

# VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA: DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNDERLYING DETERMINANTS

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# Project Team

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# Violence against Children in SA

- National estimates Optimus Study (2015)
  - 1 in 5 report sexual violence & neglect
  - 1 in 3 report physical abuse

- Community-based studies

Physical abuse	55% of children <sup>1</sup>
Witness domestic violence	35 - 45% of children <sup>2</sup>
Emotional abuse and neglect	53% girls + 56% boys <sup>3</sup>
Sexual violence	39% girls + 16% boys <sup>4</sup>

1. Meinck, Cluver & Boyes in press; 2. Seedat et al 2009; 3. Jewkes et al 2010; 4. Jewkes et al 2009.

- 44% (22 781) of sexual offences reported to the police are children under the age of 18 years (SAPS 2013/2014)

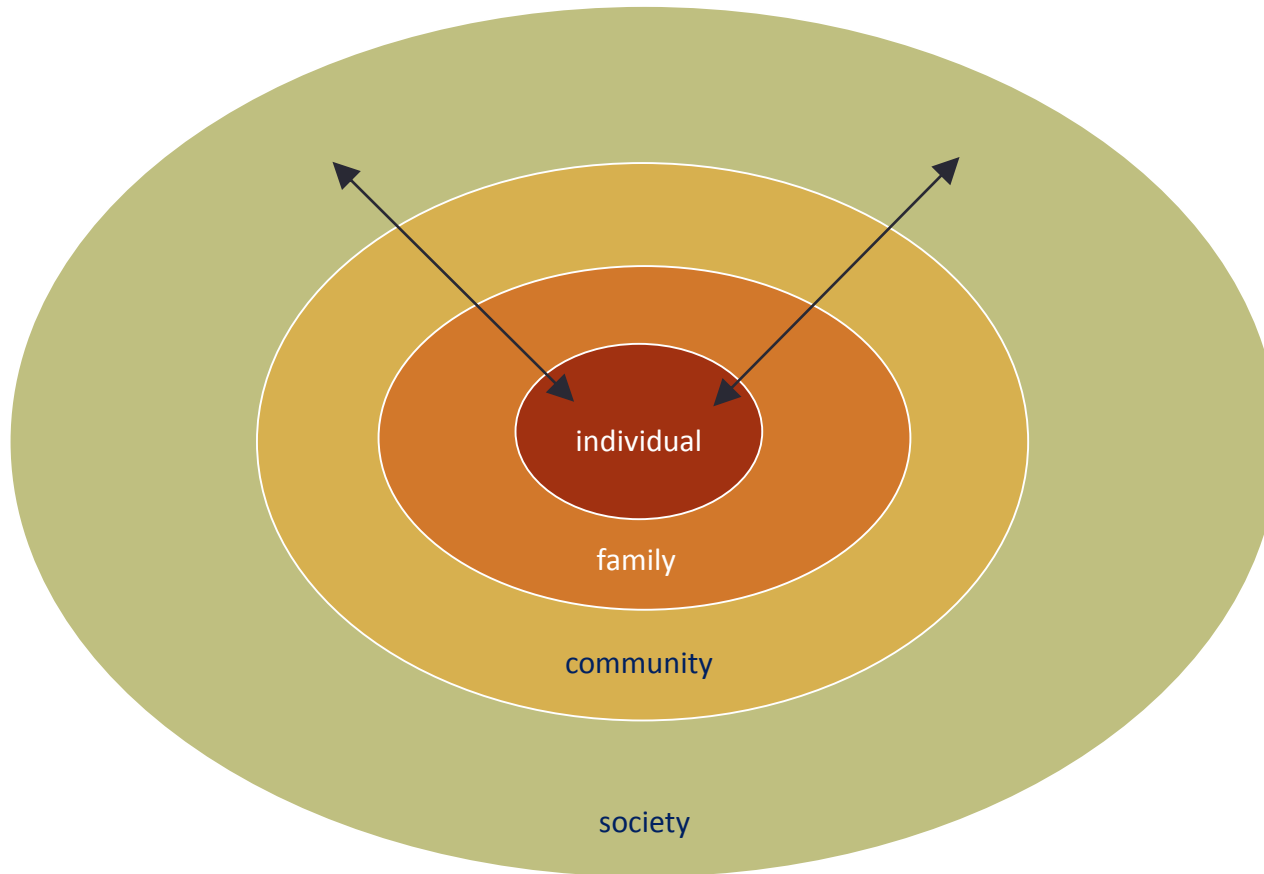
# Background

- The project was initiated by Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to Investigate the Root Causes of Violence Against Women in 2014
- “Towards a more comprehensive understanding of the direct and indirect determinants of violence against women and children in South Africa with a view to enhancing violence prevention” - commissioned for the IMC on VAWC
- Supported by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) through DFID funded Safer South Africa Programme

