

Disability and intimate partner violence: a cross-sectional study from Mwanza, Tanzania

Sarah Meyer, Neema Masha,
Tom Shakespeare, Hannah Kuper,
Sheila Harvey, Saidi Kapiga,
Gerry Mshana and Heidi Stöckl



BACKGROUND

- Women with disability face higher levels of intimate partner violence than women without disabilities
- Potential mechanisms are unclear
 - Social exclusion
 - Reliance on partners as carers
 - Higher levels of economic dependence of women with disabilities
- Gaps in evidence
 - Focus on high-income settings;
 - Primary focus on one type of disability or binary measure;
 - Primary focus on physical and/or sexual IPV, other forms of IPV addressed less

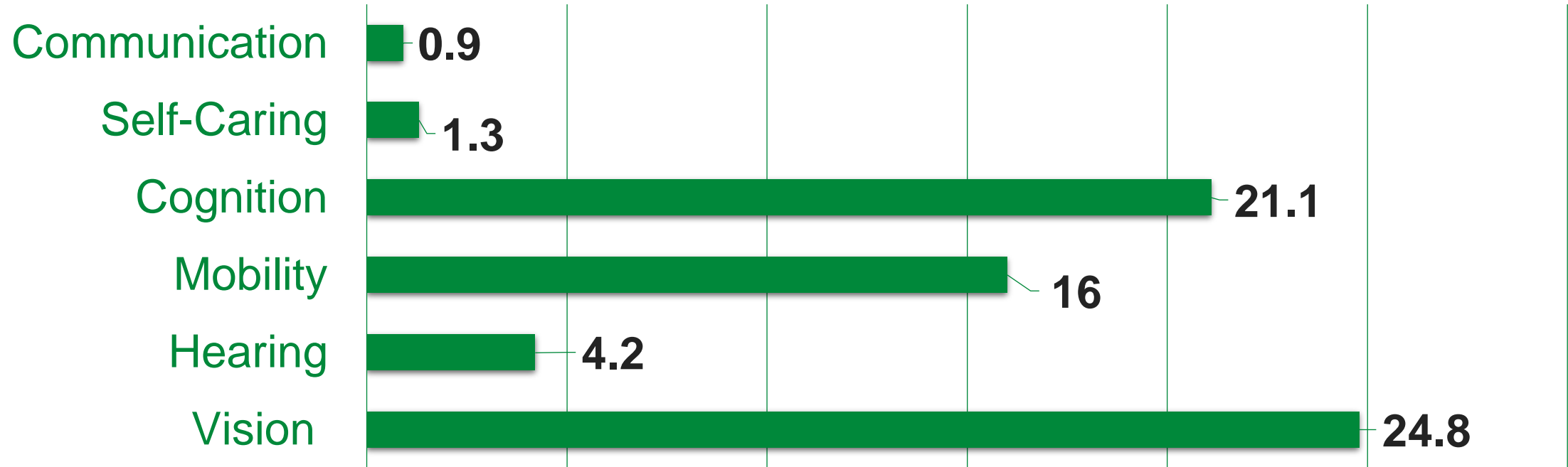
OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

- Objectives:
 - i) describe the **prevalence of disability** within a representative sample of women in Mwanza, Tanzania,
 - ii) assess the **association between level and type of disability and different forms of IPV** in this sample
- Study design: **Cross-sectional survey** in Mwanza, Tanzania; analysis of Wave 3 within a longitudinal study; participants in control group arm of two randomized controlled trials
- Study population: 867 ever-partnered women, aged 15 years and above
- Data collection: Structured questionnaire
- Data analysis: Descriptive statistics, binary and multivariate logistic regression models

- Washington Group Short Set Questions:
 - Six questions, asked on the scale of 1 to 4
(no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all)
 - Includes vision, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-caring and communication
 - Categorised into: no disability, mild disability and severe disability
- IPV measurement: WHO instrument, 12-month recall
 - controlling behaviors
 - emotional IPV
 - economic IPV
 - physical IPV
 - sexual IPV
 - sexual and/or physical IPV
 - severe IPV

