

# Coercion and IPV: Development of a New Measure

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# Introduction

- Coercive control at center of analysis of IPV, yet no valid measure of it
- Potentially distinct from physical, sexual, psychological abuse, or stalking
- Violence and abuse alone cannot adequately characterize the experience of battered victims
- Gender symmetry controversy may be addressed by attention to coercion as central

# Introduction

- Working conceptual definition based on theory of social power
- Defined as “credible threat for noncompliance with (implicit or explicit) demand or expectation”
- Perceived contingent event

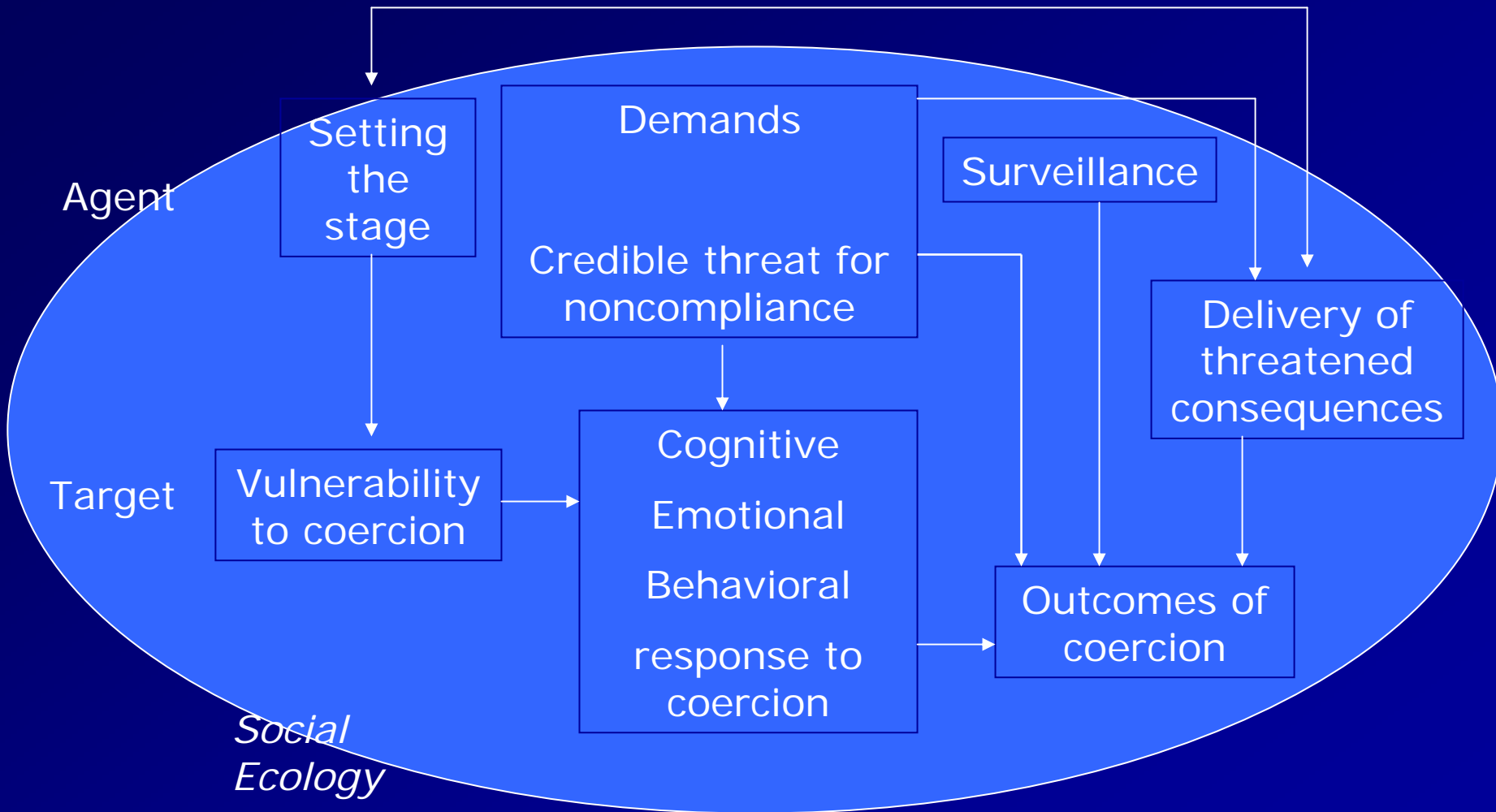
# Research Aims

- Develop and validate a measure of coercion in intimate partner relationships
- Preliminarily examine mutual violence theory (Johnson)

# Major Steps

- Generate theoretical conceptualization
- Individual narrative interviews (n = 30)
- National advisory panel conceptual development (n = 15)
- Generate measurement items
- Pilot interviews, including narrative feedback
- Expert panel consensus of items (n = 100)
- Validity study (n = 763)

# Conceptual Model of Coercive Control



# Measure of Coercion

( $\alpha = .91$ , partner;  $\alpha = .90$ , self)

- In the last 12 months...did your partner make you think that s/he might do the following if you didn't do what s/he wanted?
  
- 31 items
  - Harm to you (25 items)
  - Harm to partner (2 items)
  - Harm to others (4 items)

# Prevalence of Higher Frequency (>15%) Coercion: No Gender Differences

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Use personal info against      | .35 |
| Keep from family, friends      | .26 |
| Take something of yours        | .26 |
| Hurt you financially           | .24 |
| Leave, get divorce             | .23 |
| Keep from leaving house        | .21 |
| Cause legal trouble            | .18 |
| Limit access to transportation | .18 |

# Prevalence of Lower Frequency (<15%) Coercion: No Gender Differences

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Keep from going to work      | .14 |
| Cause to lose job            | .13 |
| Cause to lose housing        | .12 |
| Try to kill you              | .09 |
| Destroy legal papers         | .08 |
| Kill or hurt pets            | .06 |
| Not allow to take medication | .06 |
| Force sex with others        | .04 |
| Put in mental hospital       | .04 |

# Prevalence of Coercion by Partner: Sex Differences in Individual items

|                                 | Male sample | Female sample |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Say something mean, humiliating | .41         | <b>.57</b>    |
| Physically hurt you             | .16         | <b>.28</b>    |
| Force unwanted sex              | .08         | <b>.17</b>    |
| Scare you                       | .18         | <b>.38</b>    |
| Have sex with someone else      | .18         | <b>.29</b>    |
| Threaten deportation            | <b>.06</b>  | .02           |
| Have arrested                   | <b>.17</b>  | .08           |

# Measure of Demands

( $\alpha = .86$ , partner;  $\alpha = .91$ , self)

- In the last 12 months...did your partner a demand of you related to ...

