

**A population-based cross-sectional study of  
prevalence and correlates of  
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)  
experienced by adults with disability in New Zealand**

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# Background

- A higher prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) among those suffering from a disability has been documented internationally
- Sample restrictions in previous studies have limited our ability to understand how factors such as:
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Type of disabilityInteract with people's experience of intimate partner violence.

# New Zealand

- A high income country, with
- an overall rate of IPV against women comparable to the global average (~33%) and
- A higher than average rate of disability (~24%).

To date, the relationship between disability and IPV has not been examined in NZ

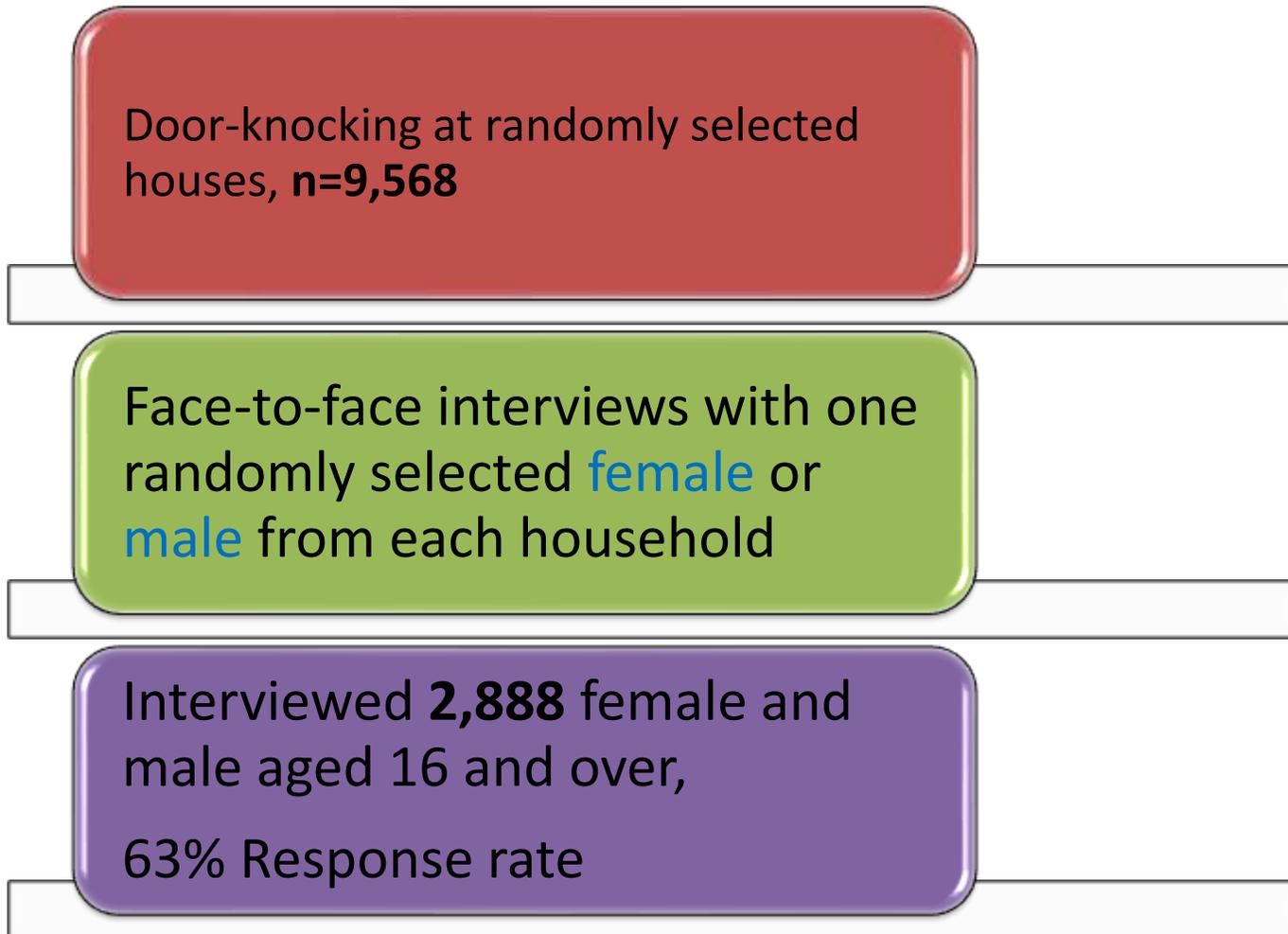


# Study objectives

- To estimate the relative prevalence of IPV among people **with** and **without** a disability in New Zealand
- To examine the interaction of type of disability, gender, and age on reported IPV
- To examine how different types of disability interact with different types of IPV

