

Prevalence and risk factors for intimate partner violence among Grade 8 learners in urban South Africa: Baseline analysis from the Skhokho Supporting Success RCT

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Background

- IPV has been studied globally with more work done on adults and older adolescent populations
- There are limited exceptions on work with earlier school grades (Russell et al 2014)
- Literature from North America discusses whether IPV is a phenomenon of just VAW or mutual violence (Foshee et al 1998; Archer 2006)
- South Africa: drivers of IPV among young adolescents – gender influence on IPV (Russell et al 2014)
- Childhood abuse and victimisation (Heise et al 2015)



Objectives of the study

- To determine the prevalence of intimate partner violence among school learners and
- To assess the factors associated with experiencing (girls) and perpetrating (boys) intimate partner violence



The Skhokho Supporting Success RCT

- 2 year trial with three arms of eight schools each to develop and test a multi-faceted school-based intervention to prevent intimate partner violence (IPV) among school learners
 - Three arms= (1) Supporting schools only, (2) supporting schools + supporting families, (3) control arm
- trial outcome is to demonstrate a reduced IPV incidence among the school students receiving the intervention



Methods

- 24 selected English medium State secondary schools
- 50km radius of the MRC office in Pretoria
- Learner surveys were conducted using self-administered questionnaires in personal-digital assistants (PDAs) in three language text and voice (English, seTswana and sePedi)
- Privately completed surveys in class with help of trained interviewers



Recruitment and Participation

- 6076 learners enrolled in Grade 8 in 2014
- 4095 (67.4%) learners received written consent from parents to participate
- 3811 (92.3%) learners enrolled in the study
- 3755 (91.7%) completed the survey

Supporting Success



Questions/ scales	Measurements	Cronbach's α (girls, boys)
Demographic	Age, SES (type of house, amount of pocket money)	
IPV in the last 12 mo	WHO measures, 5 questions physical IPV, 3 questions sexual IPV and 3 questions for emotional IPV	
Alcohol use	AUDIT item— how often do you use alcohol	
Bullying Activities	3 questions eg. “I like to make fun of others at school, especially the weak ones”. Responses: “SA, A D or SD”	0.68, 0.69
Sexual Activities	Ever partnered \longrightarrow ever vaginal/anal sex, transactional sex, multiple sexual partnerships, IPV & partner communication	Yes/No
Partner communication	5 questions eg “In the past month, how often did you and your boyfriend or girlfriend talk about how you feel about physical intimacy (kissing or touching) or having sex?”	0.74; 0.71
Gender equitable attitudes	Individual norms=5 questions, Friends= 5 questions Family = 5 questions eg “I think (my friends think or my family thinks) that if a girl dresses sexy or gets drunk she is inviting men to rape her” Responses =SA, A, D, SA; low= traditional	0.57; 0.60 0.56; 0.59 0.57; 0.57
Childhood Trauma	Sexual=4 questions, emotional= 8 questions & physical=3 questions. eg. I have been punished at home by being beaten every day or every week.	0.76;0.79
Corporal	At home at school in the last 6 months	Yes/No

Data Analysis

- Analysis considered the clustering in schools
- Chi square and t-tests for relationships with IPV
- Multiple regression analysis to assess factors associated with IPV experience and perpetration
- Structural Equation Modelling assessed pathways to IPV

