

**An exploration of adverse  
childhood experiences as predictive  
of intimate partner violence, general  
aggression and the use of  
controlling behaviour.**

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# Overview

Introduce some of the literature around models of IPV

Consider alternative explanations including present IPV within a general aggression framework

Look specifically at predictive power of adverse childhood experiences, emotion dysregulation, personality and coping

Present some preliminary findings of a study conducted in the UK and Canada

# Gendered Theory and Literature

IPV = Men's violence towards women; it is a gendered crime

Violence part of a wider pattern of men's control

Control rooted in patriarchy – historically and socially constructed

A number of hypotheses are derived...



# What this model doesn't allow for...

Women's perpetration

Male victimisation

Bidirectional abuse

IPV in LGBTQ+ populations

Personality and psychopathology  
as explanations...

# Predictors of men's and women's violence

Wealth of literature detailing risk factors for men's violence (e.g. Moffitt, 2001; Ehrensaft et al., 2006)

Intergenerational transmission of abuse (e.g. Stith et al., 2000)

“Prone to Violence” (Pizzey & Shapiro, 1982)

Adverse Childhood Experiences (e.g. Dugal et al., 2016; 2018)

- *verbal, physical and sexual abuse, witnessing parental violence, household substance abuse, mental illness in the household, parent separation/divorce and incarcerated household members*

# Emotion Dysregulation and Coping

ACE and IPV (e.g. Whitfield et al., 2003)

ACE and IPV mediated by emotion dysregulation (e.g. Gratz et al., 2009; Dugal et al., 2018 for psychological)

Emotion dysregulation has been found to be associated with different coping styles (e.g. alcohol; Veilleux et al., 2014)

Personality traits (e.g. psychopathy; Bates, Archer & Graham-Kevan, 2017) and IPV (and other aggression)

# Overlap between IPV and other violence

Felson and Messner (1998) men and women who murder their partners were equally likely to have violent criminal records as men and women who kill in other circumstances.

Huge overlap of risk factors – personality and psychopathology

Control – predicts IPV and other aggression, for men and women (e.g. Bates et al., 2014)

Corvo and deLara (2010) proposed that multiple developmental pathways can lead bullies to adult IPV perpetration, including through adolescent dating aggression.

# Aims of the current study

IPV, general aggression and control are rarely measured together in the same sample

Explore IPV within a general aggression framework

Understand specifically the impact of ACE, emotion dysregulation, coping and personality