# Study Design

- Literature review - violence against children in South Africa
- Critical analysis of risk and protective factors
- Development of a conceptual model on risk and protective factors based on the critical analysis
- Assess the available and relevant data sets and establish eligibility for predictive modelling
- Estimate predictive models to establish the key factors in explaining violence against women and children and the critical causal relations amongst these

# Socio-ecological framework



# What did we learn from the critical review?

Level	Risk Factors	Examples
Individual	Biological factors & personal history increases the chance of victimisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Gender</li> <li>•Age</li> <li>•Disability &amp; chronic illness</li> <li>•Limited attention</li> </ul>
Relationship	Relationships with parent/s and caregiver; Chaotic family environment, care arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Family home / disorganized family</li> <li>•Caregiver health</li> <li>•Substance abuse</li> <li>•Someone involved in crime</li> </ul>
Community	Neighbourhood context; Social integration and capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• neighbourhood factors i.e level of violence ;</li> <li>• availability of services;</li> <li>• high levels of unemployment</li> <li>• Housing – overcrowding</li> </ul>
Societal	Cultural beliefs and practises; social and gender norms; Economic, social, health, and educational policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norms that support violence as a means of resolving conflict ie corporal punishment</li> <li>• Policies that maintain inequality or discrimination based on gender</li> </ul>

# Development of a Conceptual Model

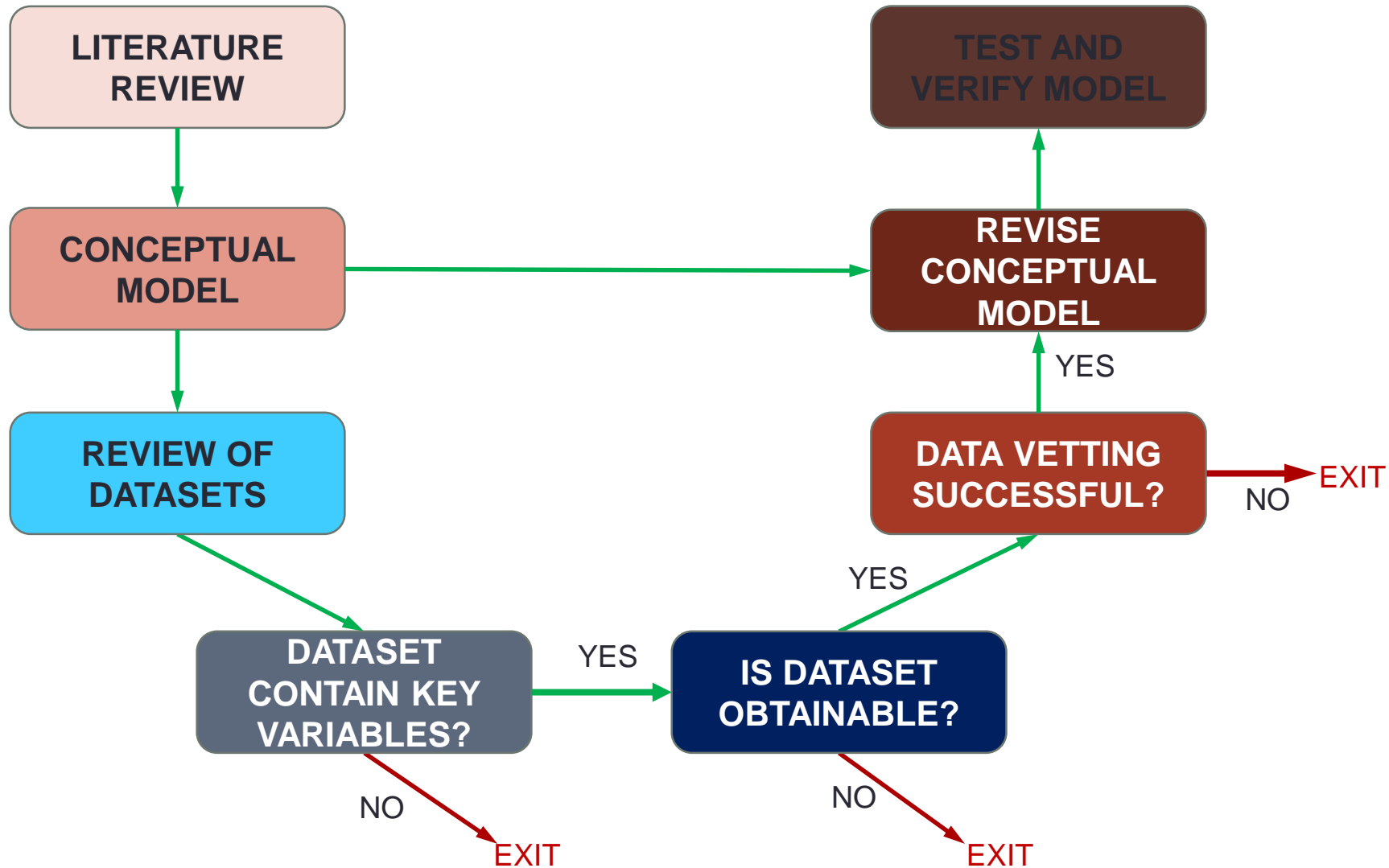
- Based on the ecological framework
- Conceptualise the child as the centre of the network of interacting influences / systems
- Improvements in the one area can buffer the child
- Risk and protective factors not singular cause – but complex interplay
- Considered whether variables would be background, mediating / intermediate or outcome variables
- Empirical testing of the model – allow for simultaneous analysis of multiple variables.