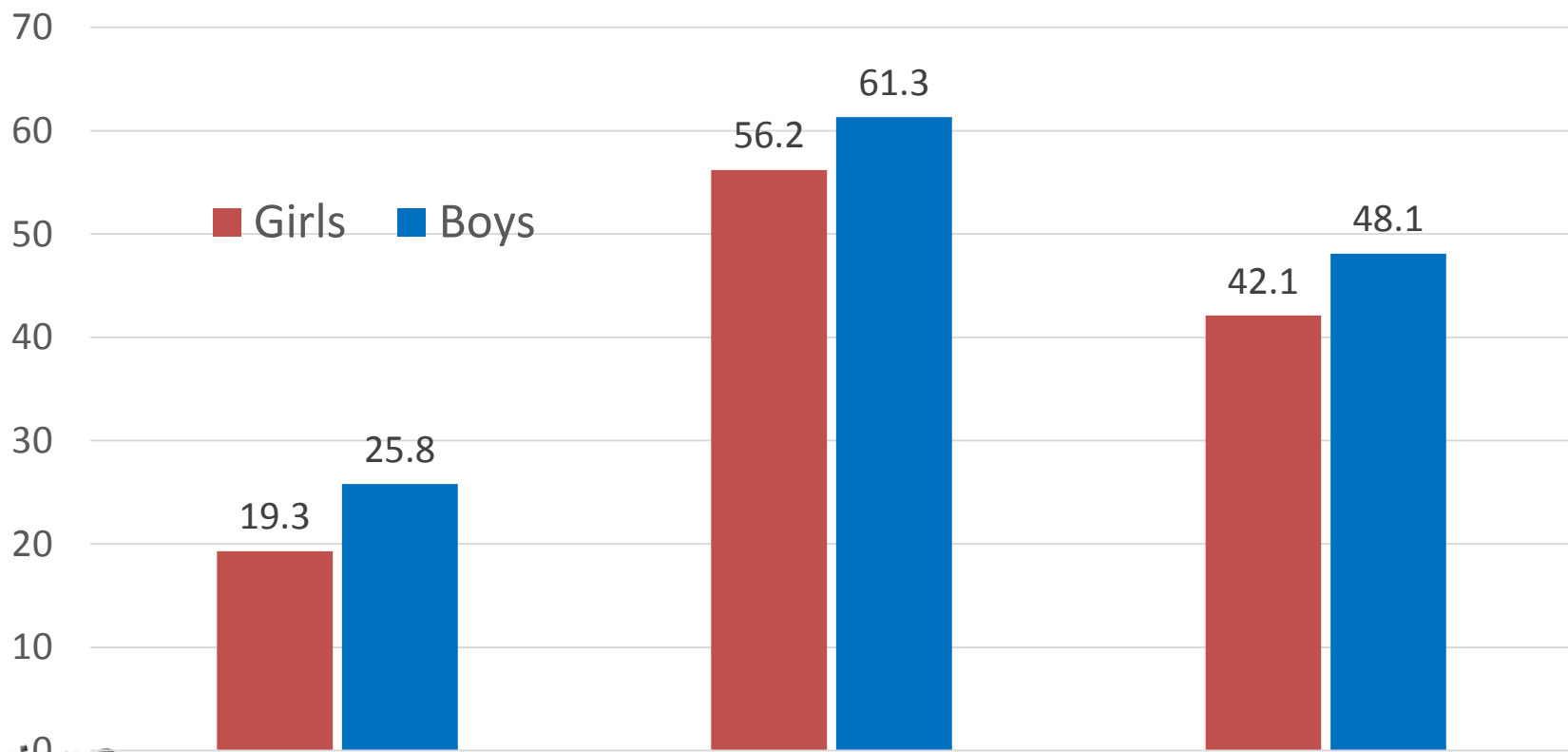


Findings

- 2126 (57%) were girls and 1629 (43%) were boys.
- Average age:
 - girls=13.54 (13.50-13.57)
 - boys=13.94 (13.89-13.99)
- 52% of girls had ever had a boyfriend and 70% of boys had ever had a girlfriend



Childhood Trauma (p<0.004)