- Mean age: 38.1 (8.8)
- Marital status: Married or living with man as if married = 84.9%
- Women's education: Primary level and below = 74.8%
- Significant associations with disability level:
 - Age – women in severe disability group are significantly older
 - Education level – women in severe disability group are more likely to only have primary level education and below
 - Household stress – women in severe disability group are more likely to report household stress
 - Partner's age – partners of women in severe disability group are significantly older

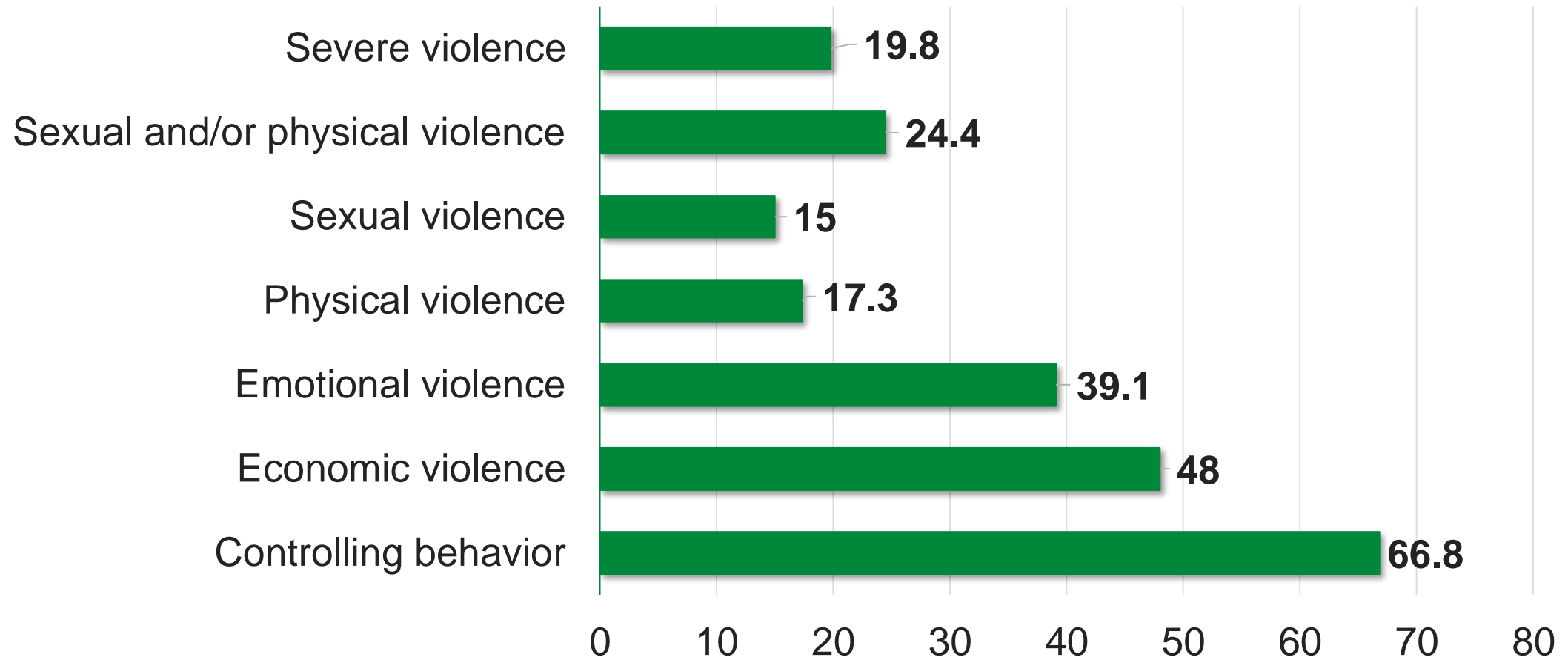
DISABILITY FORMS (N=867)