# Methods: Data from the Second New Zealand Survey of Family Violence (2017-2019)\*

## Sampling Strategy and Sample Size



# Sample characteristics by gender

- Female sample:
  - N = 1,464 (51%)
  - Mean age: 51.1 years (SD: 17.5)
  - Ever-partnered: 98%
- Male sample
  - N = 1,423 (49%)
  - Mean age: 50.1 years (SD: 17.6)
  - Ever-partnered: 95%

# Statistical analysis



- Descriptive statistics
- Bivariate Correlations
- Multivariate logistic regression models
- Unadjusted and Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR), 95% CIs
- Stata/IC Version 15.1

# Definitions: Disability

Disability was defined as

- Any self-reported **long-term impairment** (lasting 6 months or longer)
- And which put **limitations** in a person's ability to carry out **daily activities**

## Physical

Sensory [vision and/or hearing] and motor and movement difficulties

## Intellectual

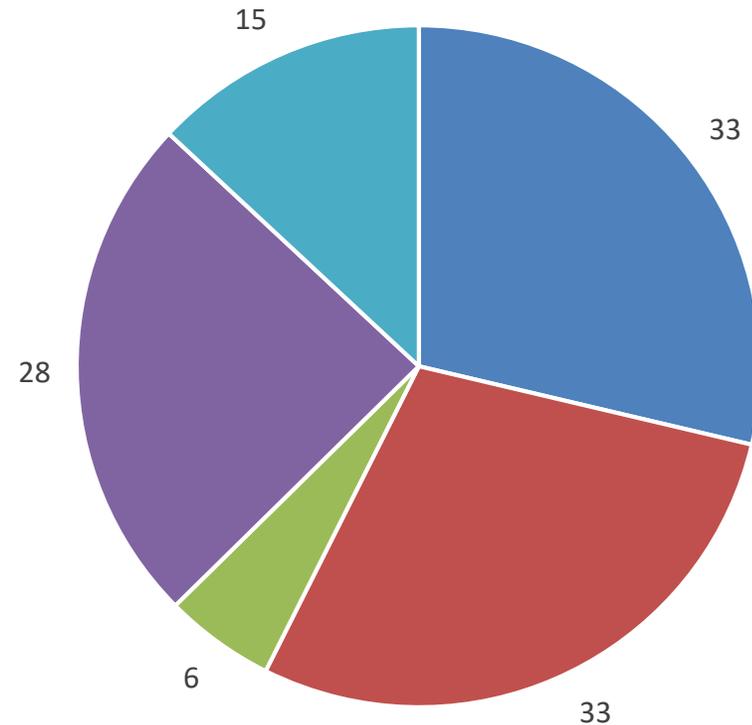
Learning, concentrating, and memorising difficulties