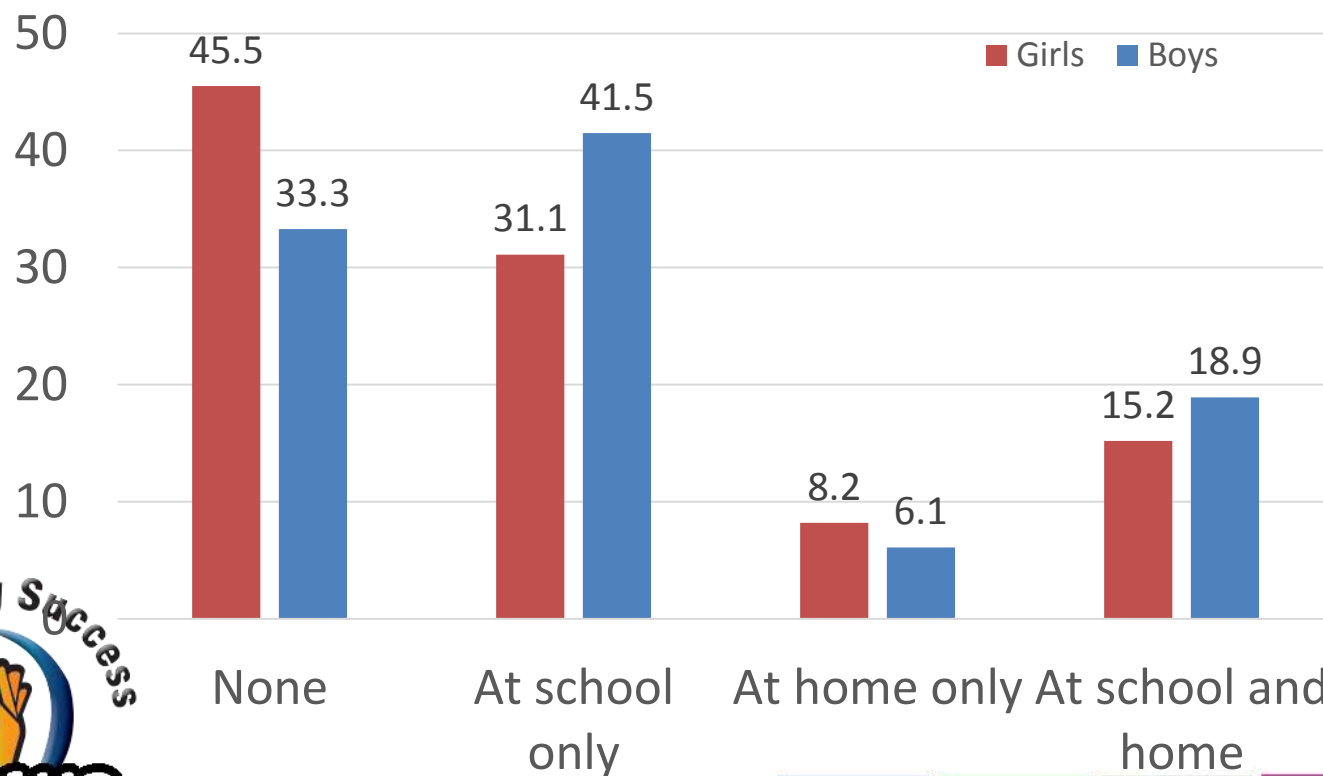
Childhood sexual abuse

Childhood emotional abuse

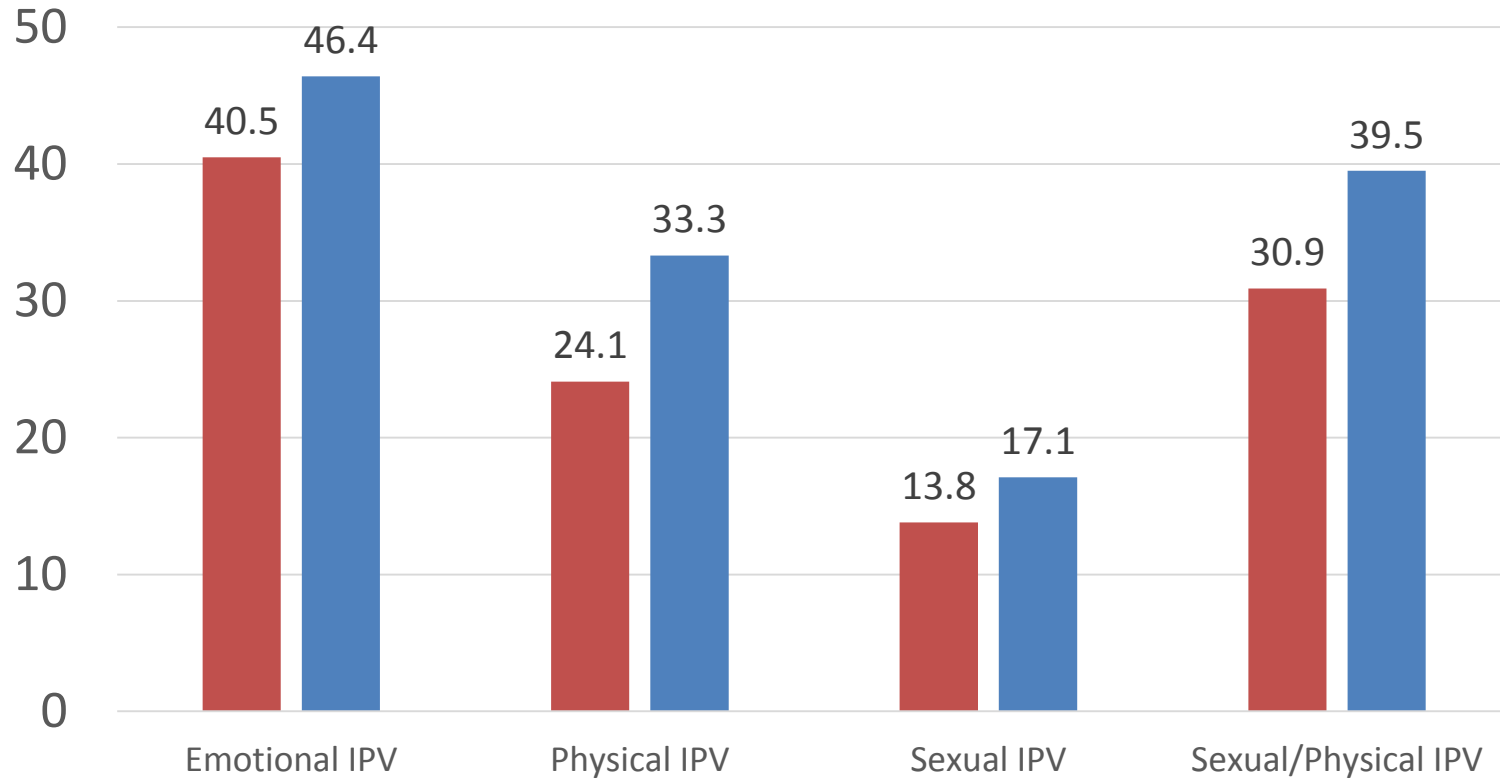
Childhood physical abuse



Corporal punishment in the last 6 months



Intimate Partner Violence in the last 12 months ($p < 0.04$)



■ Girls experience ■ Boys perpetration



Multiple logistic regression analysis showing factors associated with experiencing (girls) or perpetrating IPV (boys)

	Girls			OR	Boys		
	OR	95%CI	Sig (p-value)		OR	95% CI	Sig (p-value)
Alcohol Use	2.99	1.28-6.95	0.013				
Multiple Partners				2.33	1.81 - 3.01	<0.001	
Partner communication	0.93	0.89-0.98	0.008				
School engagement (low score = positive about learning)	0.91	0.86-0.95	0.001	0.84	0.81 - 0.88	<0.001	
Gender inequitable Individual norms (low =traditional norms)				0.96	0.92 - 0.99	0.035	
Experience of violence							
None							
Violence at school	0.95	0.69-1.32	0.749	1.29	0.90 - 1.85	0.151	
		0.51	0.735	1.1	0.61	0.737	

Table 4: Multiple logistic regression analysis showing factors associated with experiencing (girls) or perpetrating (boys)

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Experience of violence (last six months)							
None							
Violence at school	0.95	0.69-1.32	0.749		1.29	0.90-1.85	0.151
Violence at home	0.91	0.51-1.61	0.735		1.10	0.61-1.97	0.737
Violence at home & school	1.69	1.15-2.49	0.009		1.77	1.07- 2.95	0.028
Childhood experience of sexual abuse	2.00	1.49-2.69	<0.001		2.13	1.51- 3.02	<0.001
Childhood experience of physical abuse					1.42	1.03-1.97	0.032
Bullying (low score = more bullying)	0.93	0.88- 0.99	0.016				