# Predictive Models

- Identify key **risk & protective factors** in violence against women/children
- Identify the key **moderating** and **mediating variables**
- Provide robust **predictions** and **explanations**
- Permit generalisation of model to **wider populations**
- Help determine **priority areas** for **policy & programmes**
- Help identify key areas for **monitoring & evaluation**

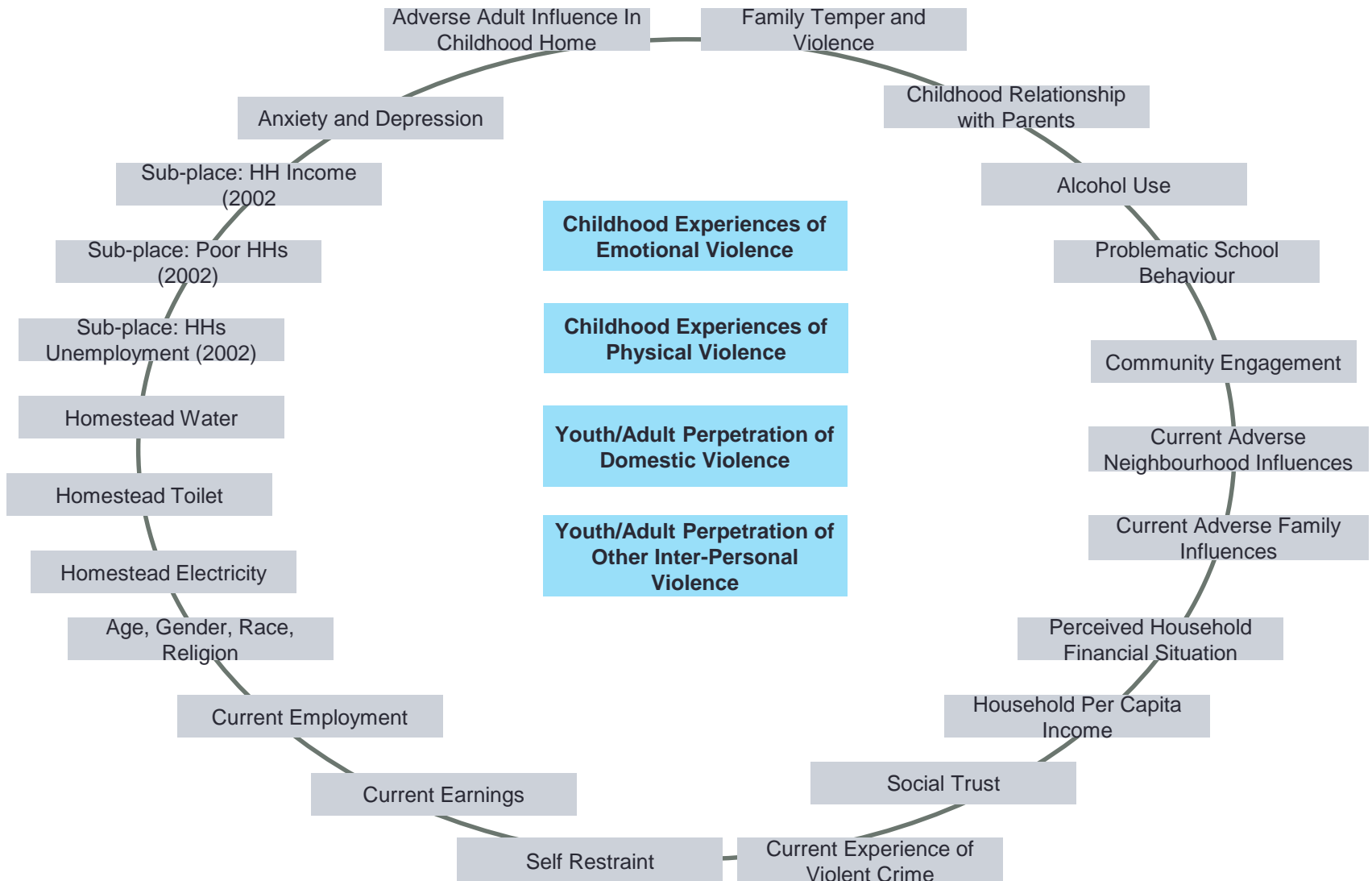
# Predictive model development overview



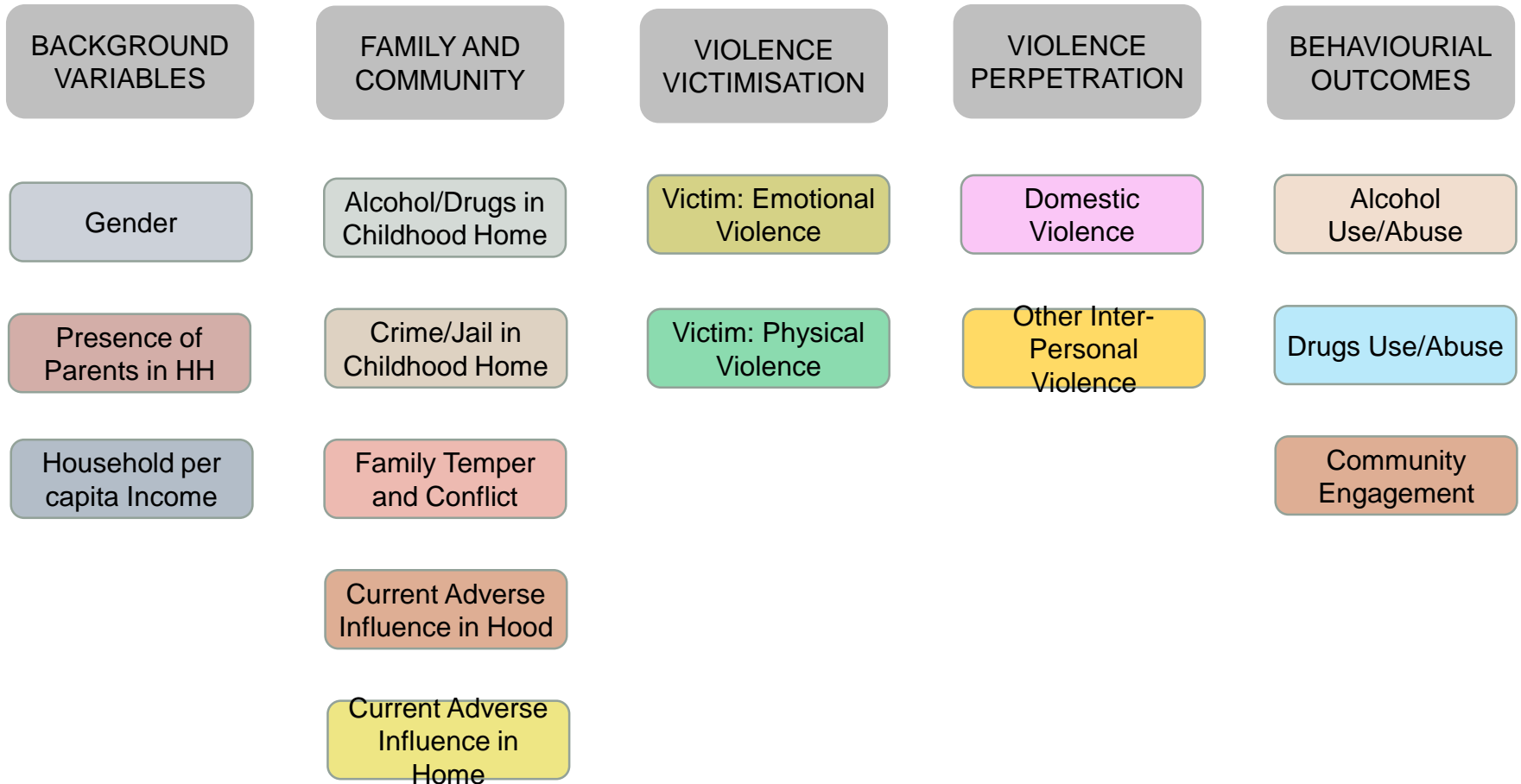
# The Cape Area Panel (CAP) Study

- The Cape Area Panel Study (CAPS) - a longitudinal (panel design) started in 2002 and ended in 2009 – five successive waves.
- Investigated the multidimensional nature of the lives of the young men and women - educational, psychological, familial, sociological, economic, community
- In addition to the youth interviews, household data collected by interviewing adults and other household members
- The panel nature of CAPS offered considerable benefits:
  - Rigorous examination of the temporal nature of determination
  - Allows us to investigate how early childhood conditions relate to later adolescent and adult behaviours.
  - Enables a better test of how violence victimisation early in life leads to violence perpetration in later years