## Psychological

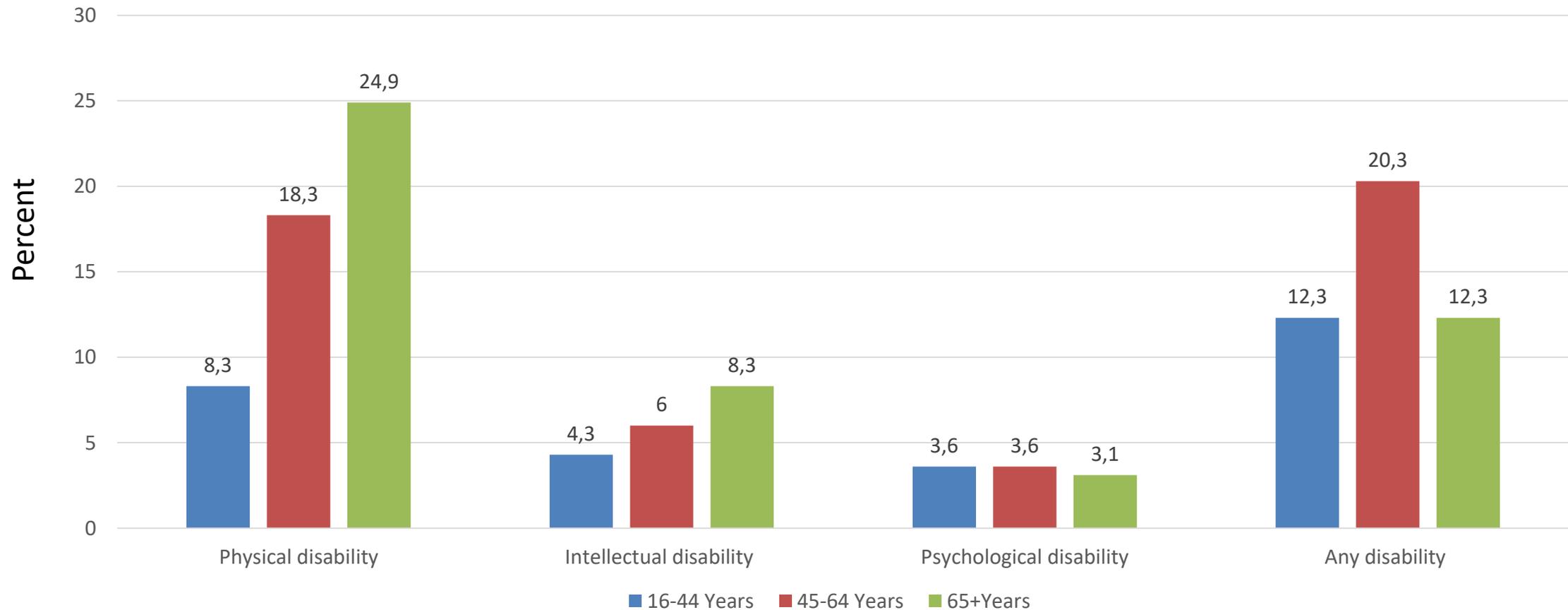
communication and socialising difficulties

# Cause of disability (%)

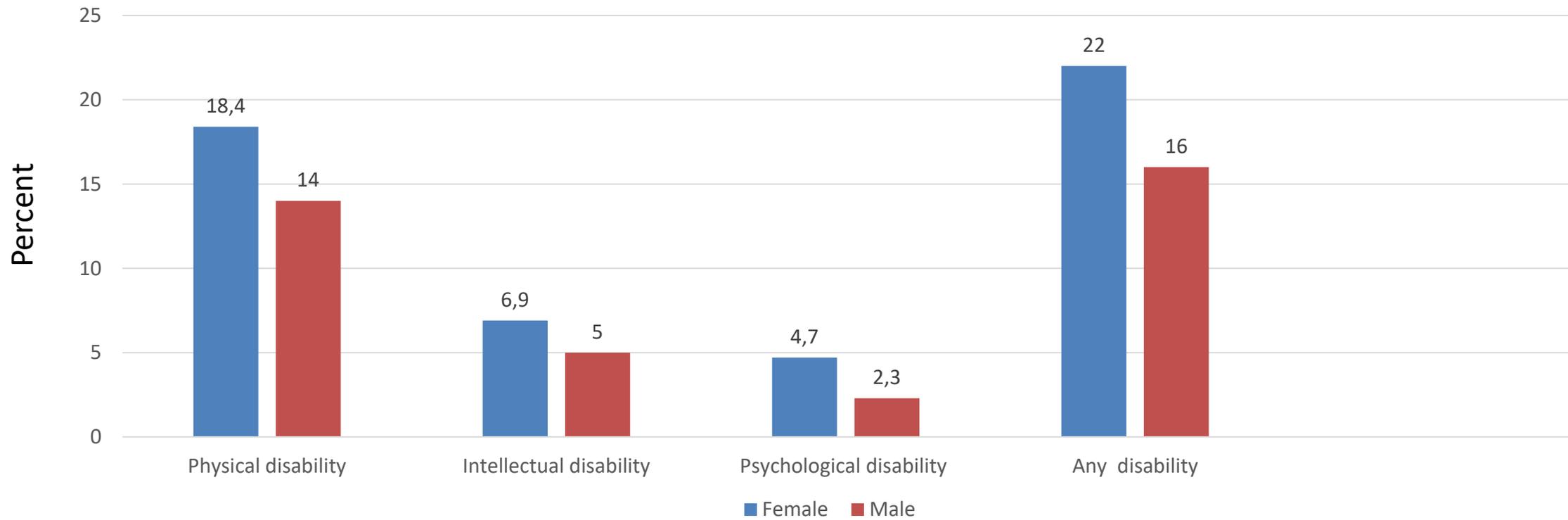
■ Disease or illness ■ Accident or injury ■ Existed at birth ■ Natural aging ■ Others