Structural Equation Models

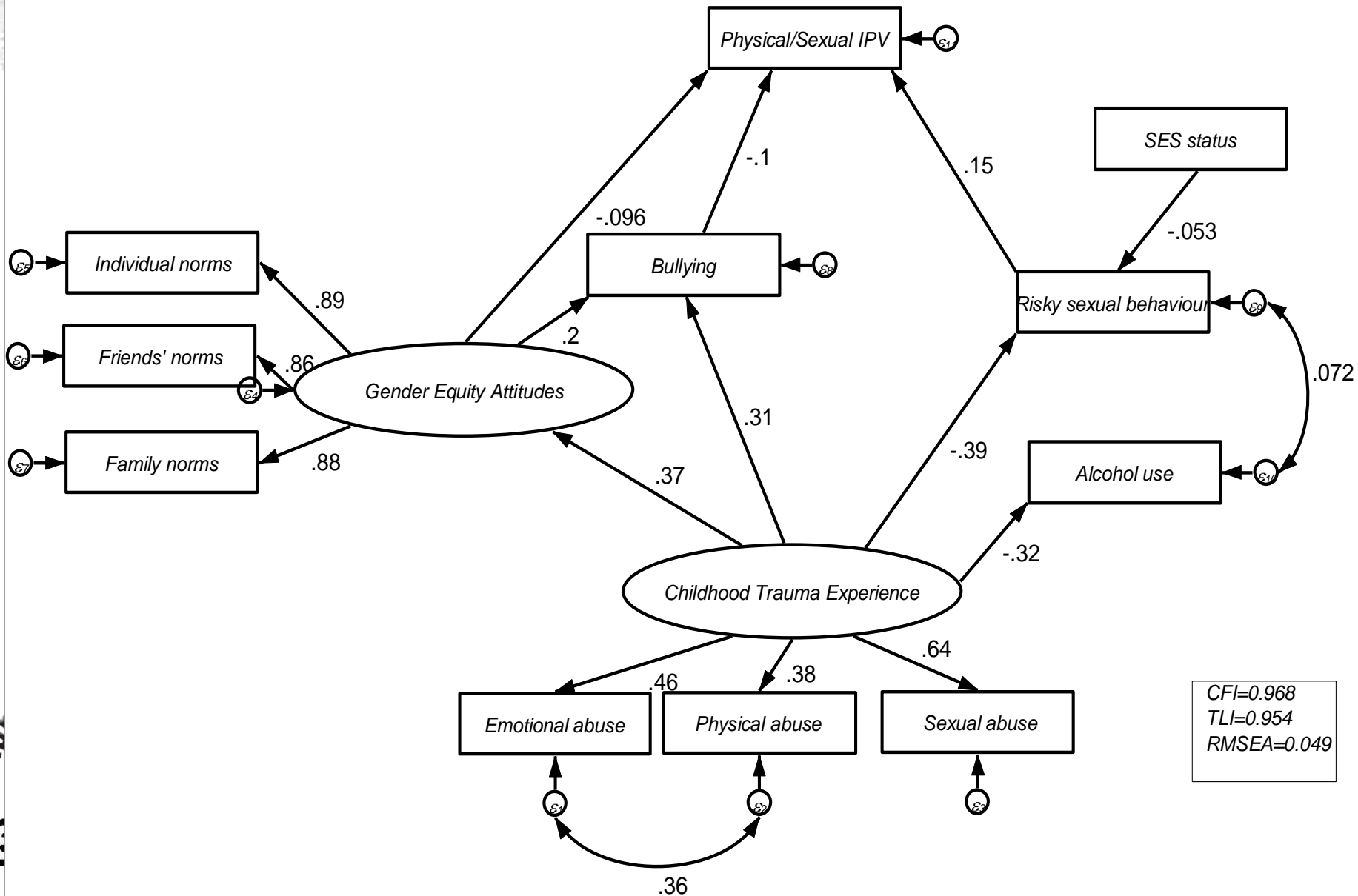


Fig 1: Final structural model for factors associated with sexual/physical intimate partner violence experience among girls.