# Study Variables vetted for predictive modelling

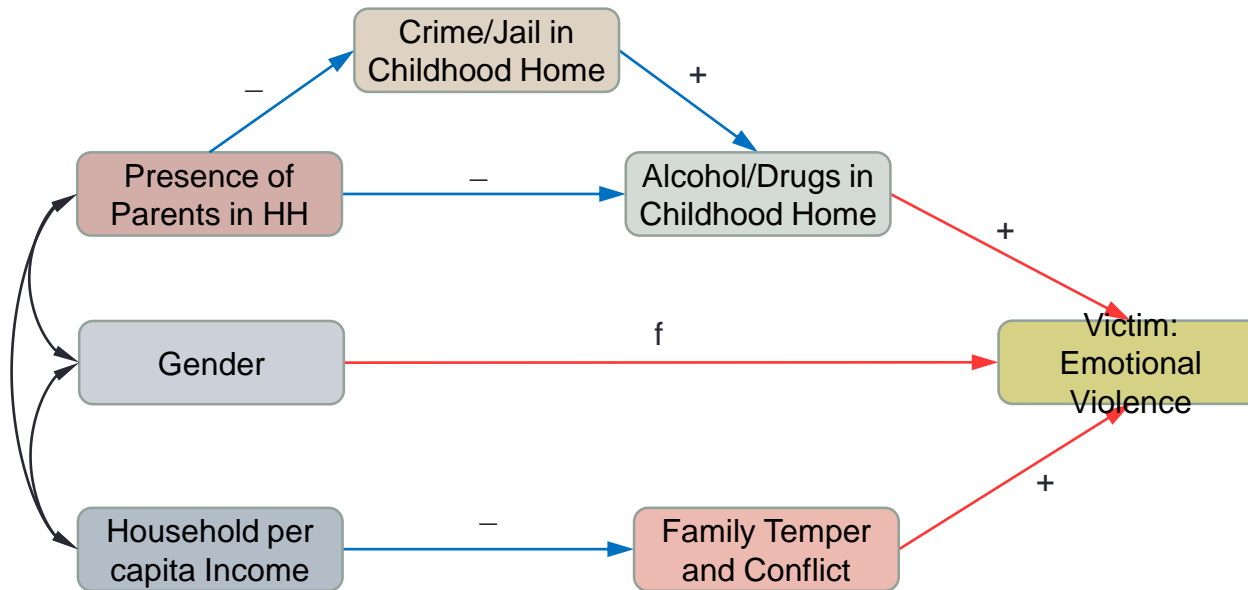


# Structural equation model – key variables



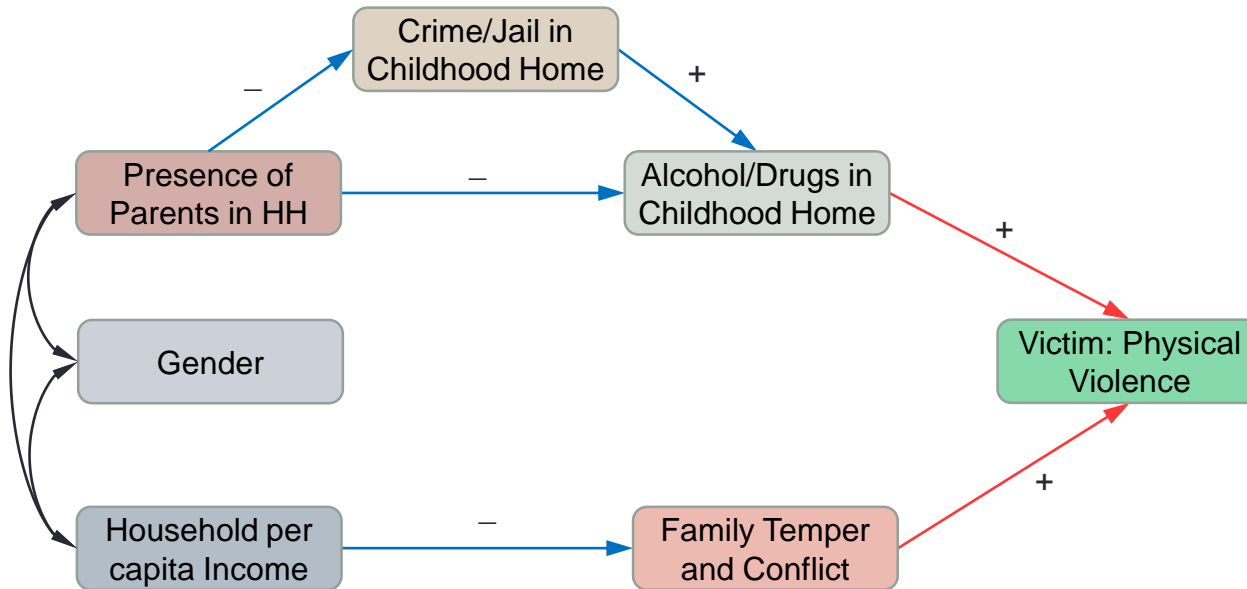
WHAT ARE THE MODELS SHOWING US?

# Determinants of emotional violence



INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X <sup>2</sup> /df	1.6	< 4