Explore associations, and mediators of these relationships



# Method

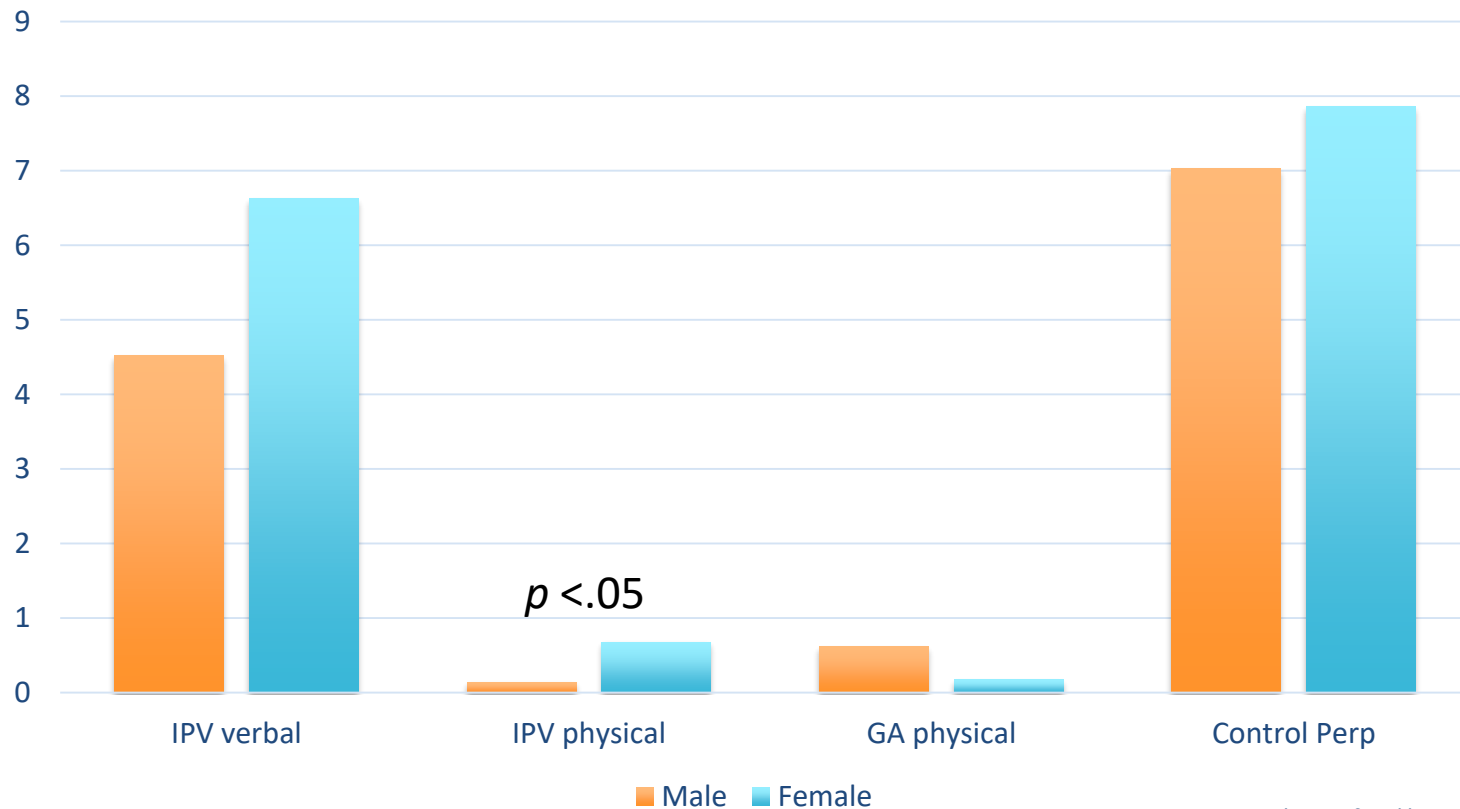
Online survey –  $N = 127$  so far (75% women)