# Type of disability by age



# Type of disability by gender



Intimate partner violence (IPV): Any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship (WHO, 2005)

- **Physical IPV:**

- Being slapped, thrown something at, pushed, shoved, pulled hair, hit with a fist, kicked, dragged, beaten up, choked or burnt

- **Sexual IPV:**

- Being forced to have sex or forced to do a sexual act they found degrading or humiliating

- **Controlling behaviour:**

- keeping partner from seeing friends; restricting contact with family; insisting on knowing where the partner is at all times; controlling their access to health care.

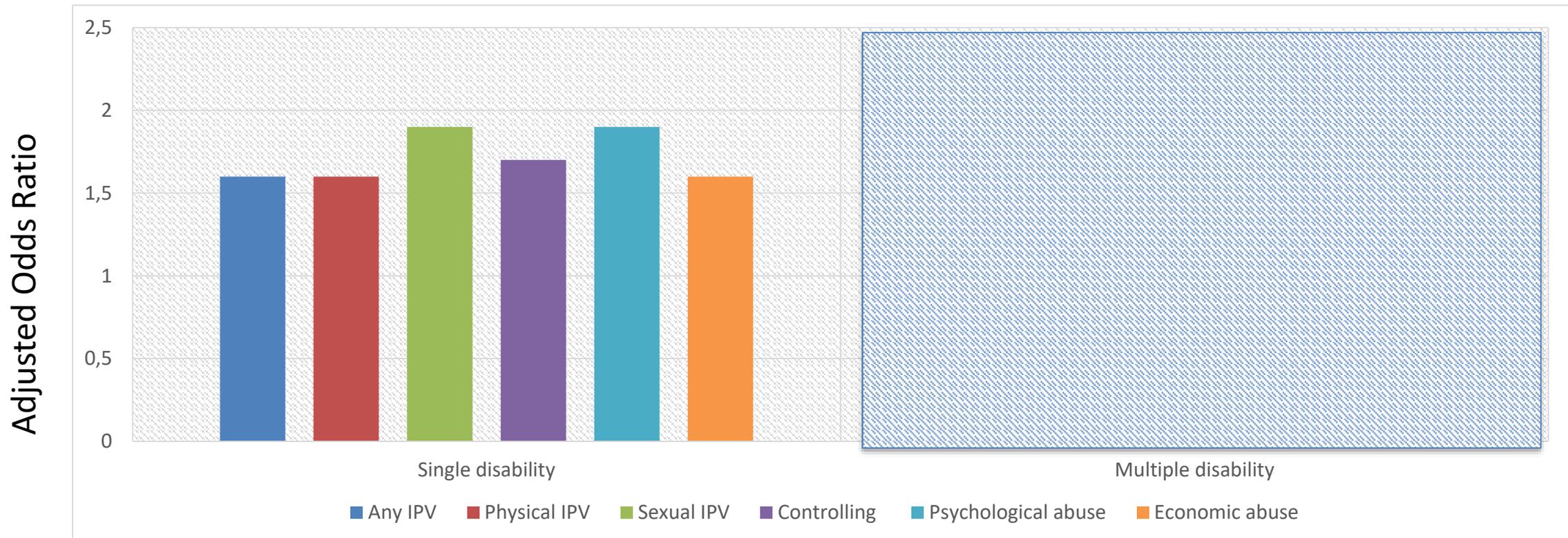
- **Psychological abuse:**

- Insulted, made feel bad about themselves, humiliated in front of others, scared or intimidated, threatened to harm