CFI	0.97	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.03	< 0.05

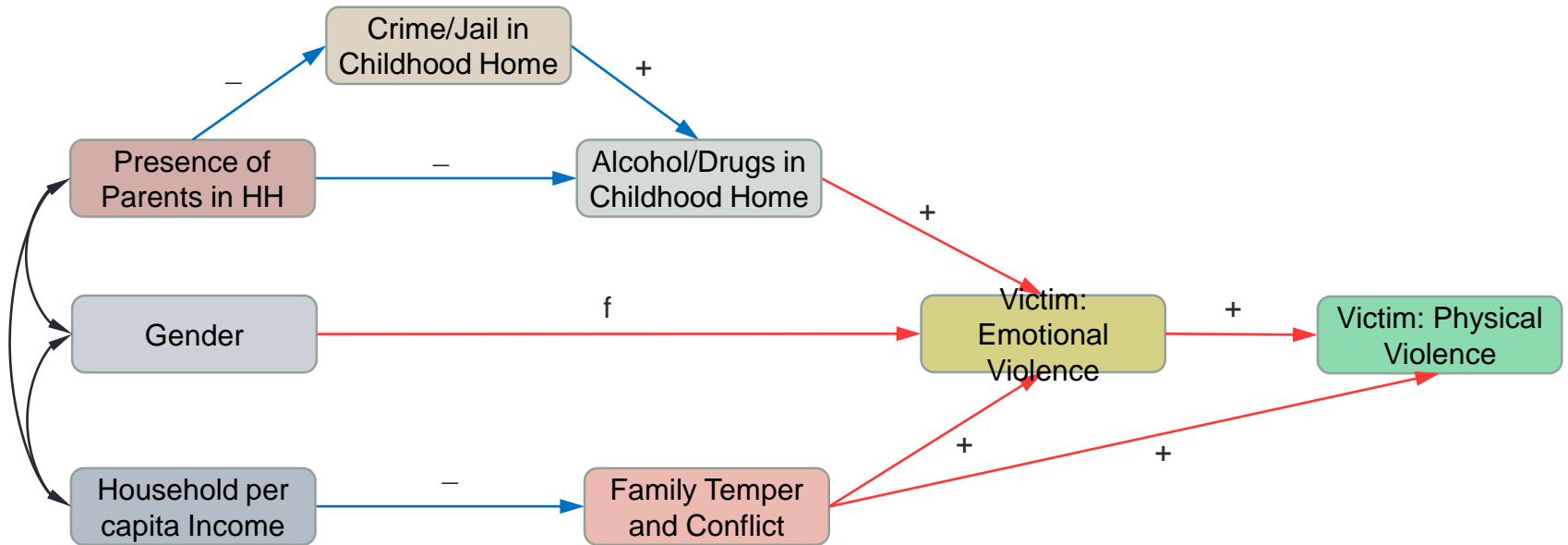
# Determinants of physical violence



INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X <sup>2</sup> /df	1.7	< 4
CFI	0.97	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.03	< 0.05

