

Intimate Partner Violence, Children & Early Childhood Home Visitation (HV)



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Three Points to Remember

1. **Childhood exposure to IPV is common**
 - Over 15 million children exposed each year
 - Twice as common as asthma
2. **IPV exposure is bad for kids' health**
 - Poor physical & mental health, and child abuse
3. **HV can decrease IPV & childhood exposure**
 - Training home visitors about IPV critical
 - Must include this if goal is to improve child health

Childhood IPV exposure is common

- 15 million children exposed
 - 7 million to severe IPV
- Rates disproportionately high in homes with children <5 years old
- Data from home visiting (HV) programs shows up to 50% of women abused
- IPV does not always happen at 2am in a different wing of the house

IPV exposure bad for kids' health

- 40-60% co-occurrence with child abuse
- American Academy of Pediatrics states that intervening on behalf of a battered mother may be one of the “most effective means of preventing child abuse”

BOTTOM LINE: To decrease child abuse, HV programs must effectively address IPV

IPV exposure bad for kids' health

- Social-emotional health:
 - Compared to peers, kids in homes with IPV:
 - Depression, anxiety, PTSD, ADHD
 - Bullying in school
 - School failure
 - Teenage substance use

Holt et al Child Abuse & Neglect 2008; Kernic MA. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med 2002; Kitzmann J Consult & Clin Psych 2003; Edleson J Interpers Viol 1999

IPV exposure bad for kids' health

- Health care use:
 - Compared to peers, kids in homes with IPV
 - Half as likely to be immunized by two years of age
 - Less likely to receive expected well-child care
 - Twice as likely to end up in the ER
 - Cost health plans on average 16% more

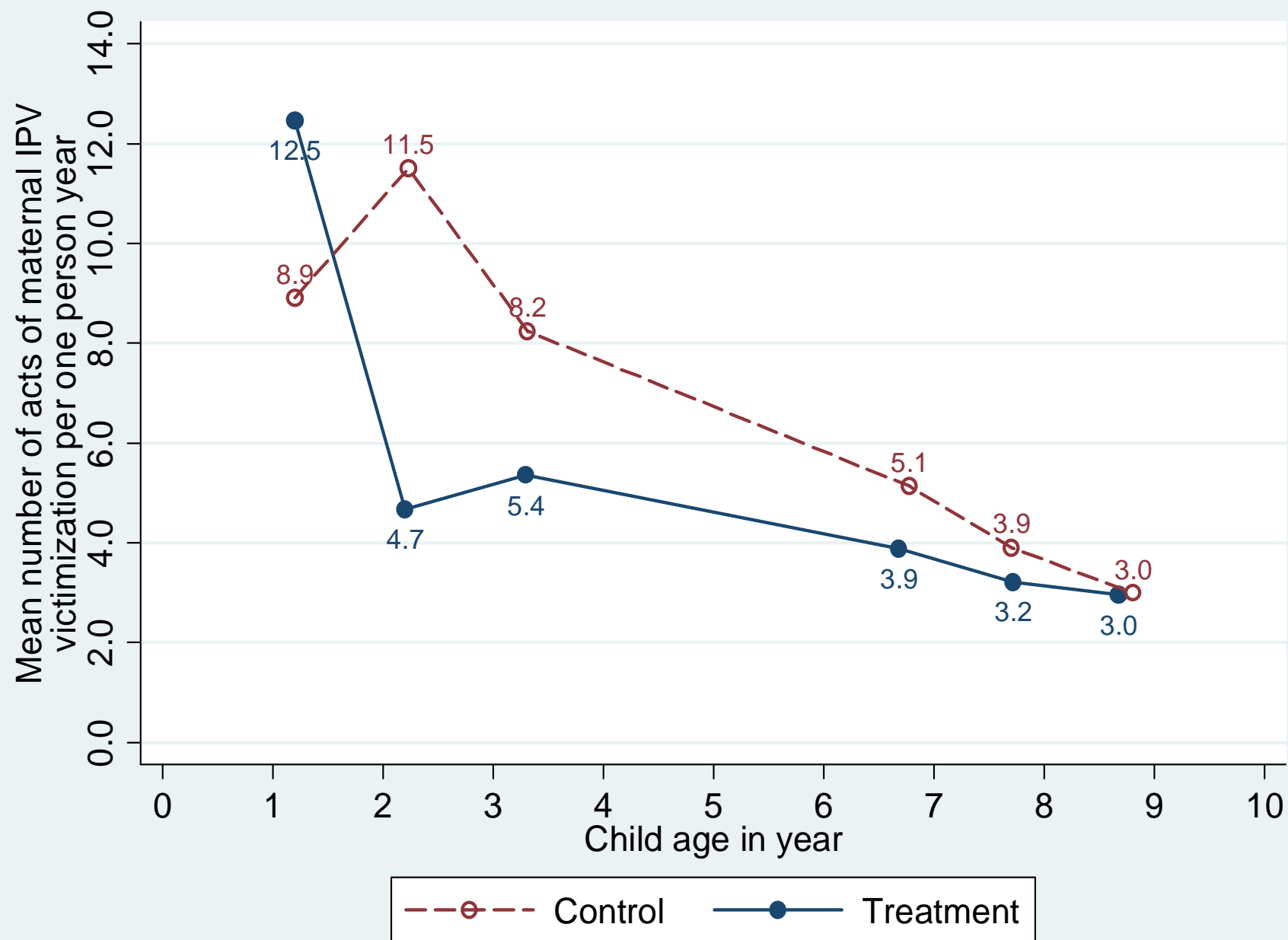
Bair-Merritt MH, et al. Pediatrics 2008; Rivara FP, et al; Pediatrics 2007; Bair-Merritt MH, et al; Arch Ped & Adol Med 2008

