from five to ten minutes

Revised-Attitudes toward Intimate Partner Violence

- Contains three scales (17 items): abuse, control, & violence
  - Abuse (8): related to the acceptability of experiencing or exhibiting both verbal and nonverbal abuse behavior
    - As long as my partner doesn't hurt me, "threats" are excused.
    - During a heated argument, it is okay for me to bring up something from my partner's past to hurt him or her.
    - I think it helps our relationship for me to make my partner jealous.
    - I don't mind my partner doing something just to make me jealous.
    - During a heated argument, it is okay for me to say something just to hurt my partner on purpose.
    - It is no big deal if my partner insults me in front of others.
    - It is okay for me to accept blame for my partner doing bad things.
    - It is okay for me to blame my partner when I do bad things.

Revised-Attitudes toward Intimate Partner Violence

- Control (5): attitudes about social control and monitoring a partner's behaviors
    - I would never try to keep my partner from doing things with other people.
    - I would be flattered if my partner told me not to talk to someone of the other sex.
    - I would not stay with a partner who tried to keep me from doing things with other people.
    - It is okay for me to tell my partner not to talk to someone of the opposite sex.
    - I would not like for my partner to ask me what I did every minute of the day.
- Violence (4): physical violence in terms of attitudes about direct physical abuse and threats of physical abuse
    - It would never be appropriate to hit or try to hit one's partner with an object.
    - It would not be appropriate to ever kick, bite, or hit a partner with one's fist.
    - Threatening a partner with a knife or gun is never appropriate.
    - I think it is wrong to ever damage anything that belongs to a partner.

Revised-Attitudes toward Intimate Partner Violence

▶ The R-IPVAS has predominant use of gender-inclusive terminology with respect to identification of a relationship

▶ It has consistently been used to assess attitudes toward IPV among Hispanics populations.

▶ Empirical evidence of strong reliability and validity.

    ▶ Internal consistency suggests that the three scales of the IPVAS have showed good reliability in different populations, including Hispanic college students, with alpha coefficients above .69 (Blasko, 2008; Hernandez, 2012; Smith et al., 2005).

    ▶ Strong content, construct, and predictive validity among different samples (Beas, 2009; Blasko, 2008; Camacho, 2009; Fincham et al., 2008; Frasier, 2010; Hernandez, 2012; McMullen, 2011; Smith et al., 2005).

Methods

Sample and Setting

- Data from a larger mixed method study exploring the influence of socio cultural factors on the attitudes toward intimate partner violence
- University of Costa Rica, Central America
- Convenience sample of 249 undergraduate students at the UCR
  - currently enrolled in at least one course at the UCR
  - self-identify as Costa Rican
  - between 18 and 26 years old
  - have lived in another country for > 6 months (exclusion)
- Recruited through multiple strategies

Procedures

- UM and UCR IRB approval
- S-CAB (n=6) of undergraduate students
- Online survey
  - Qualtrics
- Data analysis
  - Confirmatory factor analysis
    - Assumptions for CFA
  - Correlations subscale-subscale
  - Internal consistency

Demographic Characteristics

- N=249, 21.7$\pm$ 2.3 years

- Women (63.45%, n=158), Men (36.15%, n=90)

- Heterosexual (82.3%, n=205)

- Full-time students (77.1%, n=192)

- Single (95.6%, n =238), currently in a romantic relationship (52.2%, n = 130)

- Living with their parents and/or family (70.3%, n=175)

- Catholic (49%, n=122)

- School year
  - First year (13.3%, n=33), second year (18.5%, n=46), third year (21.3%, n=53), fourth year (21.7%, n=54), fifth year (18.9%, n=47), sixth year or higher (3.2%,n=8)

- Degree sought
  - Health-related degree (55.8%, n=139), engineering (18.5%, n=46), social sciences (16.9%, n=42), arts and letters (5.2%, n=13), basic sciences (2%, n=5), and agriculture and agri-food (.8%, n=2)