% prevalence of different forms of disability

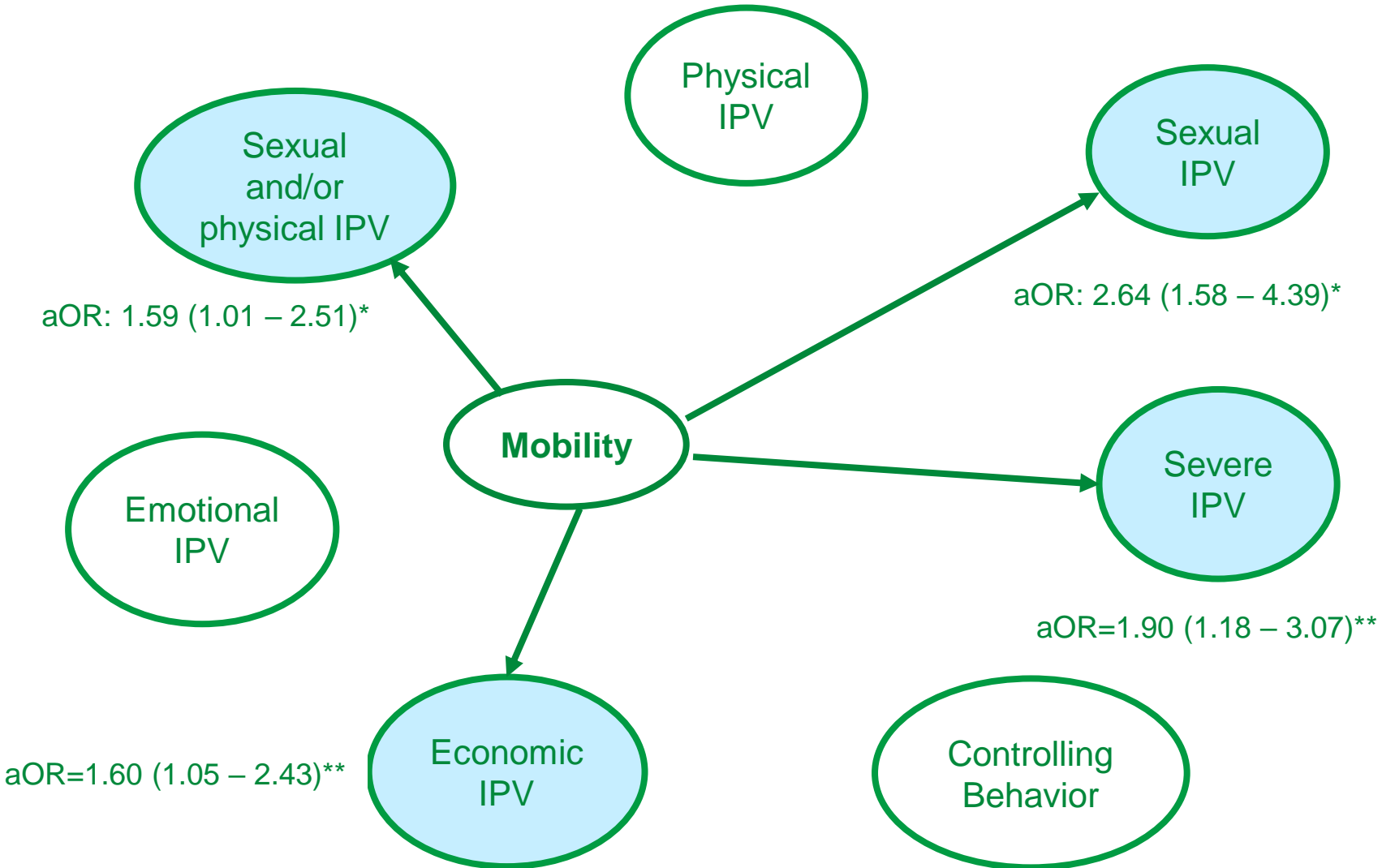
Disability categories: 54% reported no disability, 38% reported mild disability and 8% reported severe disability

PREVALENCE OF IPV IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (N=867)