34% UK    55% Canada

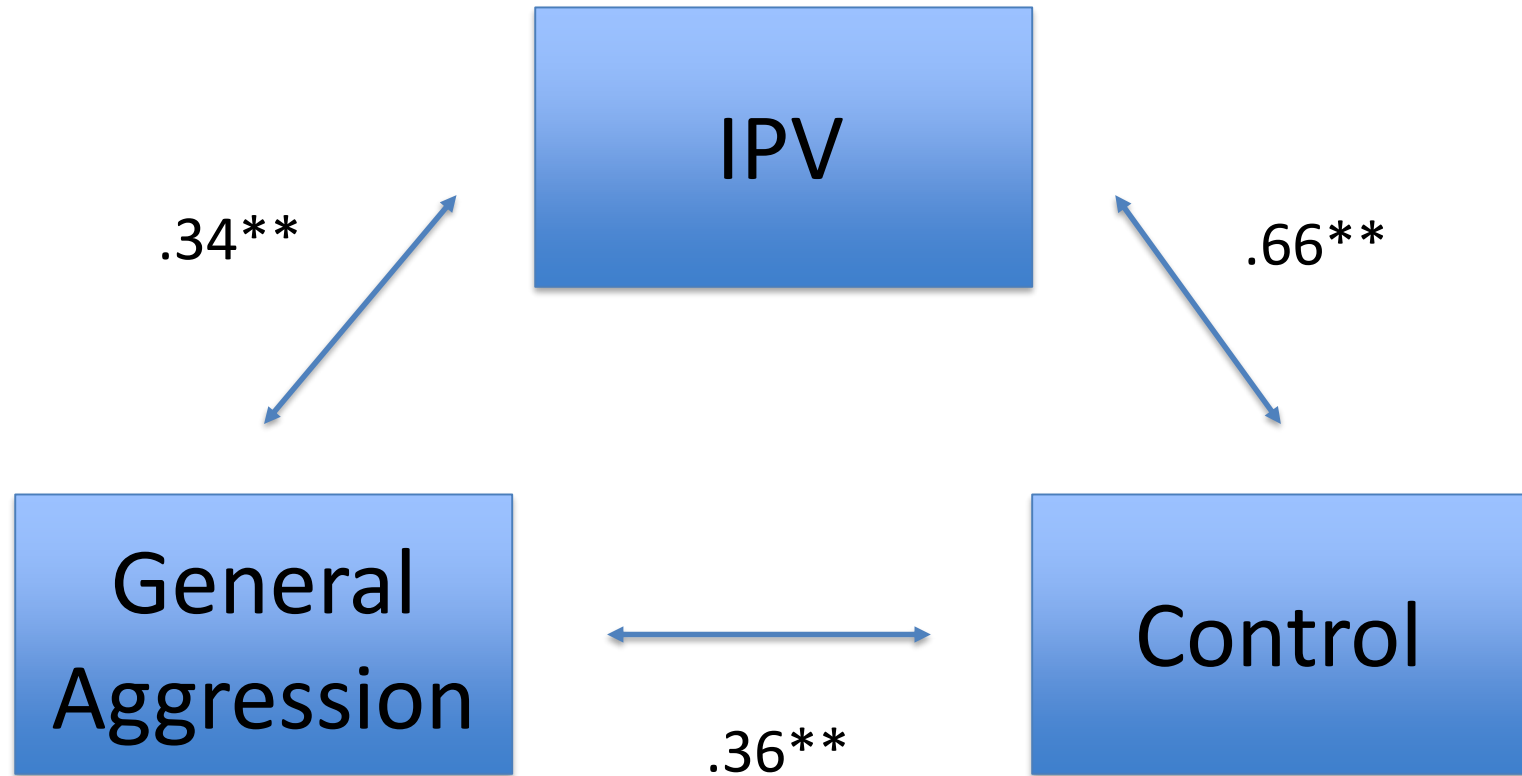
Measures of:

- IPV, General Aggression and Control using CTS (Straus et al., 1996) and CBS (Graham-Kevan & Archer, 2005)
- ACE (Finkelhor et al., 2015)
- Emotion Dysregulation (Gratz & Roemer, 2004)
- Coping (Carver, 1997)
- Psychopathic traits (Levenson et al., 1995)