48 items

- Personal activities/appearance (10)
- Support/social life/family (6)
- Household (3)
- Work/economic/resources (5)
- Health (4)
- Intimate relationship (8)
- Legal (4)
- Immigration (3)
- Children/parenting (5)

# Measure of Surveillance

( $\alpha = .86$ , partner;  $\alpha = .86$ , self)

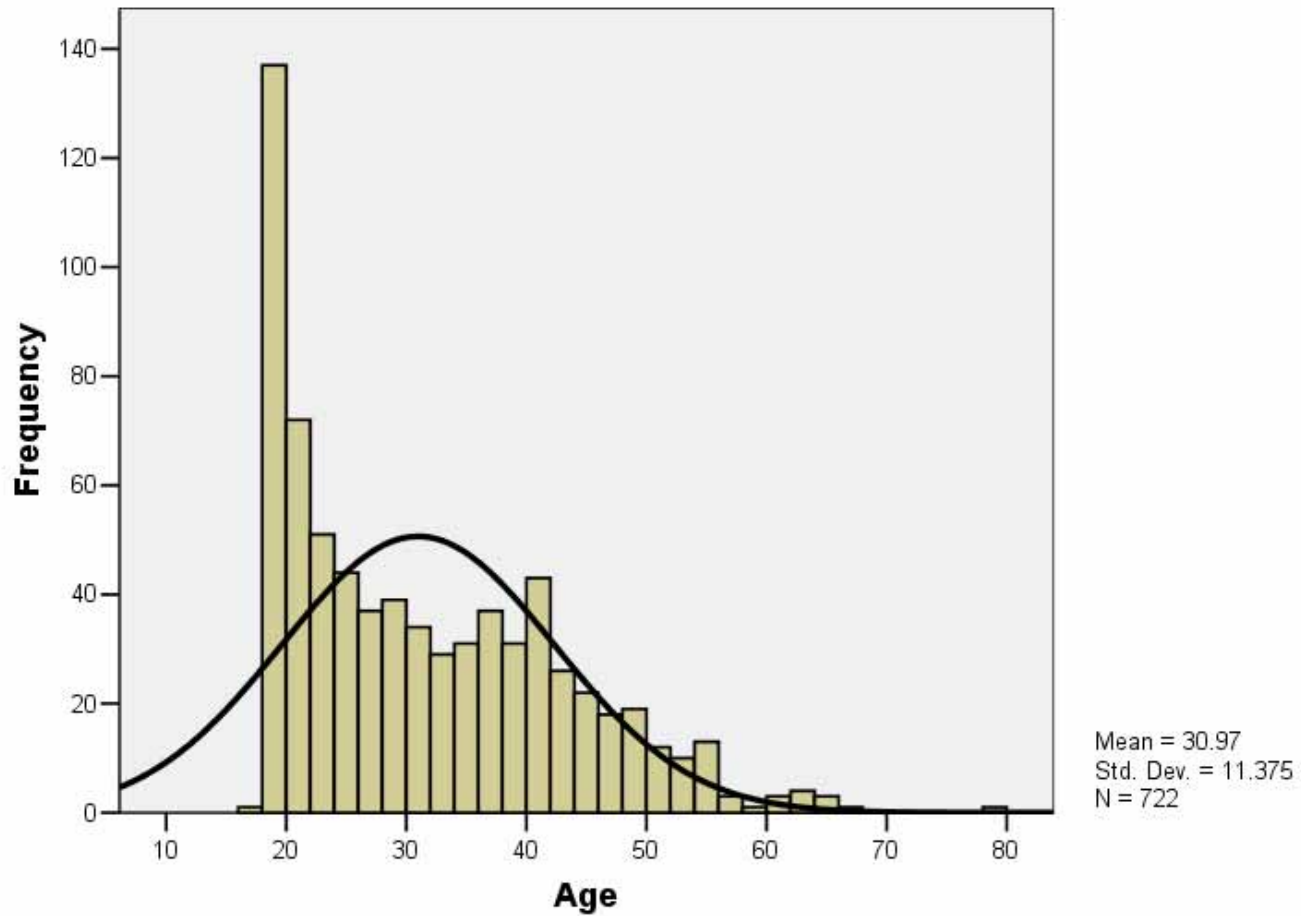
- ...which of the things have you done in order to see whether...partner did what you demanded.

# Measure of Surveillance

13 items

- Check or opened mail or journal
- Kept track of telephone/cell phone use
- Called on phone
- Told partner to carry cell phone or pager
- Checked partner's clothing
- Checked the house
- Checked receipts/bank books
- Checked the car
- Asked others (children, neighbors, family)
- Told partner to report behavior to you
- Used recording device
- Spied or followed
- Didn't need to check; just knew

# Age



# Validity Study: Methods

- 2 geographic locations
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Boston, MA
- Recruitment sites
  - Domestic violence courts
  - Family courts
  - Community social service programs
  - Community colleges
  - Public gathering places

# Sample Description:

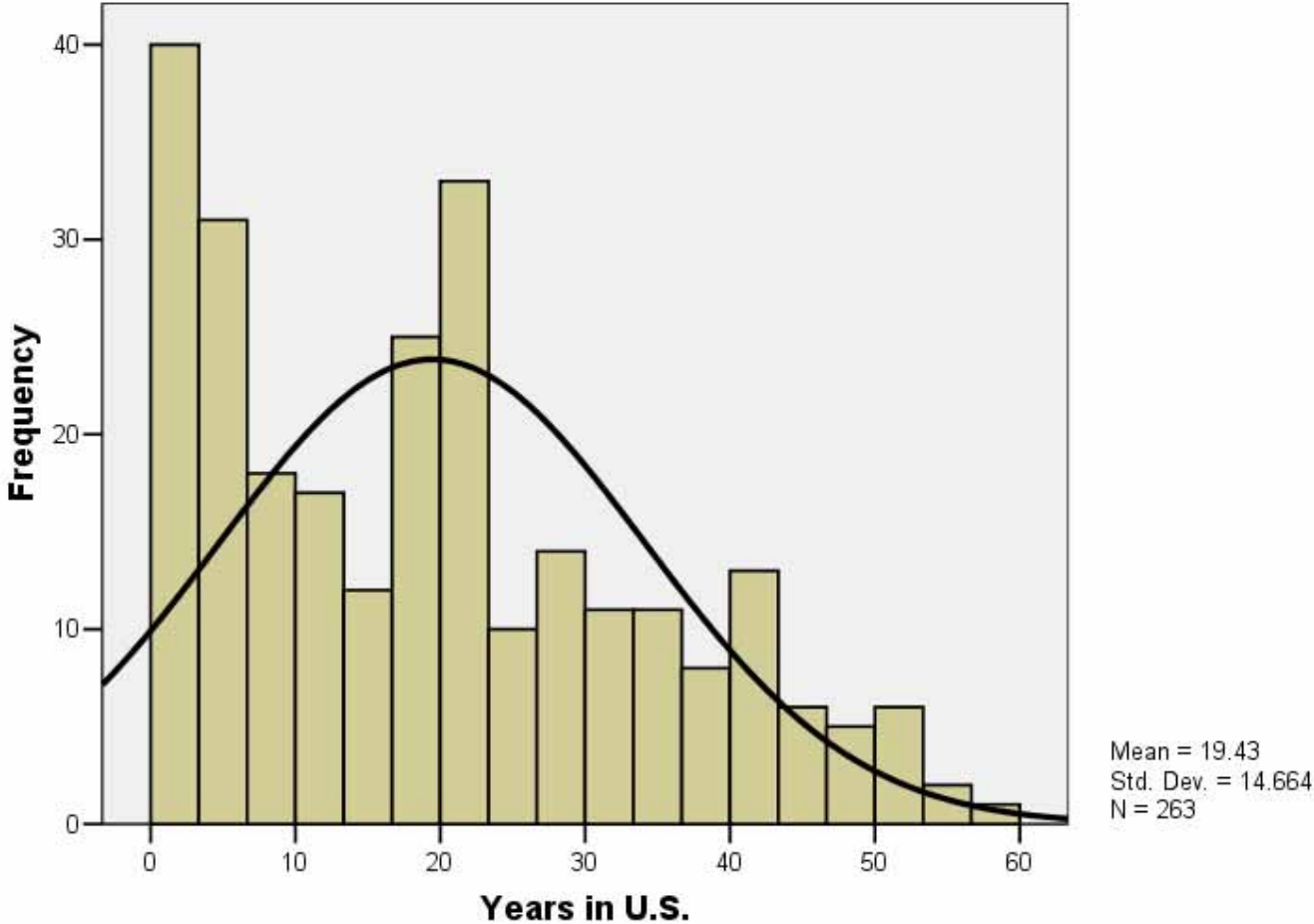
## IPV Victimization and Perpetration

|        | Non-violent | Both violent | Victim, only | Perp, only | TOTAL |
|--------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------|
| Male   | 46          | 216          | 37           | 14         | 313   |
| Female | 67          | 297          | 68           | 16         | 448   |
| TOTAL  | 113         | 513          | 105          | 30         | 763   |