% prevalence of different forms of IPV

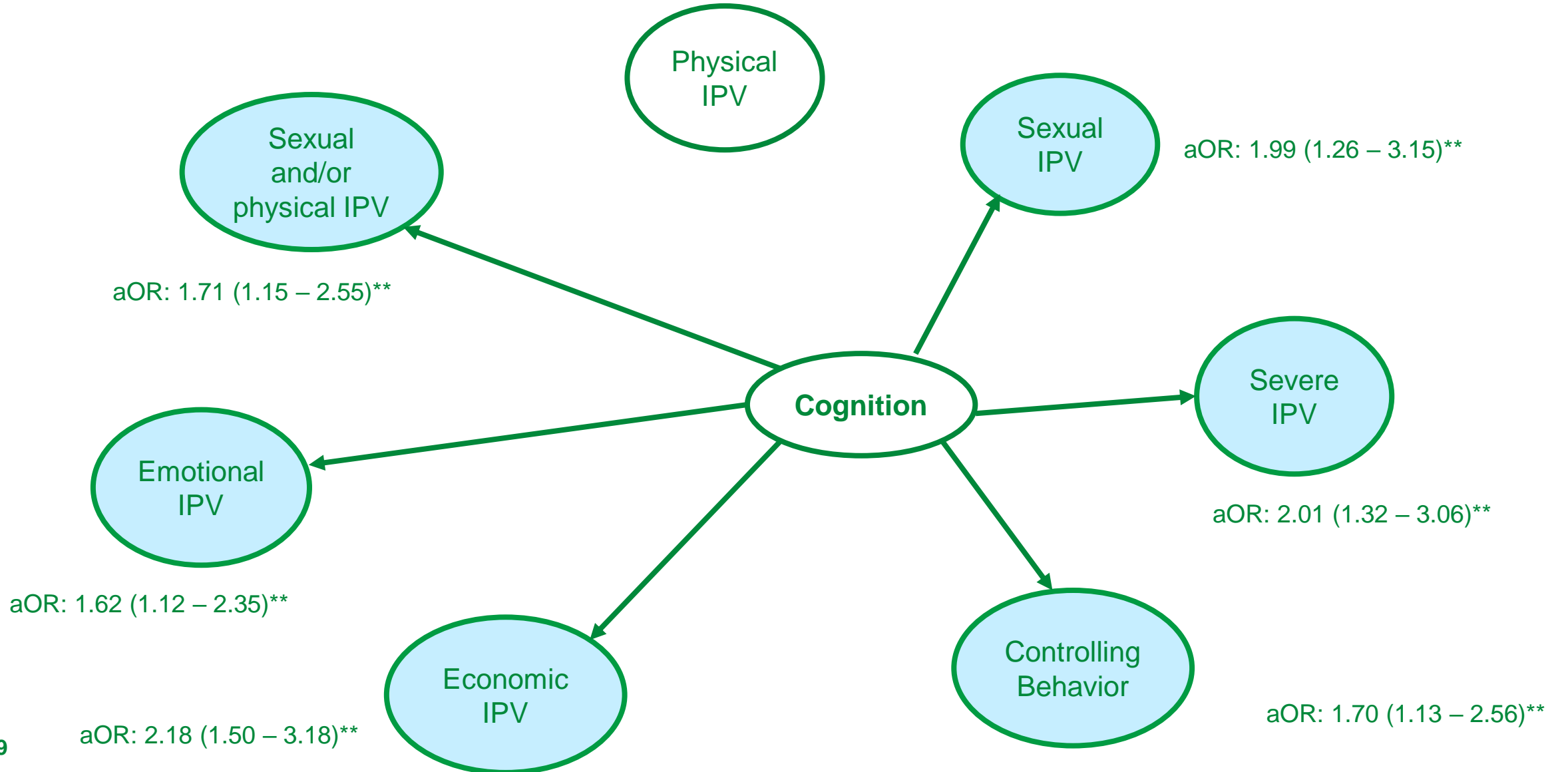
RESULTS – ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MOBILITY AND IPV