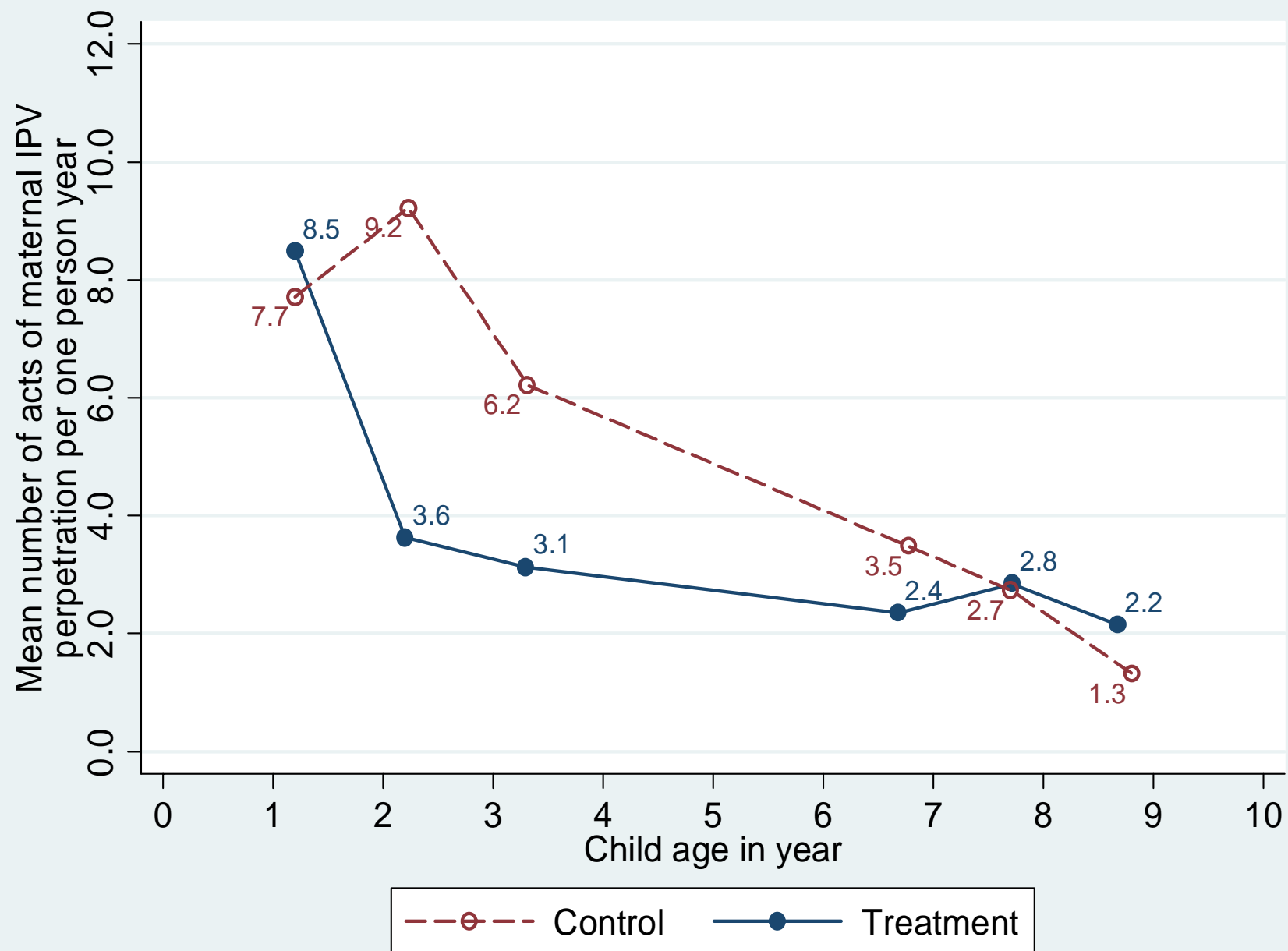
IPV exposure bad for kids' health

- Physical health:
 - Compared to peers, kids in homes with IPV
 - Have twice the risk of developing asthma
 - Increased risk of asthma GOES DOWN when Mom's engaged with children
 - HV teaches parenting skills like this

HV decreases IPV & childhood exposure

- HV programs seek to decrease child abuse and reduce associated risk factors
- Recent study: To estimate whether HV in Hawaii Healthy Start Program was associated with changes in rates of mothers' IPV victimization and perpetration during the 3 years of program & long-term follow-up





HV may decrease IPV & childhood exposure

- During years of program implementation, rates of mother's:
 - IPV victimization decreased by 14%
[IRR 0.86 (95% CI, 0.73, 1.01)]
 - IPV perpetration decreased by 17%
[IRR 0.83 (95% CI, 0.72, 0.96)]

HV may decrease IPV & childhood exposure

- **Why may it have worked?**
 - HV-Mom relationship
 - Encouragement of self-efficacy
- **But, it could be better**
- **What is needed?**
 - Standardized screening
 - HV training and support

HV may decrease IPV & childhood exposure

- **Why is this important?**
 - NFP research: presence of IPV limited HV program's ability to reduce child maltreatment
 - HAVE TO ADDRESS IPV TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE
 - Reducing IPV INDEPENDENTLY benefits child health

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