# Ethnicity

- 58.1% African American
- 23.4% Caucasian
- 12.0% Latina/Latino
- 12.5% Other

# Years in U.S.

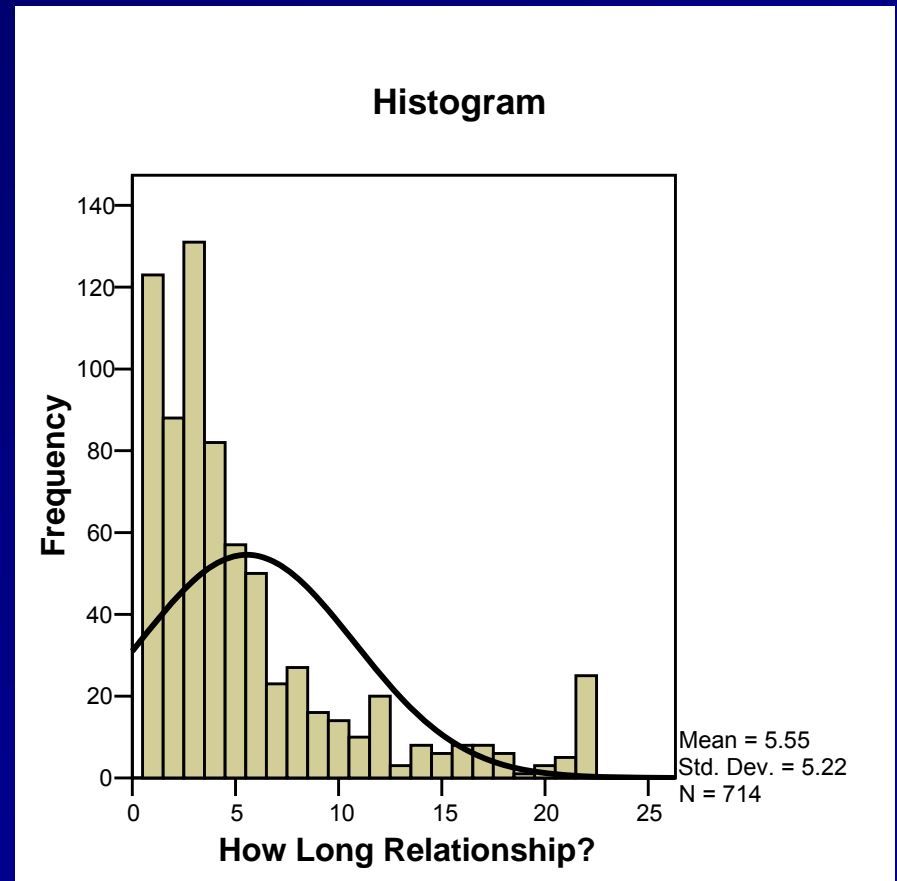


# Employment / Education

- 18.1% Unemployed
- 29.0% Fed or state assistance
- 20.0% < 12<sup>th</sup> grade education
- 16.2% Completed 2+ yrs college

# Relationship Status

- 62.3% Currently involved
- 33.4% Currently living with partner
- 23.2% Married
- 44.5% Committed relationship



# Convergent Validity

|                    | Report of Partner's |         |                    | Report of Self |         |                    |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|---------|--------------------|
|                    | Demand              | Surveil | IPV                | Demand         | Surveil | IPV                |
| Partner's Coercion | .61                 | .76     | .73 phy<br>.71 psy | -              | -       | -                  |
| Own Coercion       | -                   | -       | -                  | .53            | .60     | .60 phy<br>.57 psy |

# Predictive Validity

|                    | PTSD | Depression | IPV Threat Appraisal | Fear |
|--------------------|------|------------|----------------------|------|
| Partner's Coercion | .43  | .30        | .45                  | .42  |

Beta values in cells, all significant at  $p \leq .001$

# Predictive Validity, Controlling for CTS and PMWI

|   | PTSD   | Depression   | IPV Threat Appraisal   | Fear   |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Partner's Coercion<br><br>(total sample)  | .43*<br><br>(a <sup>2</sup> R = .30)                         | .30*<br><br>(a <sup>2</sup> R = .13)                       | .45*<br><br>(a <sup>2</sup> R = .34)                         | .42*<br><br>(a <sup>2</sup> R = .30)                         |
| Partner's Coercion,<br><br>controlling for<br>CTS<br>PMWI<br><br>(total sample) | .18*<br><br>.26*<br><br>.24*<br><br>(a <sup>2</sup> R = .38) | .06<br><br>.06<br><br>.36*<br><br>(a <sup>2</sup> R = .20) | .21*<br><br>.35*<br><br>.17*<br><br>(a <sup>2</sup> R = .43) | .14*<br><br>.31*<br><br>.25*<br><br>(a <sup>2</sup> R = .40) |

# Predictive Validity: Male vs. Female

|                                    | PTSD | Depression | IPV Threat Appraisal | Fear |
|------------------------------------|------|------------|----------------------|------|
| Partner's Coercion (female sample) | .49* | .37*       | .47*                 | .48* |
| Partner's Coercion (male sample)   | .38* | .23*       | .43*                 | .39* |

Beta values in cells, all significant at  $p \leq .001$

# Predictive Validity: Male vs. Female Controlling for CTS and PMWI

|   | PTSD                          | Depression                    | IPV Threat Appraisal          | Fear                          |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Partner's Coercion<br/>controlling for</b> | <b>.21*</b>                   | .10                           | <b>.19*</b>                   | .09                           |
| <b>CTS</b>                                    | <b>.19*</b>                   | .00                           | <b>.28*</b>                   | <b>.25*</b>                   |
| <b>PMWI</b>                                   | <b>.32*</b>                   | <b>.43*</b>                   | <b>.27*</b>                   | <b>.37*</b>                   |
| <b>(female sample)</b>                        | <b>(a<sup>2</sup>R = .44)</b> | <b>(a<sup>2</sup>R = .26)</b> | <b>(a<sup>2</sup>R = .45)</b> | <b>(a<sup>2</sup>R = .43)</b> |
| <b>Partner's Coercion<br/>controlling for</b> | <b>.18*</b>                   | .07                           | <b>.24*</b>                   | <b>.35*</b>                   |
| <b>CTS</b>                                    | <b>.31*</b>                   | .06                           | <b>.44*</b>                   | <b>.28*</b>                   |
| <b>PMWI</b>                                   | .09                           | <b>.21*</b>                   | .01                           | .04                           |
| <b>(male sample)</b>                          | <b>(a<sup>2</sup>R = .27)</b> | <b>(a<sup>2</sup>R = .09)</b> | <b>(a<sup>2</sup>R = .40)</b> | <b>(a<sup>2</sup>R = .31)</b> |