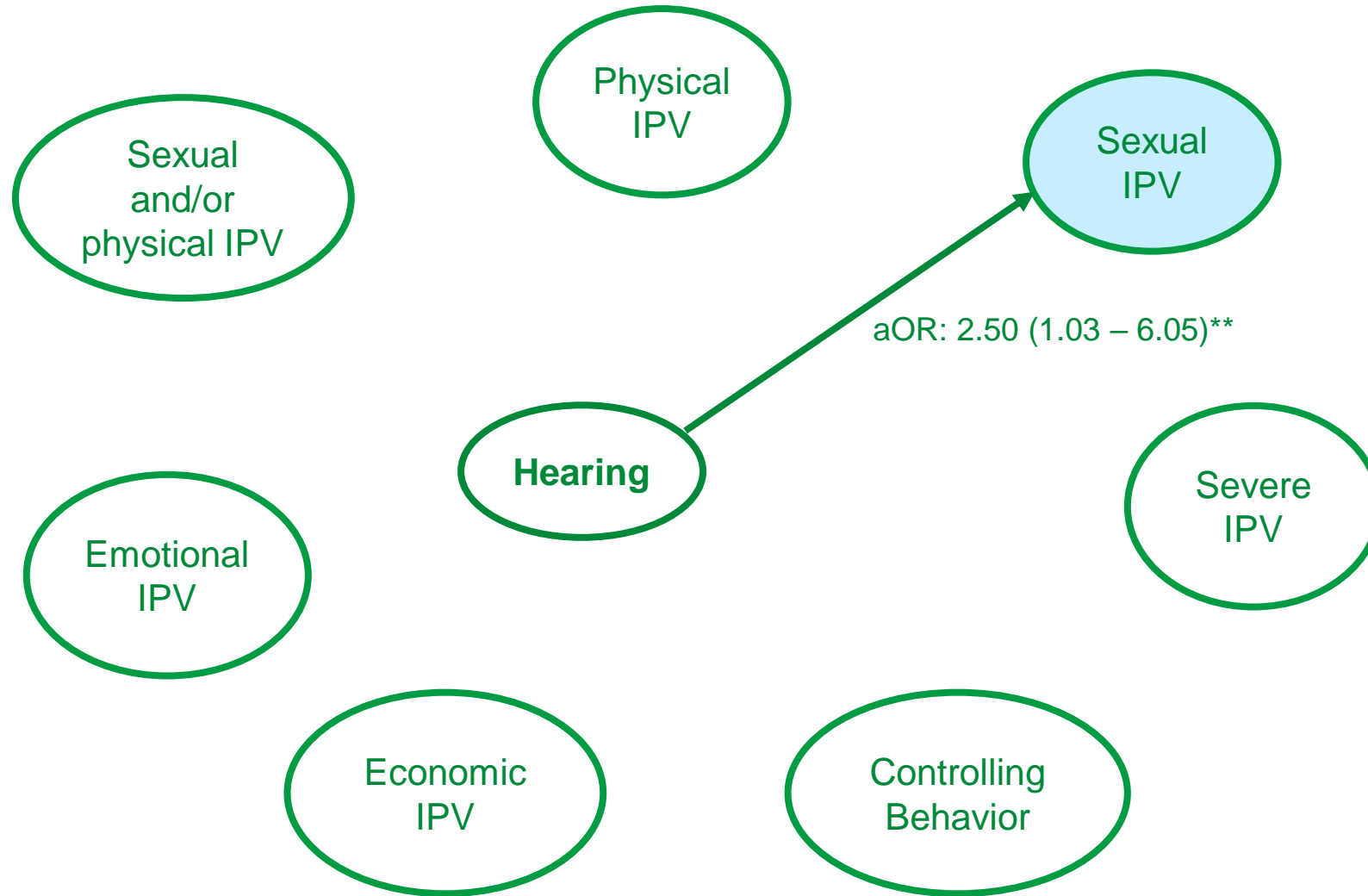
All models adjusted for:

- Women's age,
- Marital status,
- Women's education level,
- Women worked in the past 12 months,
- Household stress,
- Household socio-economic quintile
- Partner's age,
- Partner's education level,
- Partner worked in the past 12 months,
- Women's micro-finance participation

