

Characteristics of IPV Incidents: Are Their Differences Between Perpetrators Who Have A History Of Substance Abuse And Those Without?

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INTRODUCTION

- Worldwide, almost 33% of women prior physical and/or sexual victimization by their romantic partner in their lifetime.¹
- In Ohio, 35.6% of women and 30.0% of men experience intimate partner violence (IPV), (physical assault, rape, and stalking) in their lifetimes.²
- There is extensive theoretical and empirical evidence linking substance abuse and marital violence.³
- Research has shown women whose partners had been drinking were more likely to be injured than were women whose partners had not been drinking.⁴
- Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) partnered with Women Helping Women (WHW), a community, gender-based violence prevention organization to create the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVERT) to address the needs of IPV violence. Second responders are sent out to the scene of IPV police calls to better address the needs of survivors and connect them with services.⁵

Research Question

What differences exist between IPV incidents involving perpetrators with a history of substance abuse and incidents involving perpetrators with no history of substance abuse?

METHOD

Participants

- DVERT calls for service from August 2018 to January 2020
- Case characteristics recorded into WHW's client database ($n = 1253$)
 - Includes male and females
 - Data pulled from WHW form filled out by survivors who wanted to be involved with prosecution but could not attend arraignment

Measures/Procedures

- Incident Characteristics
 - Weapon Presence
 - 0-No Weapon (no weapon present at time of incident)
 - 1-Weapon (firearms, knives, perpetrator's fist, etc.)
 - Physical Injury
 - No injury or injury
 - 0-No Injury
 - 1-Injury
 - Type of Injury: Single or Multiple
 - 0-No injury, property damage, emotional/mental
 - 1-Single injury (single body part, e.g., arm)
 - 2-Multiple injuries (multiple body parts, multiple scratches, bruises, etc.)
- Cases were categorized based whether IPV perpetrator had a history of substance abuse as reported by survivor
- Bivariate Analysis
 - Crosstabulation – percentages with 95% confidence interval (CI)
 - Chi-Square Test of Independence

RESULTS

Figure 1. Relationship between Perpetrator Substance Abuse and Presence of Weapons