# Mutual Partner Violence: The Hypothesis

# Definitions of Mutual Violence Categories

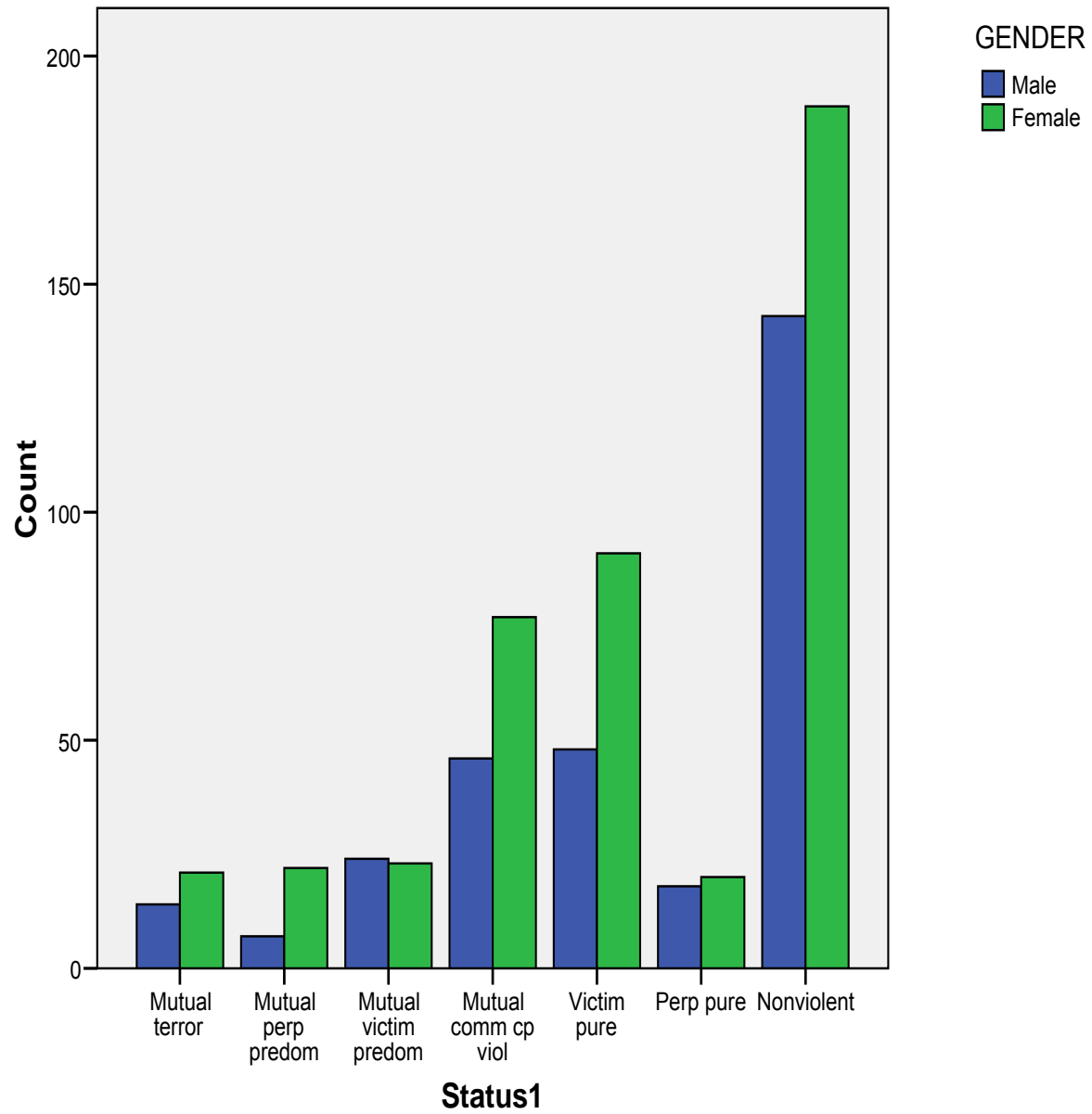
- Mutual Terrorism
  - Both partners severe violence
- Mutual – Victim predominately
  - Both partners violent, Partner only severe viol
- Mutual – Perpetrator predominately
  - Both partners violence, Respondent only severe viol
- Mutual – Common couple violence
  - Both partners violence, neither use severe violence

# Definition: Severe Violence

- CTS-2 definition of severe violence
  - Kick
  - Threat/Use of weapon
  - Choke
  - Beat up
  - Slam against wall
  - Burn
- Forced sex
- Violence resulted in pain the next day

# Definition of Additional Violent Categories

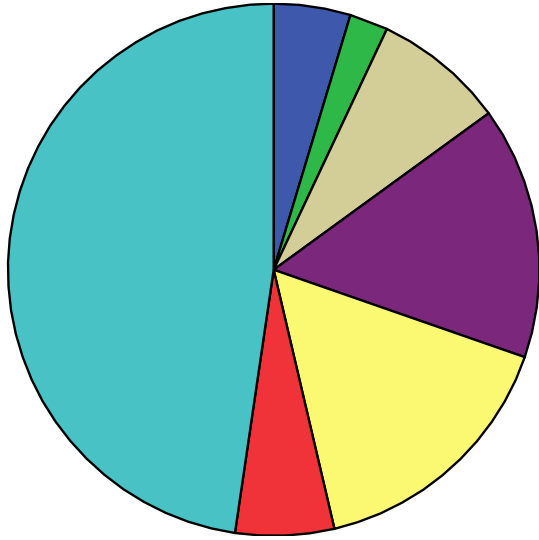
- Nonviolent
  - Neither partner uses any violence
- Pure victim
  - Only partner uses any violence
- Pure perpetrator
  - Only respondent uses any violence



### Status1

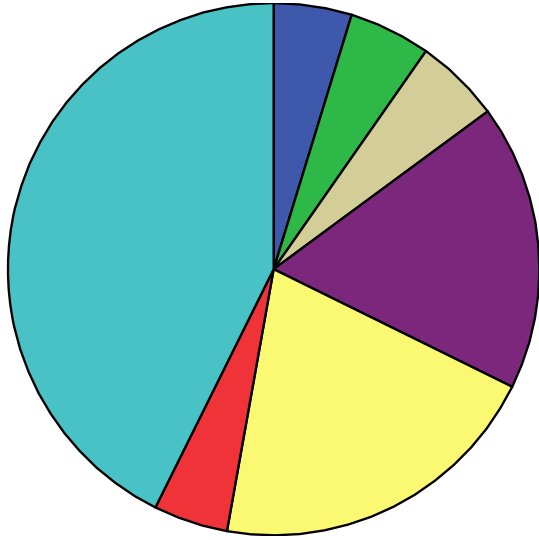
- Mutual terror
- Mutual perp predom
- Mutual victim predom
- Mutual comm cp viol
- Victim pure
- Perp pure
- Nonviolent

