

Family planning / IPV linkages: Gender theories shine the light

Michele R. Decker, ScD

Associate Professor of Population, Family & Reproductive Health
Bloomberg Professor of American Health/Violence

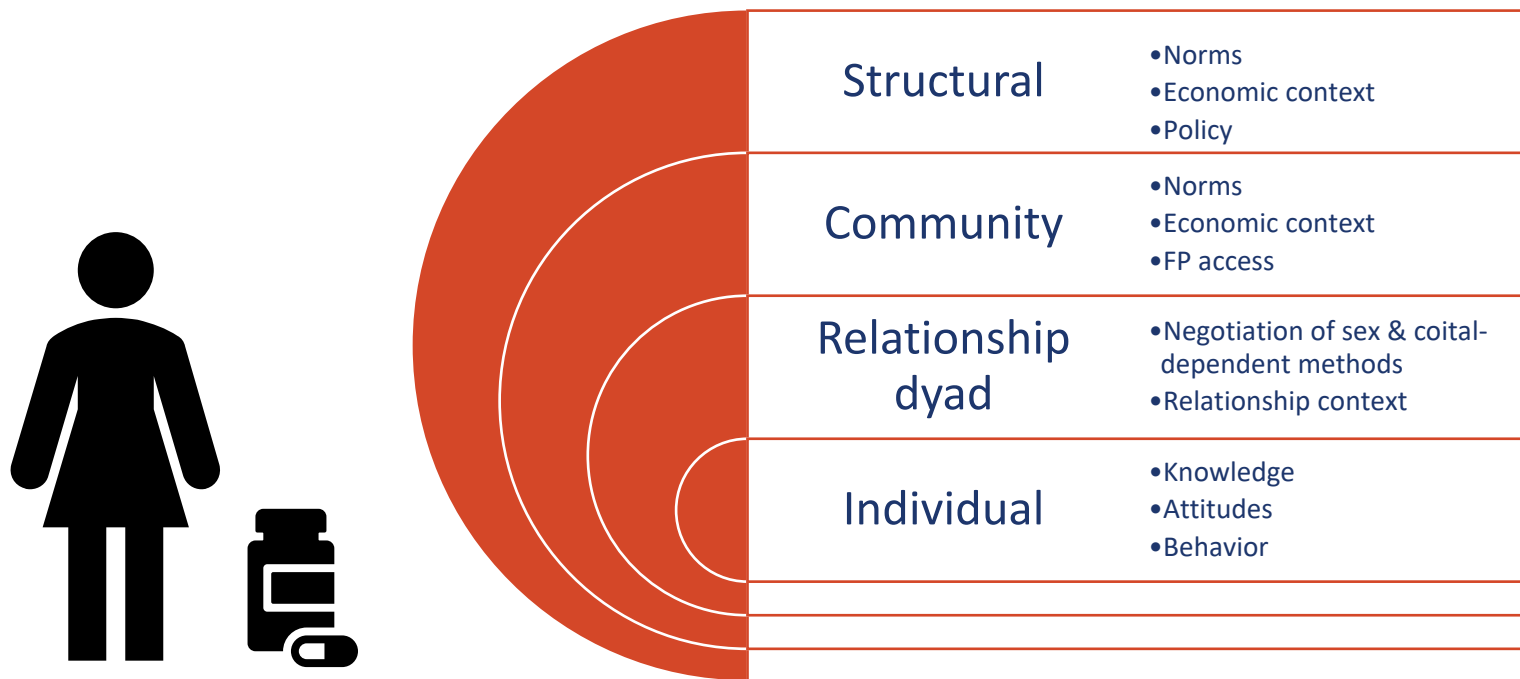
Theory of Gender and Power

Connell, 1987

- Gender as a large-scale social structure, not just personal identity
- Gender relations are organized around male dominance
- Gender-based power imbalances
 - Exist and are maintained by social and institutional levels
 - Produce and reinforce gender-based inequalities through daily practice and collective
- Gender relations are conceptualized as:
 - **Labor**- sexual division of labor, i.e., men's work vs women's work
 - **Power**- decisional authority in the home, workplace, and beyond
 - **Cathexis**- social norms, affective attachments, gender roles
- Gender regimes are the configuration of gender relations within a specific context



Constraints at the relational/dyad level create a ceiling on individual autonomy for family planning!