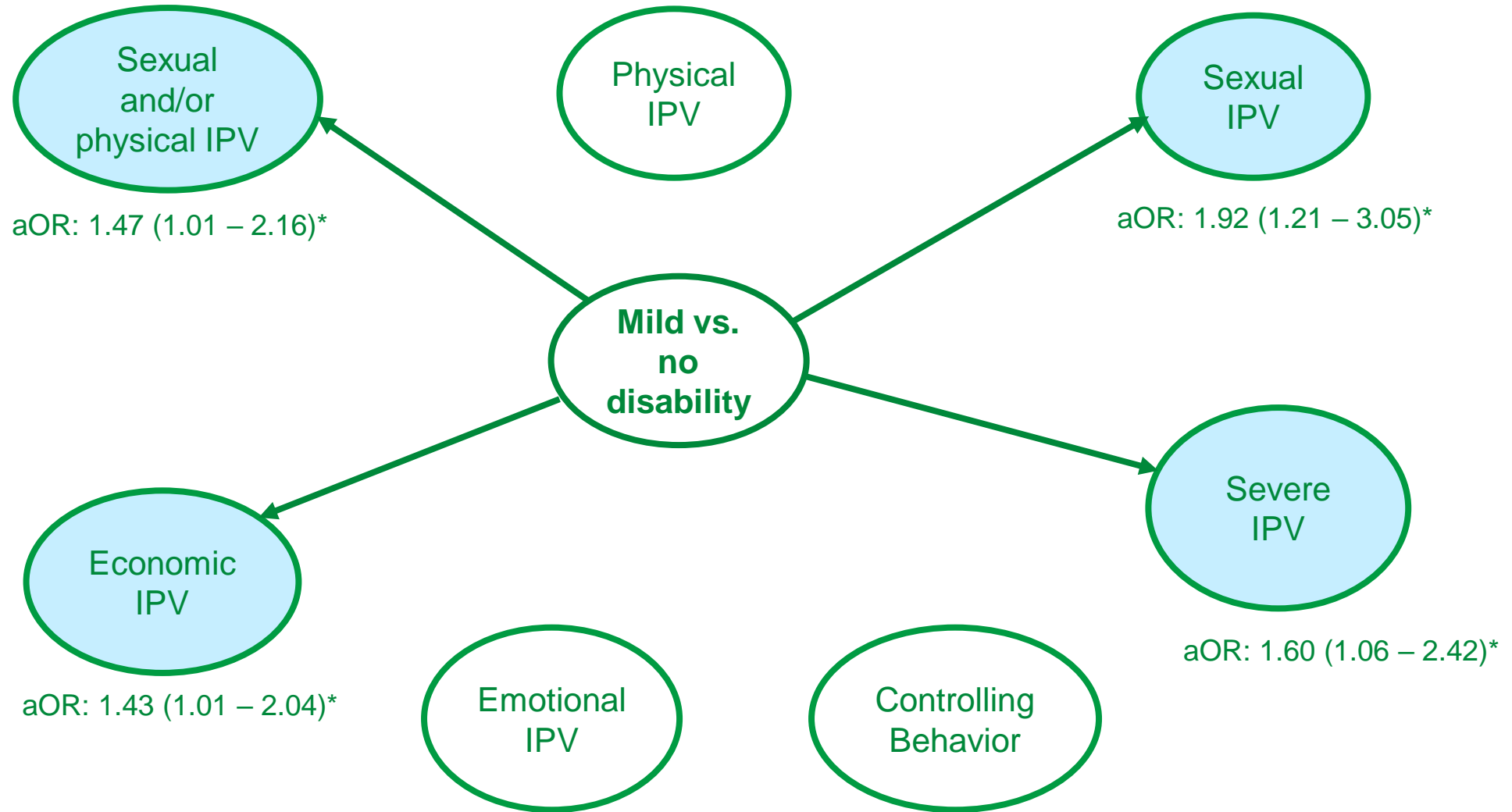
RESULTS – ASSOCIATION BETWEEN COGNITION AND IPV