# Preliminary findings - Sex differences

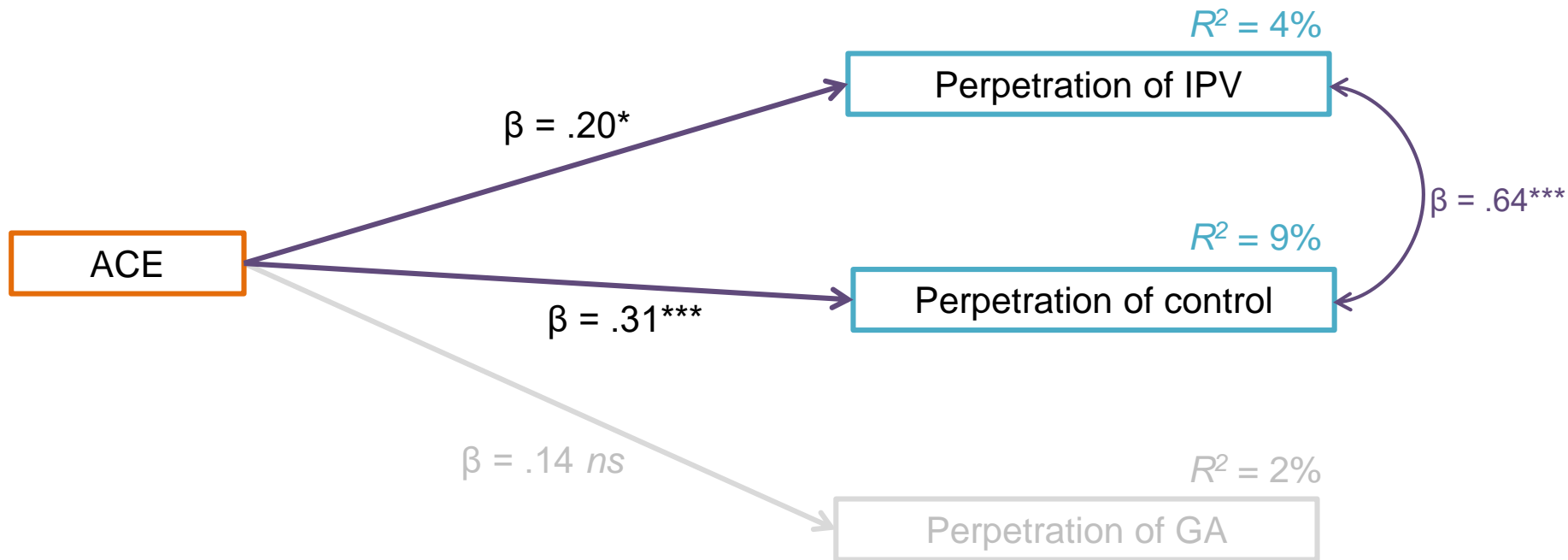


# IPV, General Aggression and Control



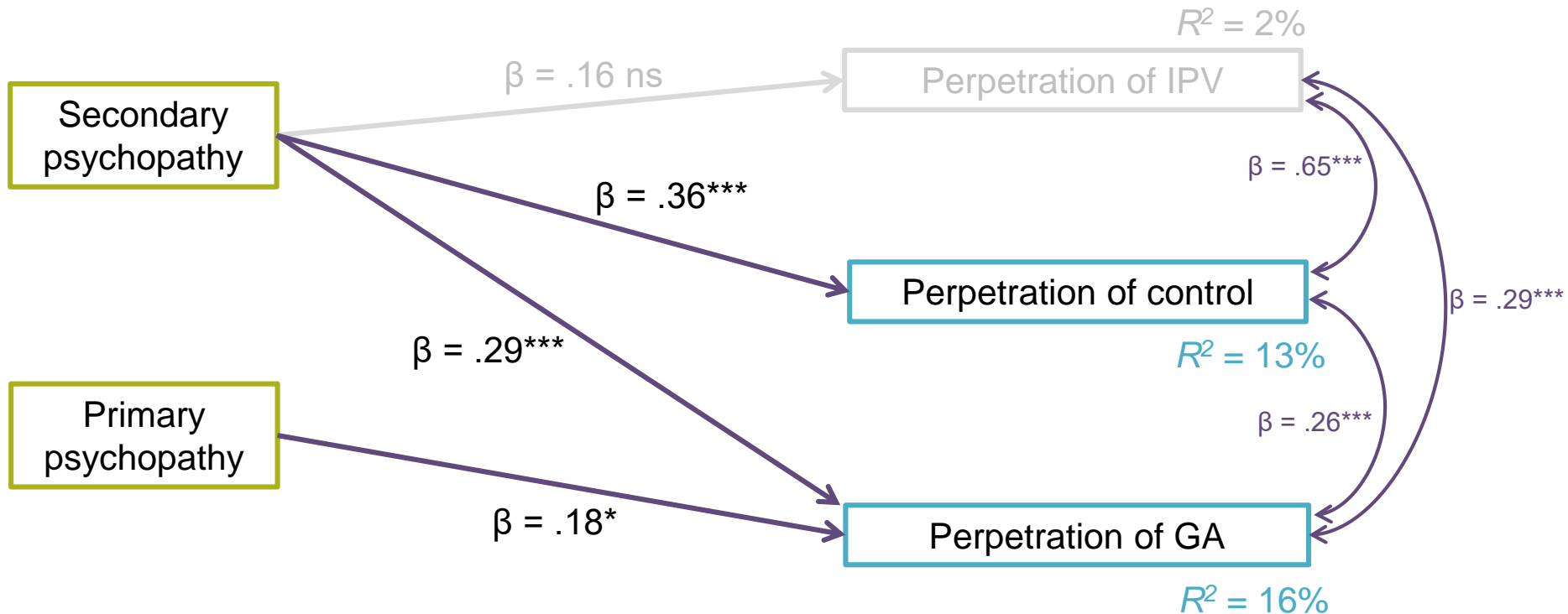
Note. \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