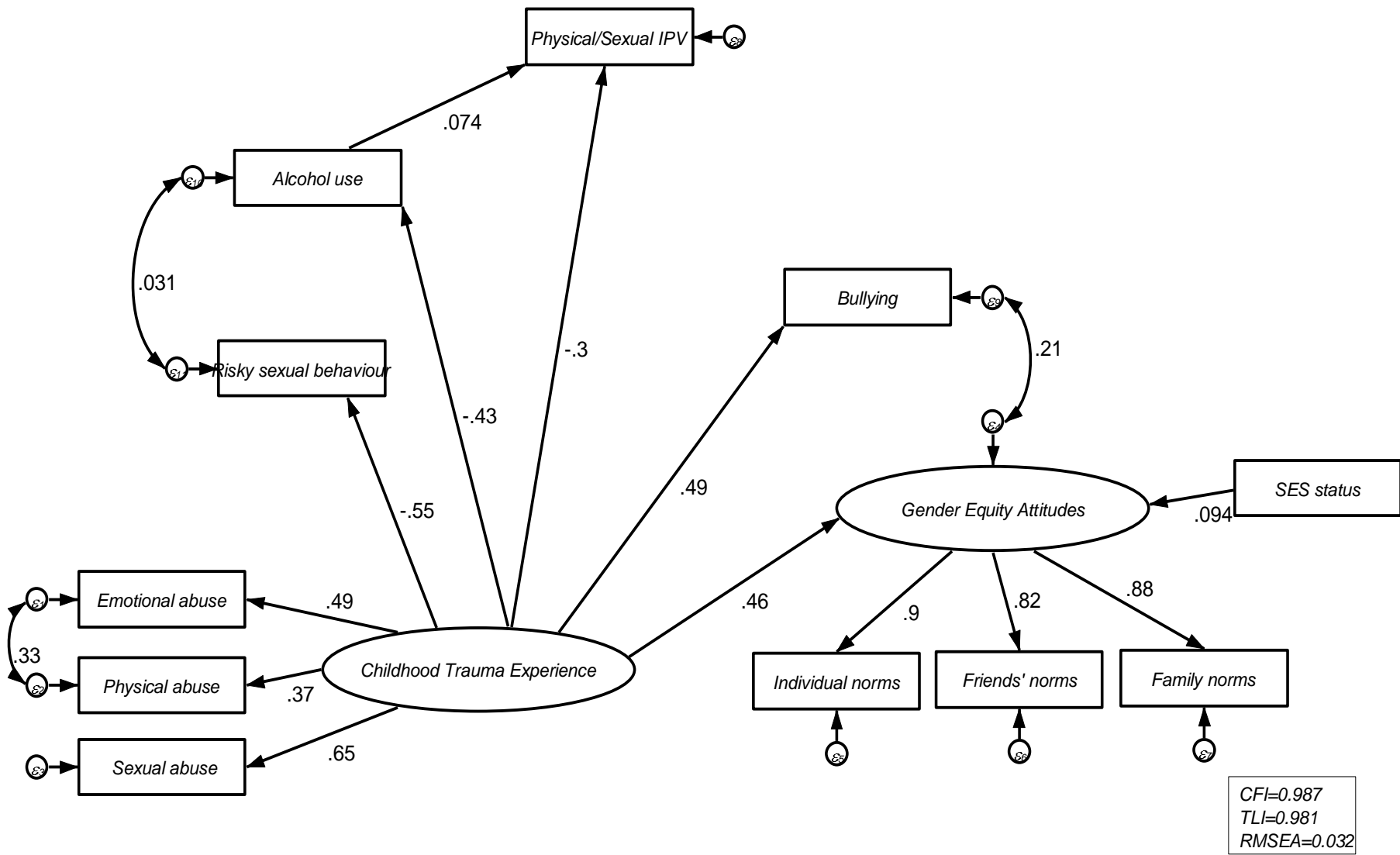
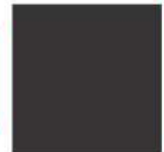


Fig 2: Final structural model of factors associated with sexual/physical intimate partner violence perpetration among boys.

Conclusions

- High levels of dating and of all forms of violence (IPV, corporal punishment, child trauma, bullying)
- Girls aggression is linked to IPV
- Need to address underlying factors (gender inequality & childhood trauma) to prevent IPV in young adolescents
- Interventions with learners, parents, and teachers are needed to address violence at home, school and in relationships



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