Male



GENDER

Female



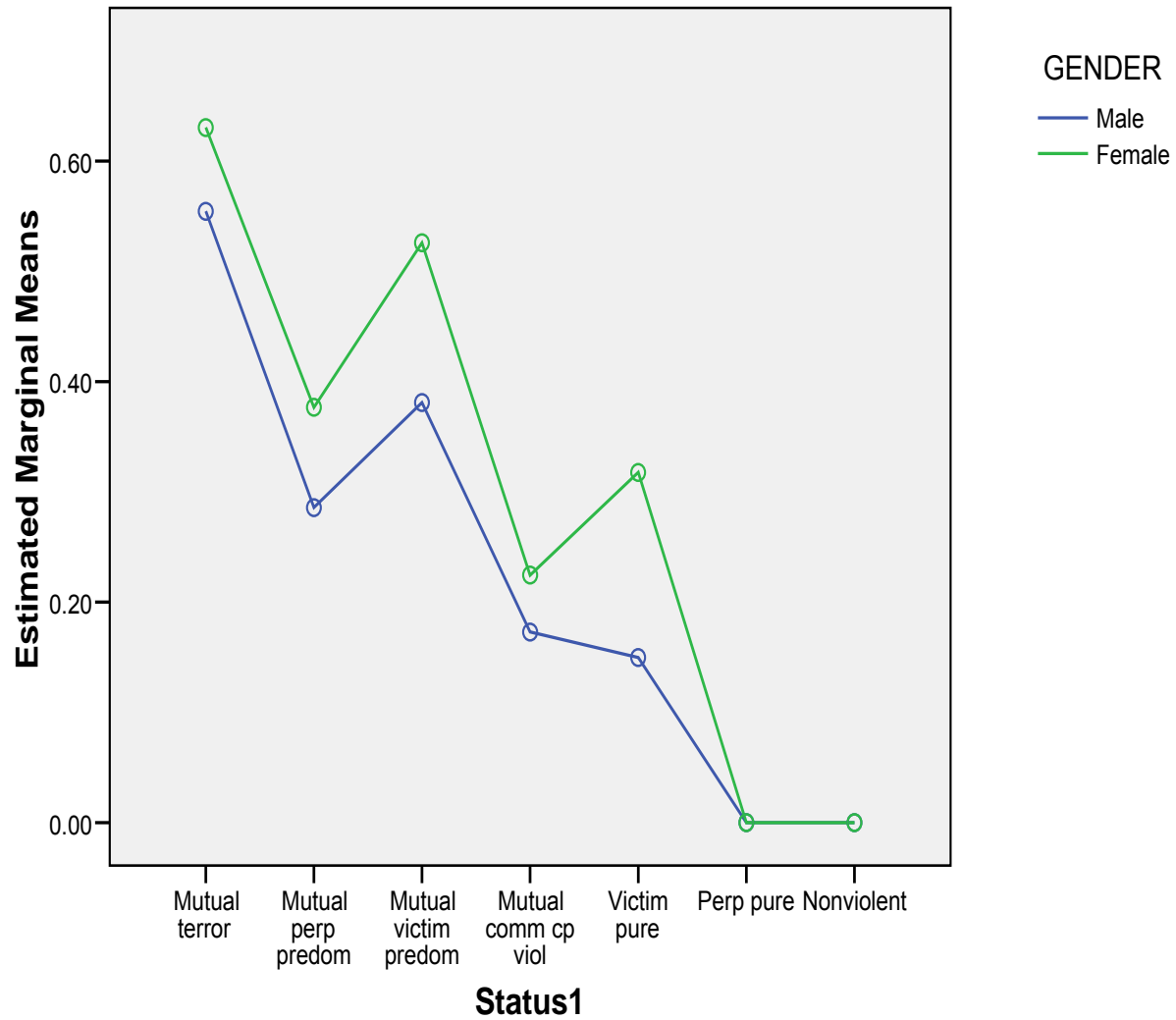
### Tests of Between-Subjects Effects

Dependent Variable: s5a\_part\_v CTS-Partner % Endorsed Score

| Source           | Type III Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F        | Sig. | Partial Eta Squared |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|----------|------|---------------------|
| Corrected Model  | 24.250 <sup>a</sup>     | 13  | 1.865       | 89.853   | .000 | .616                |
| Intercept        | 22.700                  | 1   | 22.700      | 1093.425 | .000 | .600                |
| Status1          | 20.890                  | 6   | 3.482       | 167.704  | .000 | .580                |
| GENDER           | .489                    | 1   | .489        | 23.564   | .000 | .031                |
| Status1 * GENDER | .781                    | 6   | .130        | 6.268    | .000 | .049                |
| Error            | 15.135                  | 729 | .021        |          |      |                     |
| Total            | 56.832                  | 743 |             |          |      |                     |
| Corrected Total  | 39.385                  | 742 |             |          |      |                     |

a. R Squared = .616 (Adjusted R Squared = .609)