What does this look like?

Barriers to negotiating coital-dependent methods

Perpetrator Condom Refusal Leading to Pregnancy

“He [used condoms] when we first started, and then he would fight with me over it, and he would just stop [using condoms] completely, and didn't care. He got me pregnant on purpose, and then he wanted me to get an abortion....”

Condom refusal leading to pregnancy and STI

“He would never listen. ... I'm like, don't you think you should wear condoms you know I might get pregnant. And he's like, next time. I'm scared of him. I'm really scared. Like I feel like he's going to hurt me. I feel it. You just, I don't know. Just like he's going to hurt me.”

(Miller, Silverman, Decker et al. 2007)

Qualitative interviews with adolescent perpetrators and victims of dating violence, Boston MA





Perpetrator Condom Removal; Threat of Subsequent Violence

I use [condom] after there has been violence but sometimes, he removes it and there is nothing that you can do to him.

If you start arguing with him, he will assault you.

—28-year-old IPV survivor, Dandora

Reproductive Coercion among Intimate Partner Violence Survivors in Nairobi

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Violence during contraception negotiation & in response to contraception

I could not use [contraception] by then, because I was afraid. Anytime my partner would come across my clinic card he would thoroughly beat and injure me. That is why I was afraid.

—31-year-old, IPV survivor, Korogocho

He has hit me when we were discussing family planning issues because he did not want to hear me. There are times he tried to choke me, pull my hair. Our discussions have not been good, so when I say it's violent, I mean it is violent.

—20-year-old IPV survivor, Huruma

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Direct Contraceptive Interference



I don't know how my husband knows where the pills are. Even if I put them in the make-up bag, he will find them. He has found them more than thrice and it is a place you would not expect him to search. He throws them away and you know when you start taking them today, you should do it daily. If you skip, you are not helping yourself. You are messing up yourself. So, I stopped.

—28-year-old IPV survivor, Dandora

I did not want to get a child because of our standard of living and our constant fights. So, I had started using the pills but when he found them he took them and threw them away. Then came the night and he demanded sex and I ended up with the pregnancy.

—28-year-old IPV survivor, Dandora

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IPV and Family Planning: Theory of Gender and Power

- Compromised sexual negotiation
 - inability to refuse sex
- Compromised condom negotiation
 - inability to ensure condom use, perpetrator condom refusal and condom removal
- Overt efforts to sabotage birth control and promote pregnancy
 - Reproductive coercion
- Sustained constraints on agency
 - Violence in response to contraceptive use
- Threats to male dominated power structures within the home & decisional autonomy for contraception



Reproductive Coercion (Miller et al., 2010)

- Qualitative data from abused adolescent and adult women are explicit about abusive male partners'
 - perceived pregnancy intentions & pregnancy pressure
 - condom manipulation
 - contraceptive sabotage
- Defines and operationalizes TGP's sexual division of power as it relates specifically to reproductive decision-making

Contraception. 2010 April ; 81(4): 316–322. doi:10.1016/j.contraception.2009.12.004.

Pregnancy coercion, intimate partner violence, and unintended pregnancy

Elizabeth Miller^{1,*}, Michele R. Decker², Heather L. McCauley², Daniel J. Tancredi¹, Rebecca R. Levenson³, Jeffrey Waldman⁴, Phyllis Schoenwal⁴, and Jay G. Silverman²

Contraception. 2010 June ; 81(6): 457–459. doi:10.1016/j.contraception.2010.02.023.