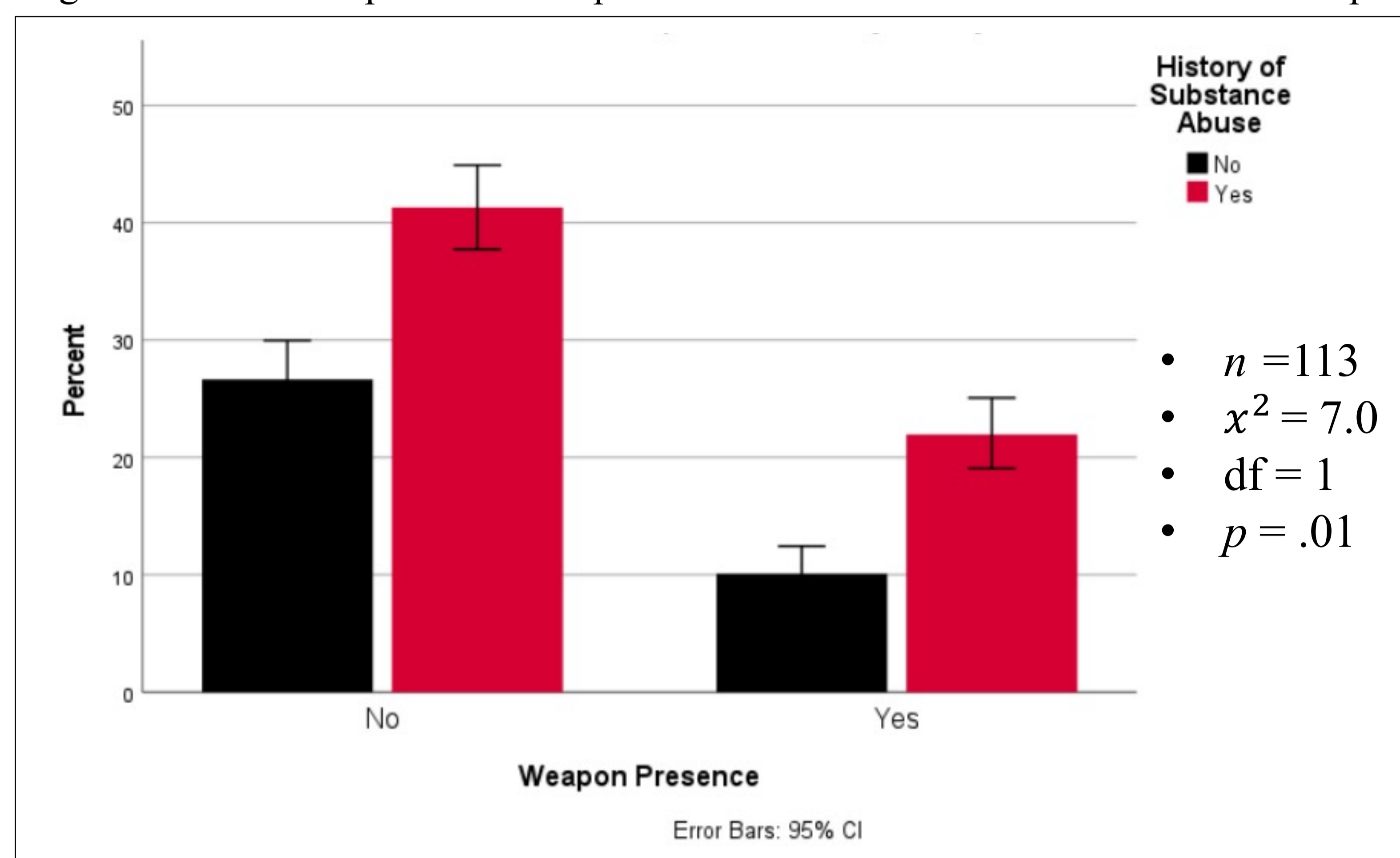


Figure 2. Relationship between Perpetrator Substance Abuse and Presence of Injury