- **Economic abuse:**

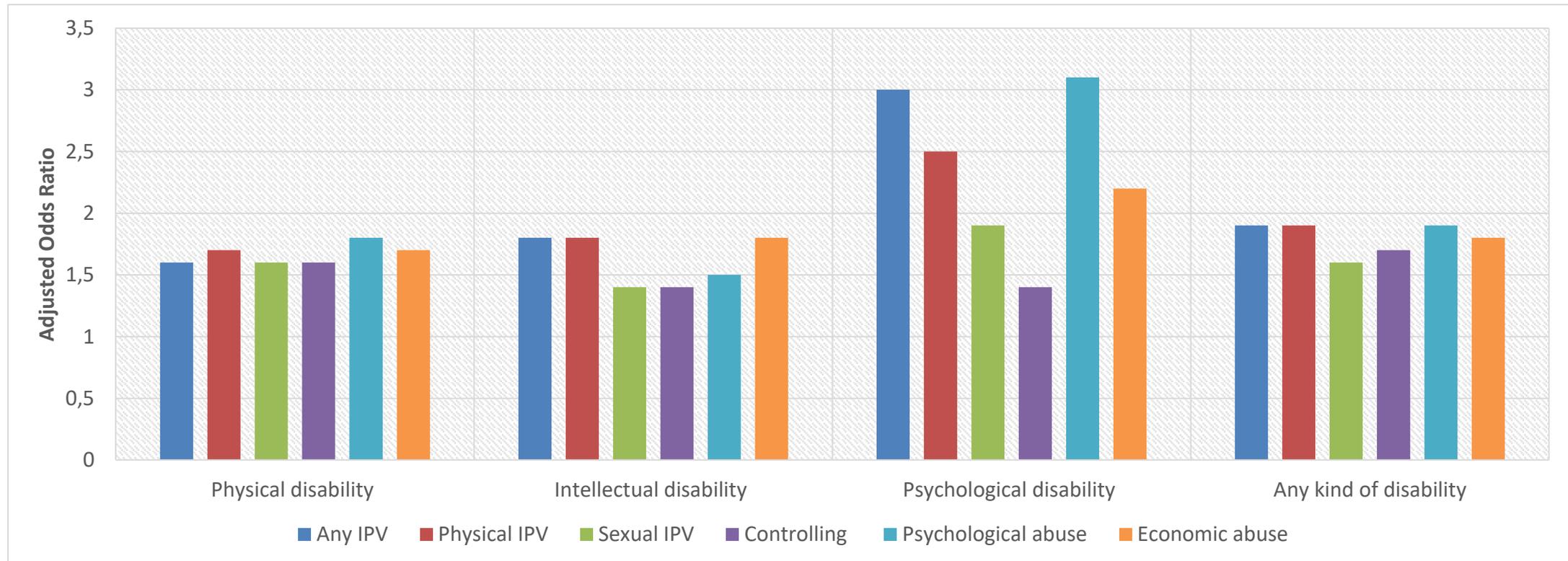
- involve behaviours that control partner's ability to acquire, and maintain economic resources, thus threatening their economic security and potential for self-sufficiency

# Risk of IPV experience by single or multiple disability



Adjusted for gender, age, food security, and education

# Association between type of disability and type of IPV experience



Adjusted for gender, age, food security, and education

# Summary

- Overall, **people with disabilities were**
  - **1.5-2 times** more likely to experience IPV compared with those who were not disabled
- People with a **psychological disability** (impairment in communication and socialising) **were**
  - **At greater risk of experiencing sexual violence (AOR 1.9), physical (AOR 2.5), and psychological abuse (AOR 3.1).**
- Having **multiple disabilities did not significantly increase the risk of IPV**, compared to those with a single disability

# Implications

- **IPV prevention programs** need to be developed that are accessible and appropriate for people with physical, intellectual and social disabilities
- **IPV response systems** in the health, justice, and shelter and support services need to be equipped to respond appropriately to those with a disability

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