## Self-reported Violence Victimization CTS



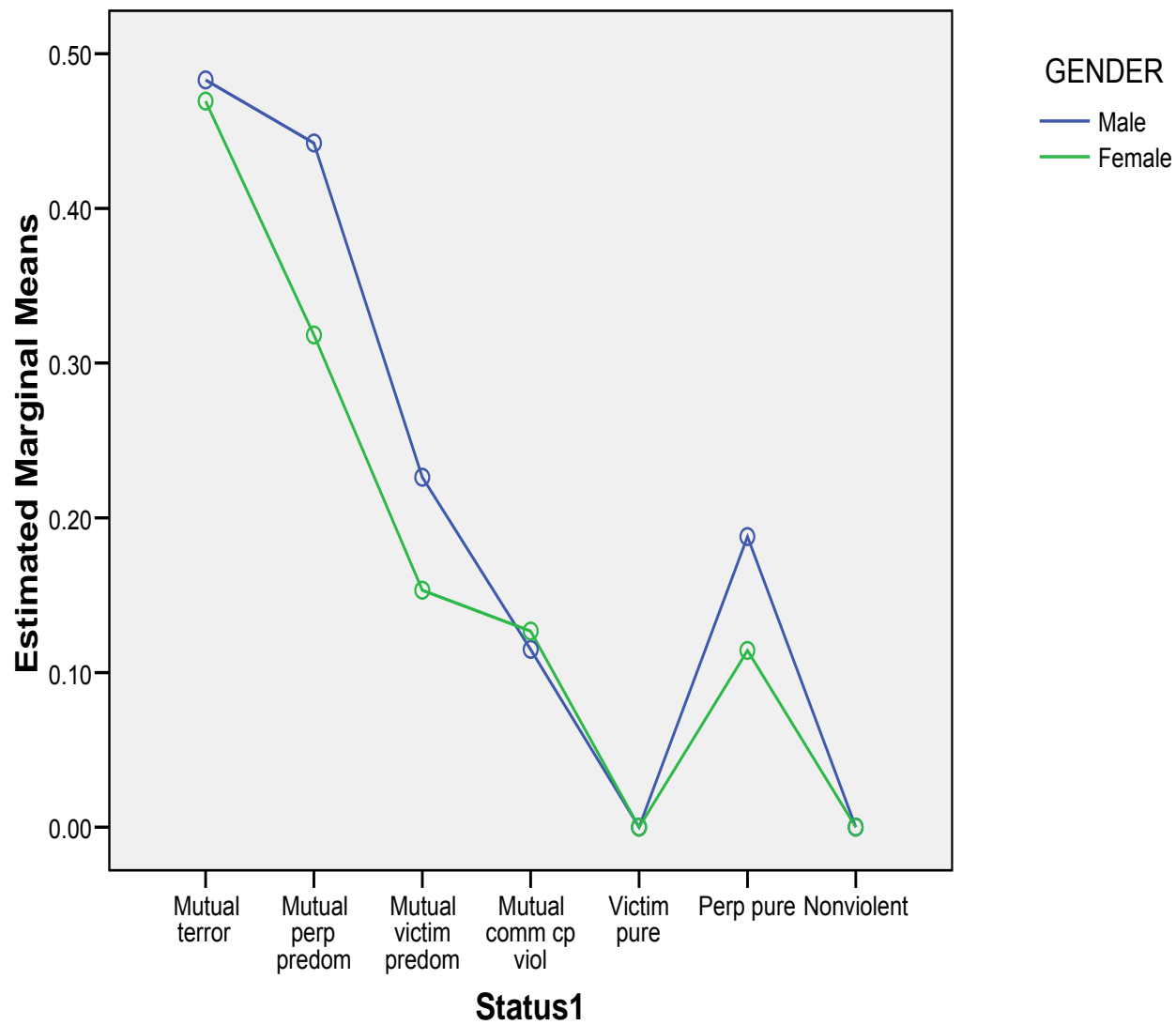
### Tests of Between-Subjects Effects

Dependent Variable: s5a1\_sel\_v CTS-Self % Endorsed Score

| Source           | Type III Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F        | Sig. | Partial Eta Squared |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|----------|------|---------------------|
| Corrected Model  | 11.719 <sup>a</sup>     | 13  | .901        | 102.663  | .000 | .647                |
| Intercept        | 12.044                  | 1   | 12.044      | 1371.605 | .000 | .653                |
| Status1          | 11.004                  | 6   | 1.834       | 208.863  | .000 | .632                |
| GENDER           | .128                    | 1   | .128        | 14.632   | .000 | .020                |
| Status1 * GENDER | .179                    | 6   | .030        | 3.393    | .003 | .027                |
| Error            | 6.401                   | 729 | .009        |          |      |                     |
| Total            | 22.399                  | 743 |             |          |      |                     |
| Corrected Total  | 18.121                  | 742 |             |          |      |                     |

a. R Squared = .647 (Adjusted R Squared = .640)

## Self-Reported Violence Perpetration CTS



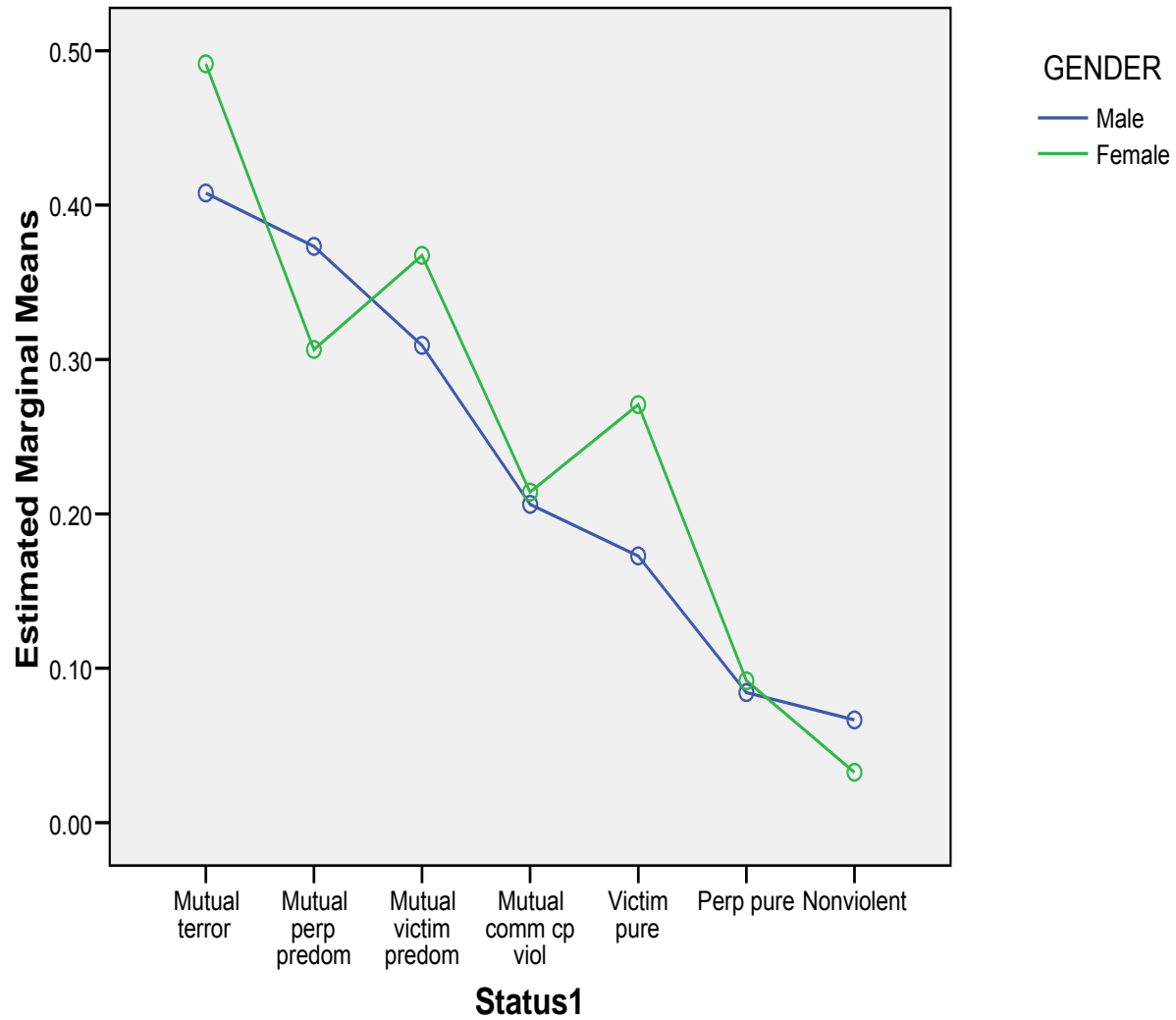
### Tests of Between-Subjects Effects

Dependent Variable: PER\_2C Percentage of 2C: Coercion

| Source           | Type III Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F       | Sig. | Partial Eta Squared |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|---------|------|---------------------|
| Corrected Model  | 11.443 <sup>a</sup>     | 13  | .880        | 40.883  | .000 | .422                |
| Intercept        | 19.977                  | 1   | 19.977      | 927.816 | .000 | .560                |
| Status1          | 9.922                   | 6   | 1.654       | 76.799  | .000 | .387                |
| GENDER           | .042                    | 1   | .042        | 1.934   | .165 | .003                |
| Status1 * GENDER | .506                    | 6   | .084        | 3.914   | .001 | .031                |
| Error            | 15.696                  | 729 | .022        |         |      |                     |
| Total            | 46.261                  | 743 |             |         |      |                     |
| Corrected Total  | 27.140                  | 742 |             |         |      |                     |

a. R Squared = .422 (Adjusted R Squared = .411)