Model Fit

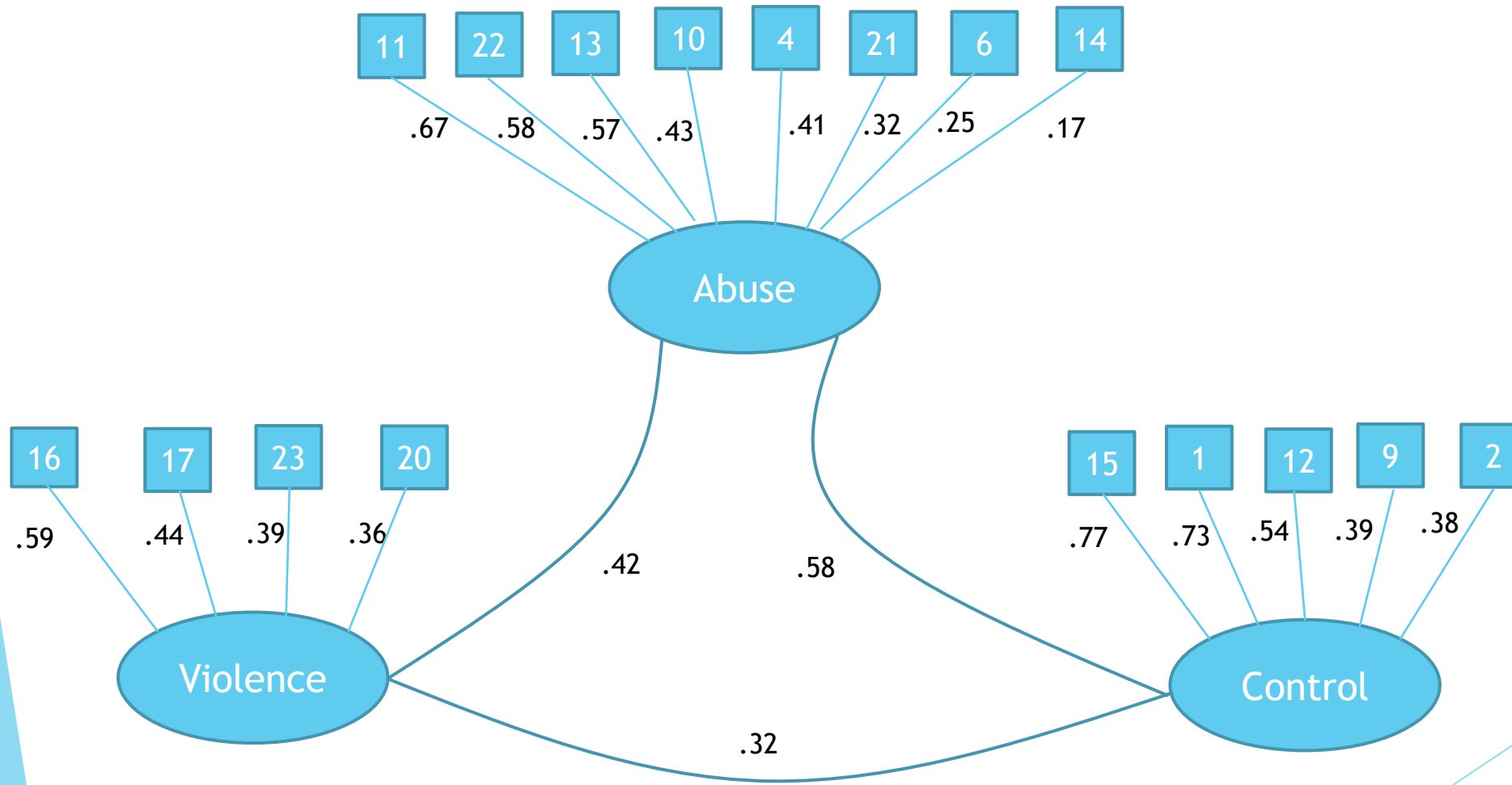## Fit Indices for Factor Model of the R-IPVAS