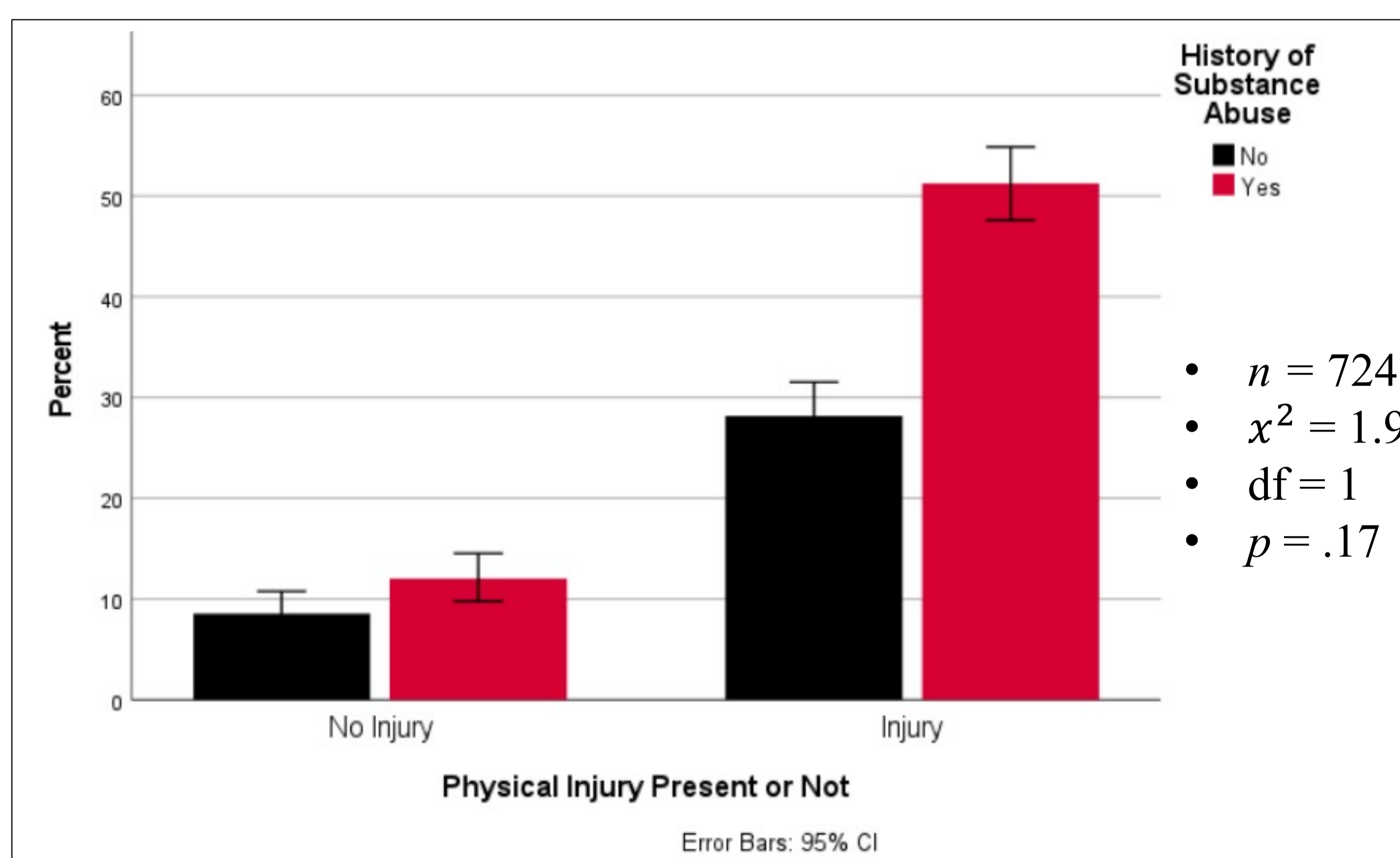
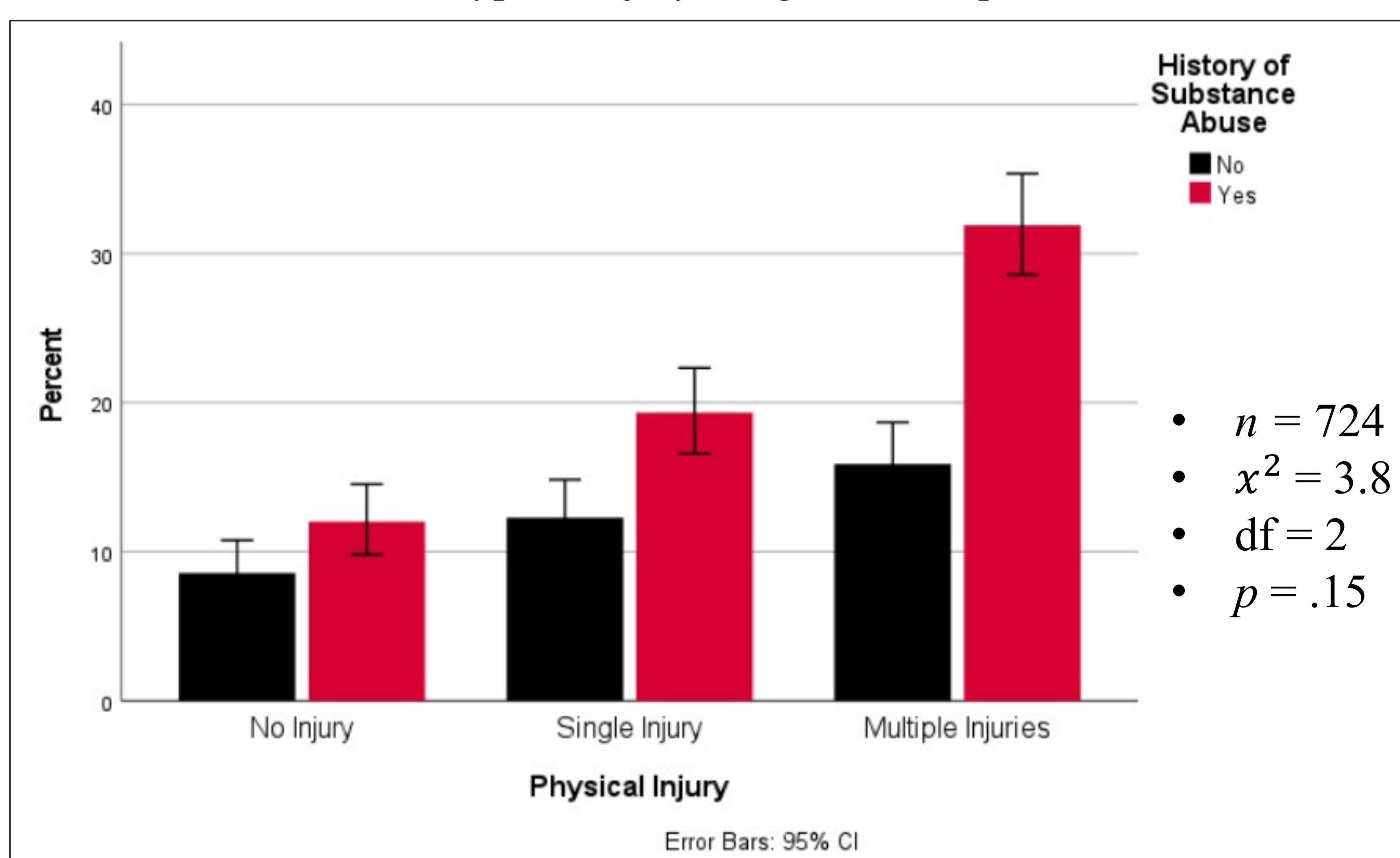


Figure 3. Relationship between Perpetrator Substance Abuse and Type of Injury: Single or Multiple



DISCUSSION

Summary of Findings

- There is a relationship between perpetrators who have a history of substance abuse and used a weapon during incident:
 - Weapon presence ($p < .05$)
- There is no significant relationship between perpetrators with history of substance abuse and injury to survivor across both injury measures:
 - For physical injury present or not ($p > .05$)
 - For type of physical injury ($p > .05$)

Limitations

- Substance use at time of incident was not reported or collected
- Data were only collected from survivors who wanted to participate in prosecution, but could not attend arraignment
- Missing data regarding injuries ($n=445$; 35.5%)

Implications and Future Directions

- Obtain IPV perpetrator substance use data from jurisdictions outside of the Cincinnati area for a wider sample.
- Develop a way to reduce missing data.
- Recommend substance abuse classes for those who show symptoms of violence when intoxicated.
- Consider background checks on those trying to purchase a firearm.

References

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