**The Dynamics of Intimate Relationships and Violent Victimization Among Young Women**

An Investigation of the Nature of Intimate Relationships That Involve Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Beginning at age 18 or 19, 1,003 women residing in a Michigan county completed a baseline interview, followed by weekly surveys for 2.5 years.

The surveys assessed the dynamics within young women’s relationships, including IPV.

Factors that place young women in their late teens and early twenties at particularly high risk of IPV:

- **Power Imbalance**
- **Non-monogamous Relationships**
- **Unstable Relationships**
- **Serious Relationships (especially stayover & cohabiting)**
- **Relationships With Men Who Are Not the Father of Woman’s Children**

A fixed-effects modeling strategy isolated the increase in IPV risk due to these characteristics from the risk due to young women being at high risk of IPV for other reasons who might tend to choose these types of relationships. The elevated risk of IPV in relationships with these characteristics and experiences supports a causal link between them.

**Conclusion:** These findings support the potential efficacy of interventions that reduce conflict, equalize power within relationships, and encourage women – especially young mothers – to delay serious relationships.