Measure	$X2$	df	CFI	RMSEA
R-IPVAS	159.624	115	.90	.043

Note: X2= chi square goodness of fit statistic; df= degree of freedom;
RMSEA= Root-Mean-Square Error of Approximation; *Indicates X2 are statistically significant (p=.004)
**Probability RMSEA=.744

Reliability

▶ Total scale α=.71 (17 items)

▶ Control subscale α=.68 (5 items)

▶ Abuse subscale α=.63 (8 items)

▶ Violence subscale α=.50 (4 items)

Confirmatory factor analysis of the R-IPVAS

***All values are significant at *p*<.05 level

Discussion

▶ These results indicate that the Costa Rican version of the R-IPVAS has a variety of potential applications and can be recommended for use in research and practice

▶ Confirmation of the relevance of a three-factor intercorrelated model of attitudes toward dating violence among college students highlights the value of considering multiple behaviors during dating violence assessment

▶ Limitations

   ▶ Self-report measure of attitudes toward dating violence

   ▶ Findings address only the structure underlying the R-IPVAS rather than the nature of dating violence attitudes
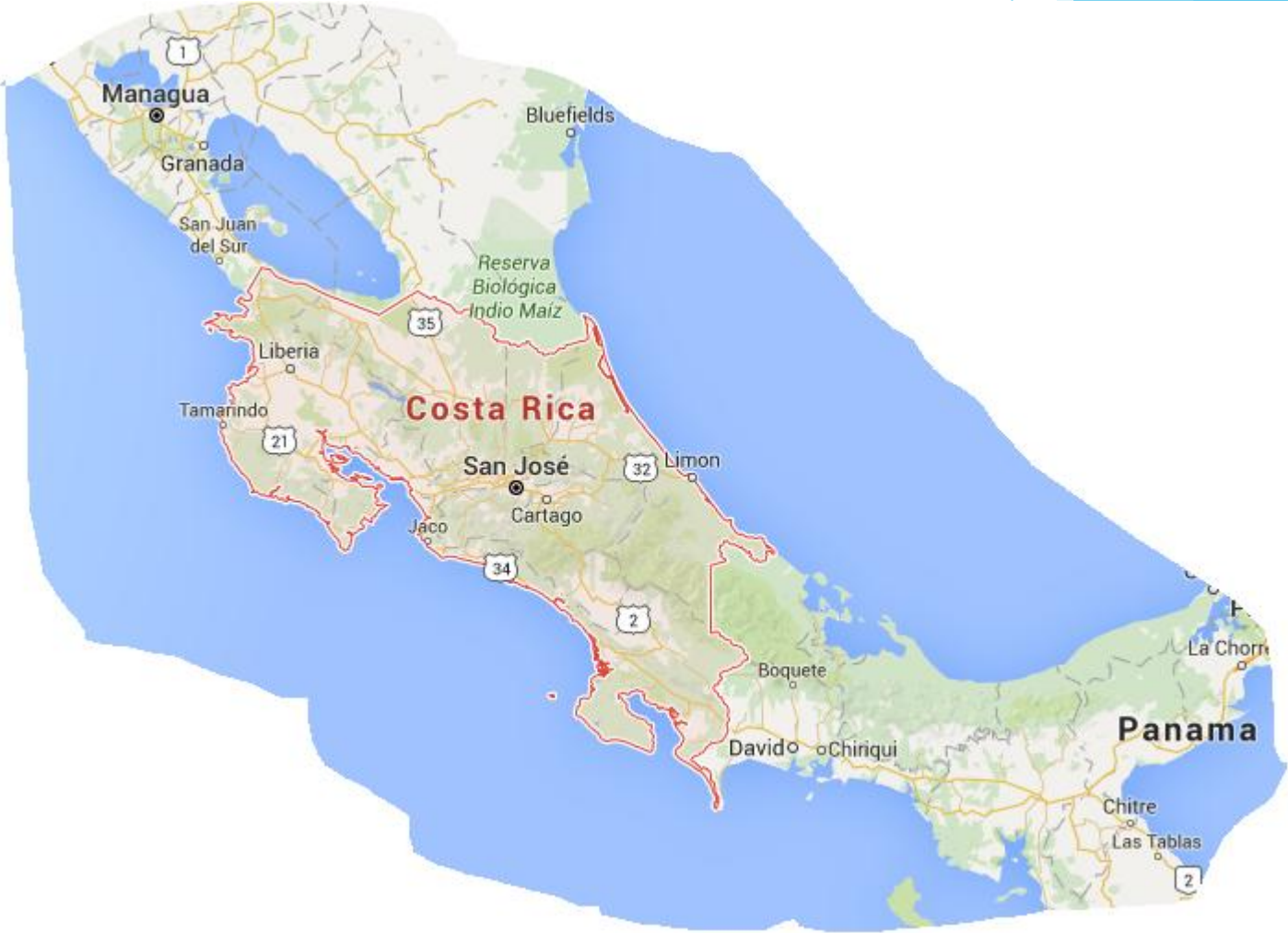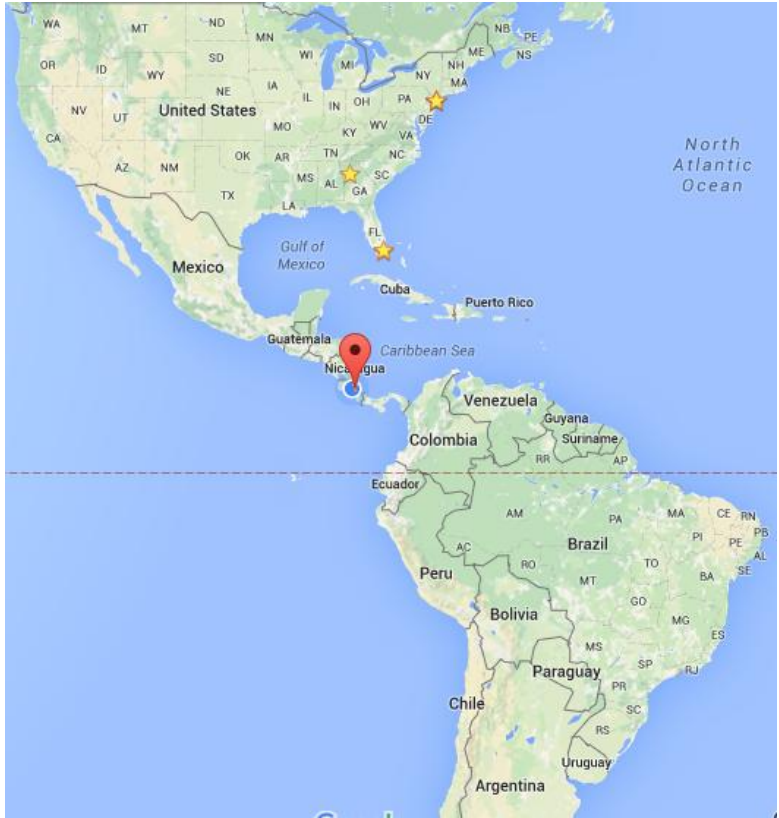
Implications

▶ This study adds to the literature by being the first to examine the internal structure of the R-IPVAS in a sample of college students in Costa Rica.

▶ Therefore, this study addresses the lack of knowledge in Costa Rica about attitudes toward dating violence among young adults

▶ This information is crucial for researchers, policymakers, and clinicians as they work to construct programs and policies to prevent and address dating violence

▶ Further research to understand the complex and unique experiences of dating violence in Costa Rica

   ▶ Results and the R-IPVAS may be used as a foundation

▶ Nursing knowledge

▶ Nursing practice

▶ Nursing participation in policy

Funding

Conflict of Interest

- The authors declare that they have no financial or personal relationship(s), which may have inappropriately influenced them in presenting this information

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