# ACE associations with aggression and control



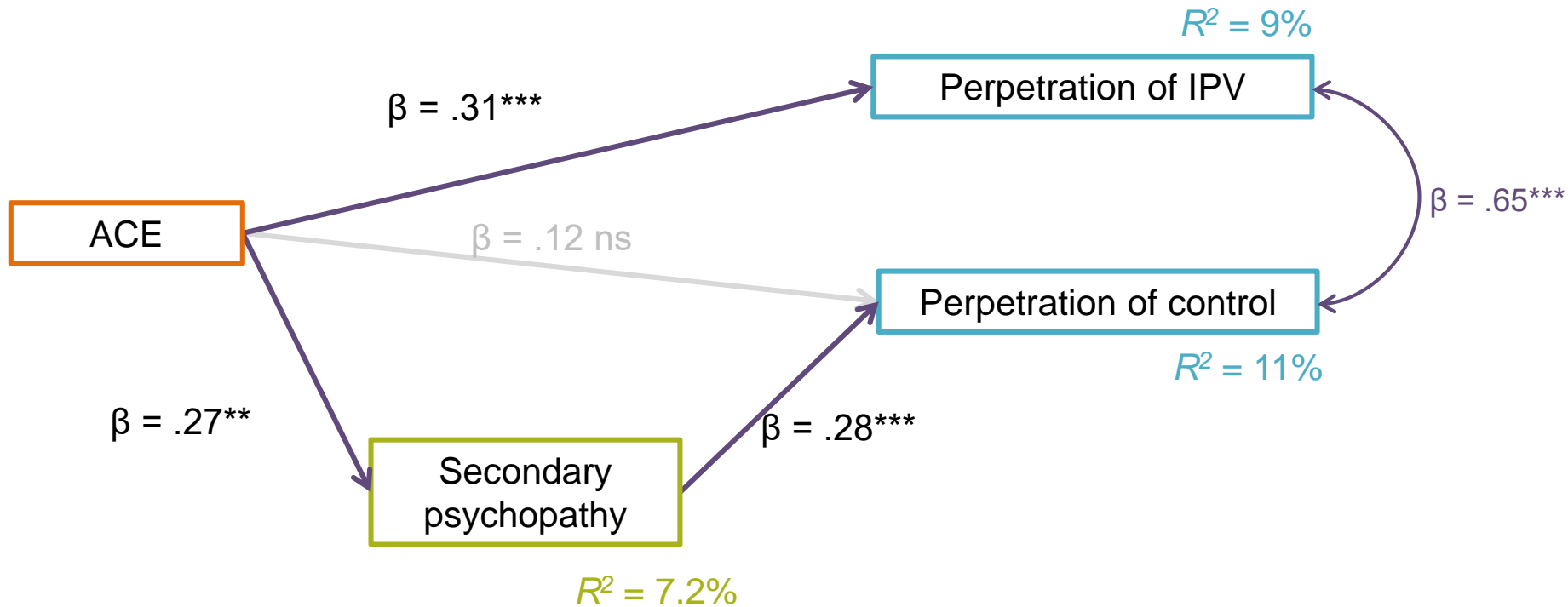
Note. \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