Reproductive Coercion: Connecting the Dots Between Partner Violence and Unintended Pregnancy

Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD.
Department of Pediatrics, UC Davis School of Medicine, 2516 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95817, Phone (916) 734-4689, Fax (916) 456-2236

Beth Jordan, MD.
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP), Washington, DC

Rebecca Levenson, MA, and
Family Violence Prevention Fund, San Francisco, CA

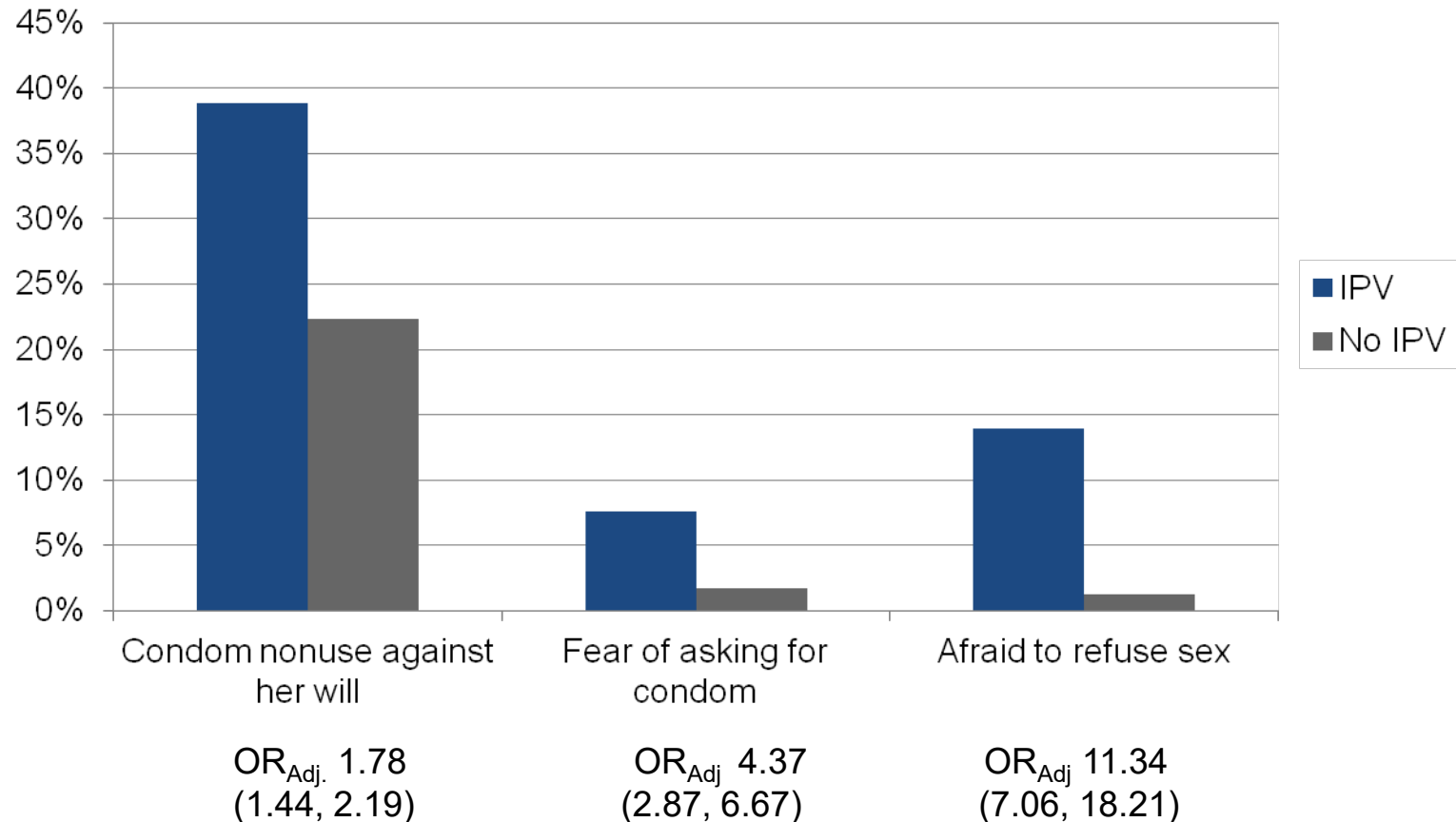
Jay G. Silverman, PhD
Department of Society, Human Development, and Health, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

Elizabeth Miller: elizabeth.miller@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu



IPV, condom coercion and ability to refuse sex

3539 women ages 16-29 in family planning clinics; Decker, et al., 2013



Reproductive coercion among women experiencing IPV in Nairobi (n=327)



*indicates context-specific item

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