## Report of Partner's Coercion



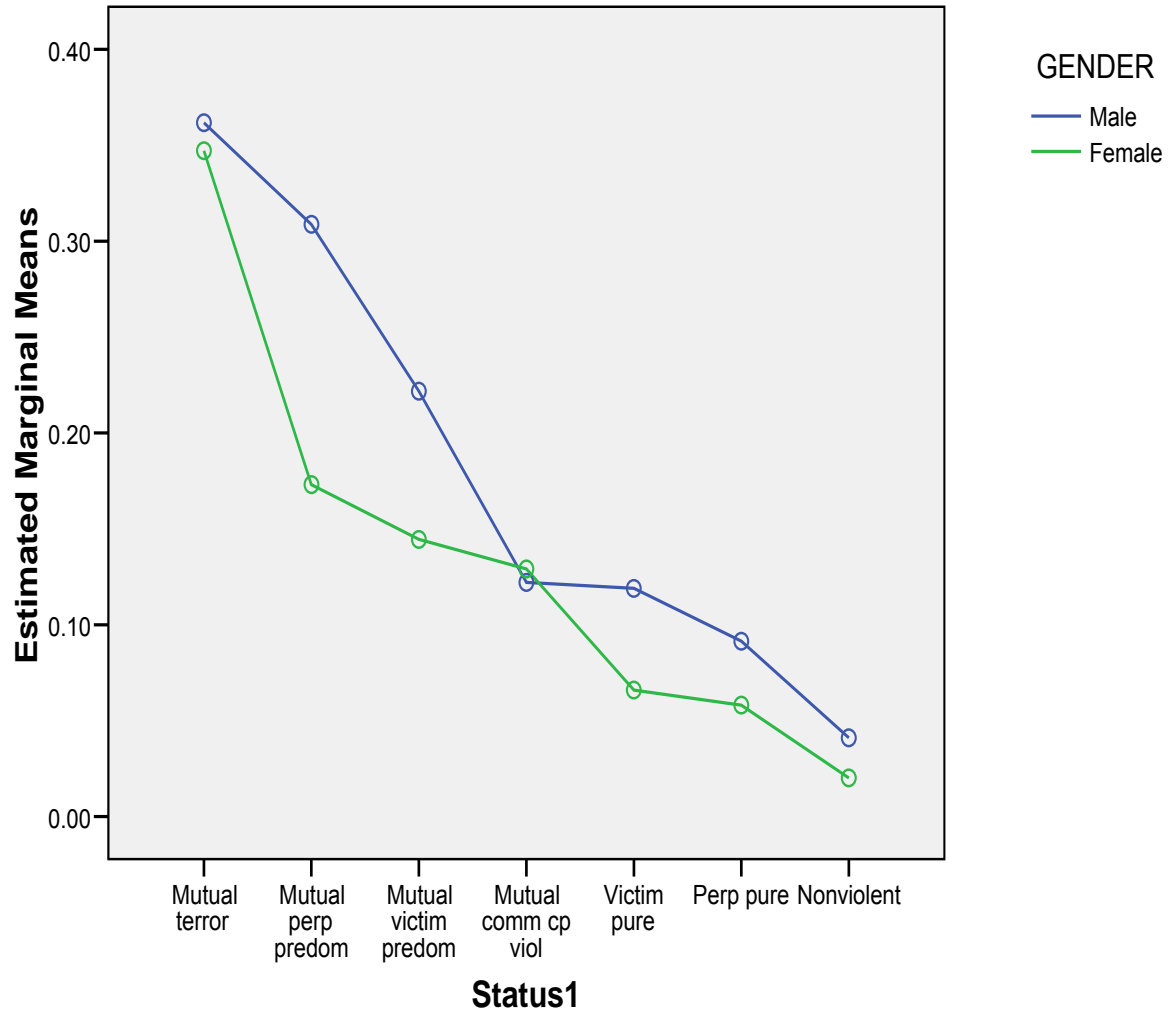
### Tests of Between-Subjects Effects

Dependent Variable: PER\_3C Percentage of 3C: Coercion

| Source           | Type III Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F       | Sig. | Partial Eta Squared |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|---------|------|---------------------|
| Corrected Model  | 4.937 <sup>a</sup>      | 13  | .380        | 25.706  | .000 | .314                |
| Intercept        | 8.417                   | 1   | 8.417       | 569.719 | .000 | .439                |
| Status1          | 4.544                   | 6   | .757        | 51.258  | .000 | .297                |
| GENDER           | .186                    | 1   | .186        | 12.615  | .000 | .017                |
| Status1 * GENDER | .151                    | 6   | .025        | 1.699   | .119 | .014                |
| Error            | 10.770                  | 729 | .015        |         |      |                     |
| Total            | 21.696                  | 743 |             |         |      |                     |
| Corrected Total  | 15.707                  | 742 |             |         |      |                     |

a. R Squared = .314 (Adjusted R Squared = .302)