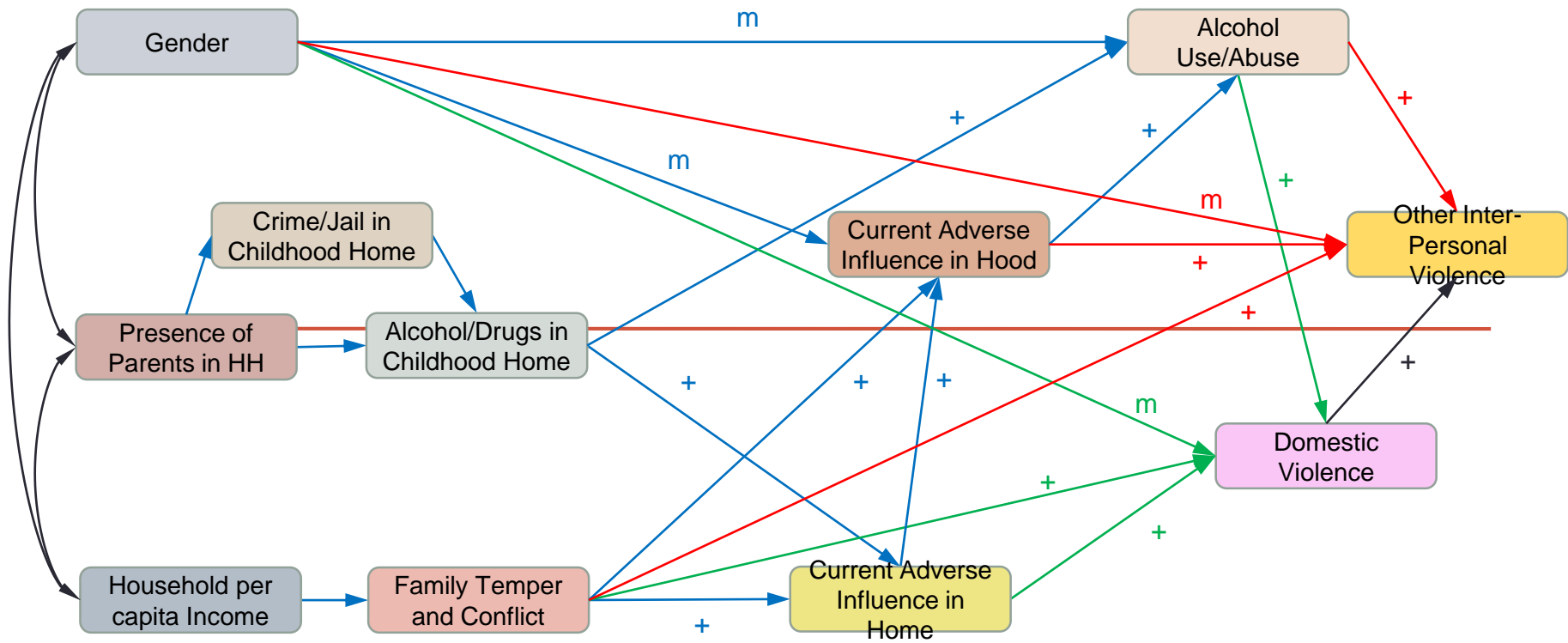


# Determinants of emotional & physical violence



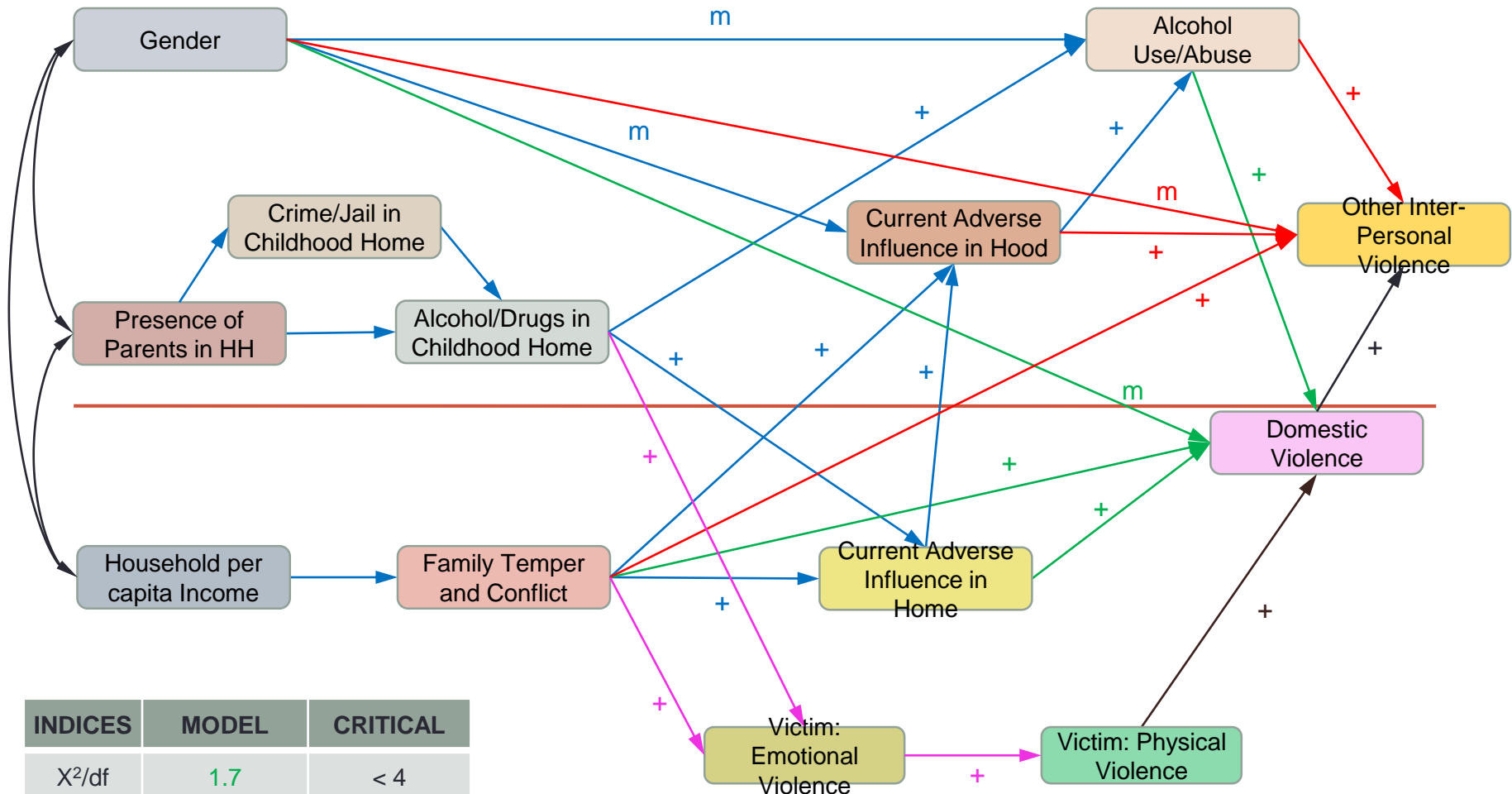
INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X <sup>2</sup> /df	1.5	< 4
CFI	0.99	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.02	< 0.05

# Perpetration of violence



INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X <sup>2</sup> /df	1.9	< 4
CFI	0.97	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.03	< 0.05

# Victimisation and perpetration



# Key Findings

- Girls are at increased risk for emotional abuse
- Both girls and boys are at equal risk for physical abuse
- Children from households with scarce financial resources are significantly more likely to experience violence and for males to eventually perpetrate violence in and outside the home
- The absence of one or both parents increases the risk of violence victimisation and perpetration
- Conflict in families place children at greater risk of violence victimisation and perpetration
- Factors in the home increase the risk for young men to perpetrate domestic violence
- Alcohol use/abuse for men is a predictor on its own to increase the risk for domestic violence perpetration

# Levers for change



- Structural interventions
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Job creation
- Shift social norms
  - Role of fathers
  - Gender
- Policy
  - Alcohol
  - Corporal punishment

# Strengthen families



- Combine IPV interventions with VAC prevention
- Early identification of at risk families
- Positive parenting
- Reduce substance use and abuse

# Moving forward

- Transform our responses and capacity of lead institutions
- Invest in expanding our evidence base of what works to prevent violence
- Promote multi-dimensional approaches to prevention
- Scale-up what we already know works