# Psychopathic traits, aggression and control



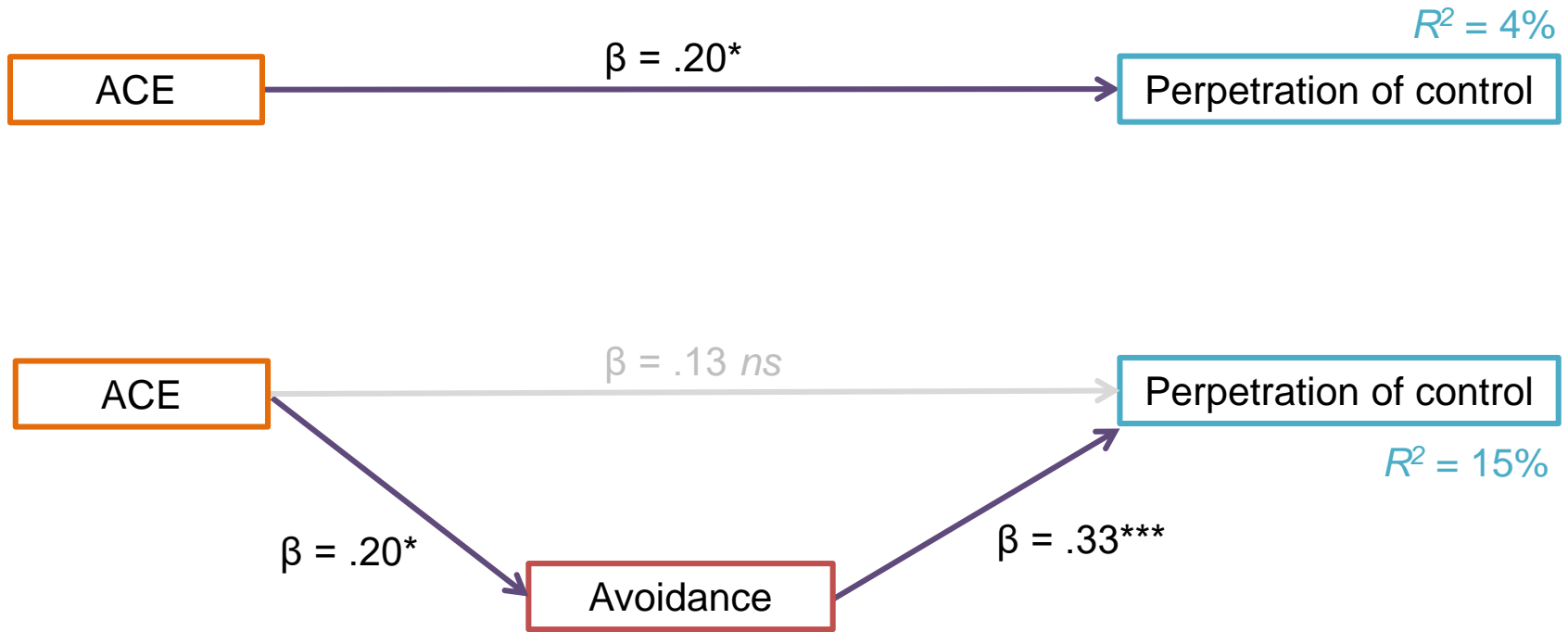
Note. \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

# ACE and psychopathy



Note. \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

# ACE, coping and control



Note. \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

# Discussion and implications

Data collection is ongoing so conclusions are preliminary – but strong associations emerged considering the small sample size

ACE and IPV link possibly mediated by personality and coping factors – this needs further exploration

“What works” literature – targeting dynamic need and risk factors

Risk, need, responsivity

Overlap of IPV, GA and control



# Bates, Graham-Kevan, Bolam & Thornton (2017)

## DVPP review in the UK

Noteworthy reluctance to engage: “Now I know the source of the research I do not wish to respond”

Range of settings (e.g. groups) and skills (e.g. communication skills, managing emotions)

Majority approach – CBT (85.7%) and Power/control (52.4%)

Data: 95% did, 61.9% descriptive, only 28.6% recidivism rates and 23.8% external evaluations

# Thank you for listening!

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## Any questions?