## Self-Reported Coercion



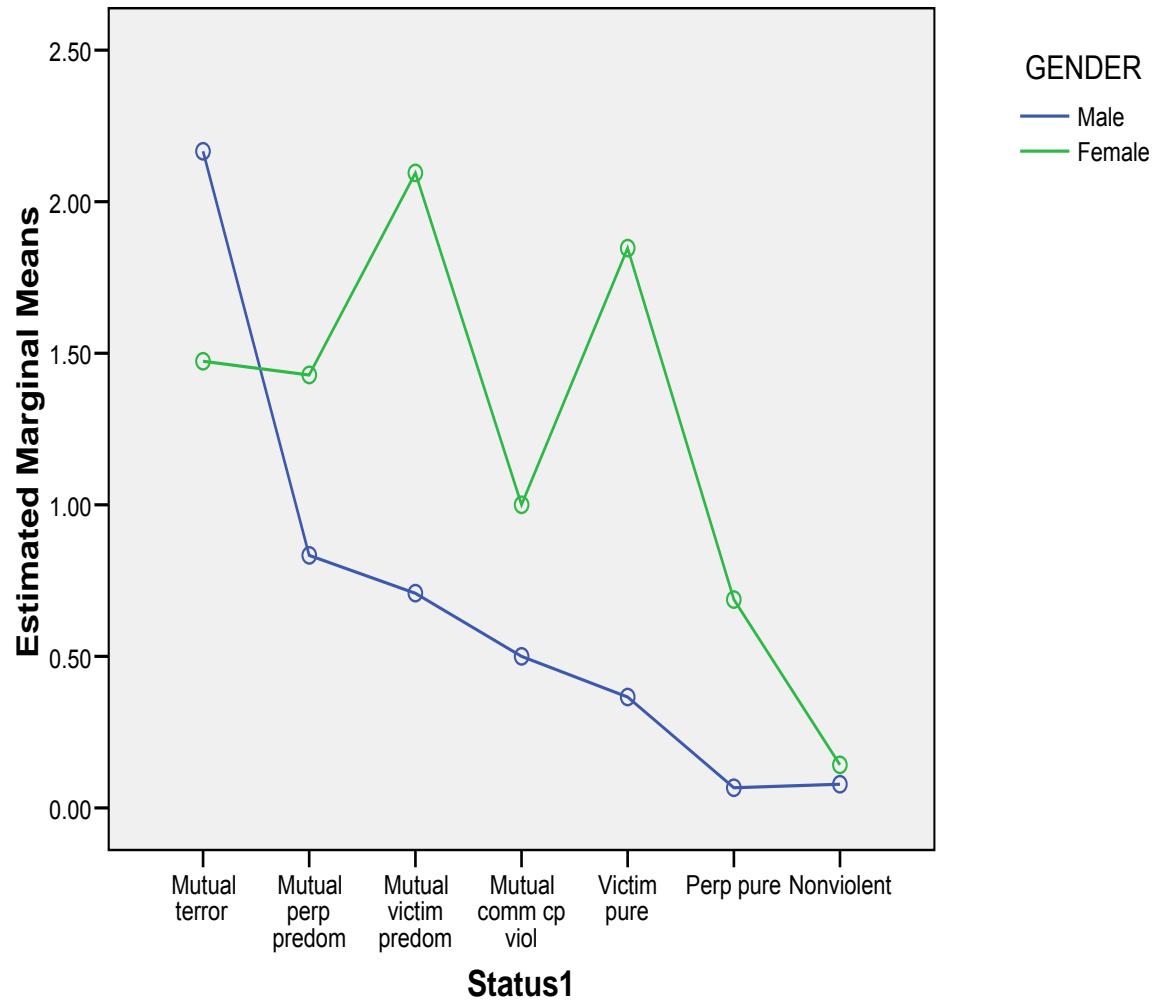
### Tests of Between-Subjects Effects

Dependent Variable: s5f\_fear Total Fear Score

| Source           | Type III Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F       | Sig. | Partial Eta Squared |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|---------|------|---------------------|
| Corrected Model  | 319.472 <sup>a</sup>    | 13  | 24.575      | 24.423  | .000 | .330                |
| Intercept        | 272.464                 | 1   | 272.464     | 270.786 | .000 | .296                |
| Status1          | 178.660                 | 6   | 29.777      | 29.593  | .000 | .216                |
| GENDER           | 23.761                  | 1   | 23.761      | 23.614  | .000 | .035                |
| Status1 * GENDER | 59.649                  | 6   | 9.941       | 9.880   | .000 | .084                |
| Error            | 648.996                 | 645 | 1.006       |         |      |                     |
| Total            | 1284.000                | 659 |             |         |      |                     |
| Corrected Total  | 968.467                 | 658 |             |         |      |                     |

a. R Squared = .330 (Adjusted R Squared = .316)

### Self-Reported Fear Score



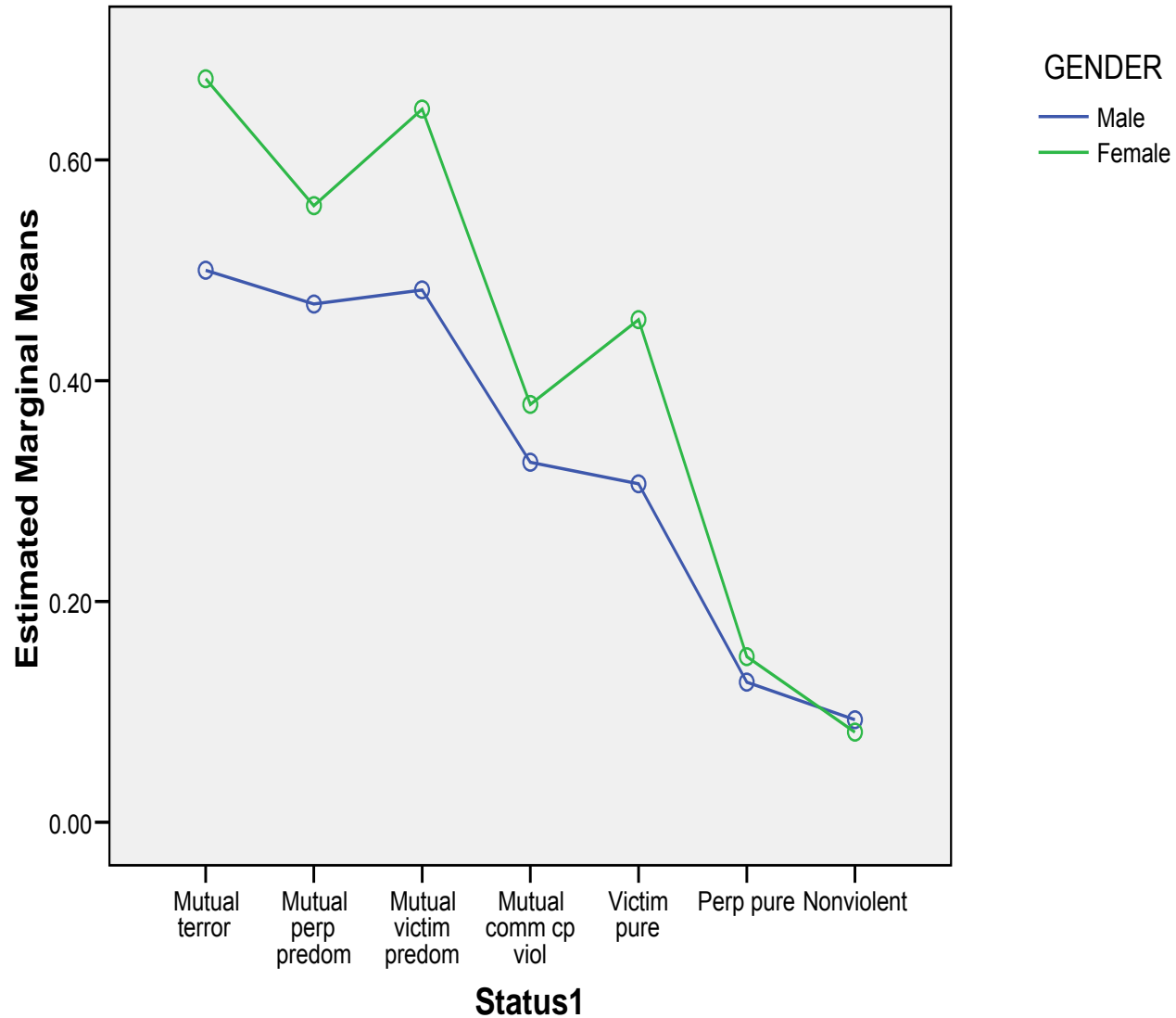
### Tests of Between-Subjects Effects

Dependent Variable: s5b\_p\_d.i Partner Psychological-Dominance/Isolation

| Source           | Type III Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F       | Sig. | Partial Eta Squared |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|---------|------|---------------------|
| Corrected Model  | 26.670 <sup>a</sup>     | 13  | 2.052       | 33.638  | .000 | .375                |
| Intercept        | 47.728                  | 1   | 47.728      | 782.574 | .000 | .518                |
| Status1          | 22.366                  | 6   | 3.728       | 61.119  | .000 | .335                |
| GENDER           | .708                    | 1   | .708        | 11.612  | .001 | .016                |
| Status1 * GENDER | .906                    | 6   | .151        | 2.475   | .022 | .020                |
| Error            | 44.461                  | 729 | .061        |         |      |                     |
| Total            | 123.592                 | 743 |             |         |      |                     |
| Corrected Total  | 71.131                  | 742 |             |         |      |                     |

a. R Squared = .375 (Adjusted R Squared = .364)

## Self-Reported Victimization by Psychological-Dominance/Isolation



# Conceptual Model of Coercive Control