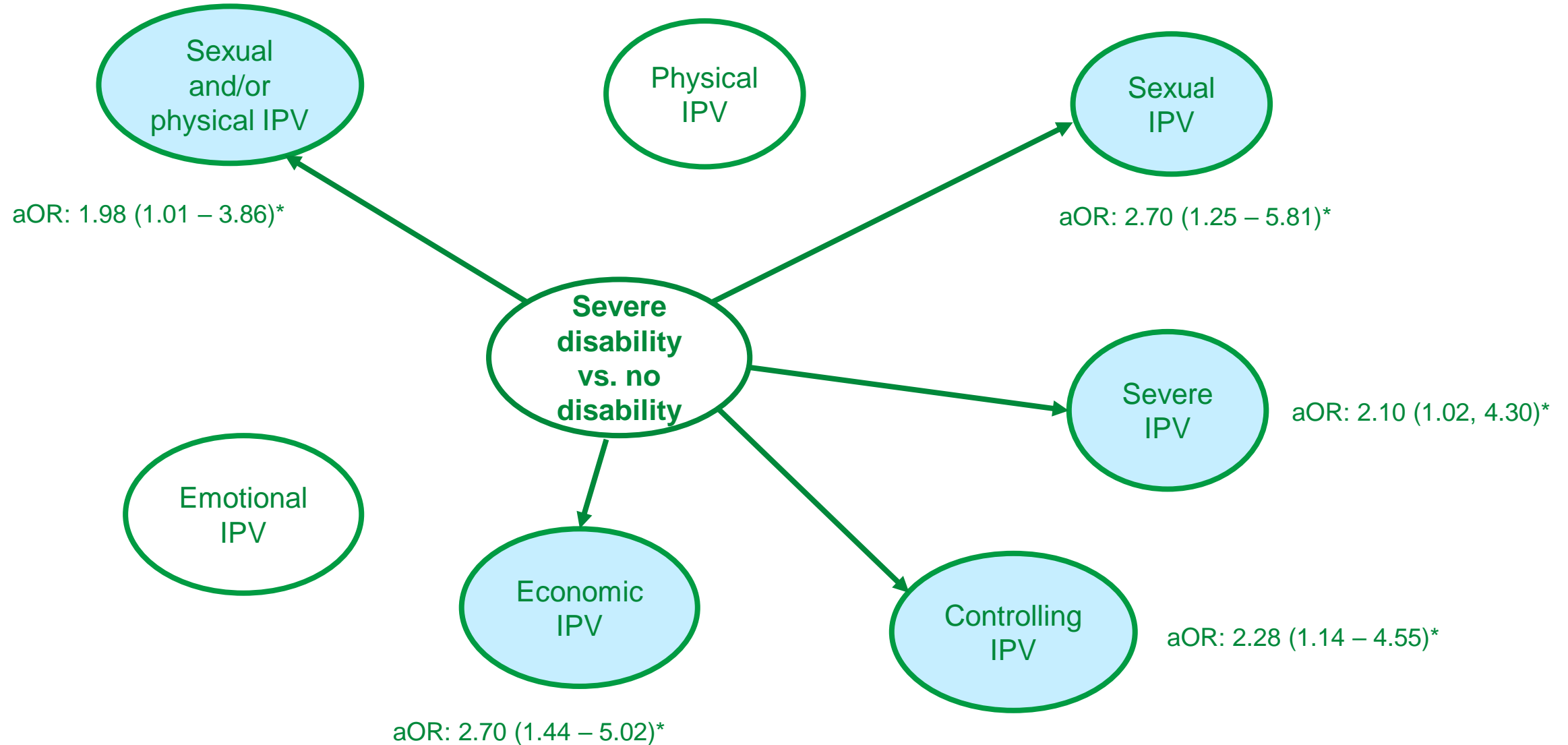
RESULTS – ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HEARING AND IPV



ASSOCIATION BETWEEN DISABILITY LEVEL AND IPV – MILD DISABILITY



ASSOCIATION BETWEEN DISABILITY LEVEL AND IPV – SEVERE DISABILITY



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Out of the types of disability, **cognition** and **mobility disabilities** show the strongest associations with IPV
 - These forms of disability may violate social norms and community expectations
 - Cognition and mobility disabilities may increase patterns of reliance on partners
- **Economic IPV** and **sexual IPV** most consistently associated
 - Disability may increase economic dependence and economic IPV reinforces socio-economic exclusion
 - Disability may reduce opportunities to escape from coercive sexual contexts

RECOMMENDATIONS

RESEARCH

- Future studies need to differentiate between different forms of disability and include multiple forms of disability
- Future research should include of multiple types of IPV, as this provides insight into patterns, dynamics and potential mechanisms
- Consider issues with study design and ethical procedures for inclusion of some women with disabilities

PROGRAMMING AND POLICY

- Attention to accessibility of interventions and programming for women with disabilities is needed
- Give consideration to economic violence and patterns of economic dependence in the context of women with disabilities and household relationships



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

Dr Sarah Meyer
Sarah.meyer@ibe.med.uni-muenchen.de

