



# **Problematic alcohol use and intimate partner violence: an up-date from the NZ Family Violence Clearinghouse**

[nzfvc.org.nz](http://nzfvc.org.nz)

Pauline Gulliver

# New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

Reception, Level 2

School of Population Health

Gate 1, Tāmaki Innovation Campus

261 Morrin Rd, St Johns

Auckland 1072

(Close to Glen Innes train station)

(09) 923 4640

[info@nzfvc.org.nz](mailto:info@nzfvc.org.nz)

[nzfvc.org.nz](http://nzfvc.org.nz)

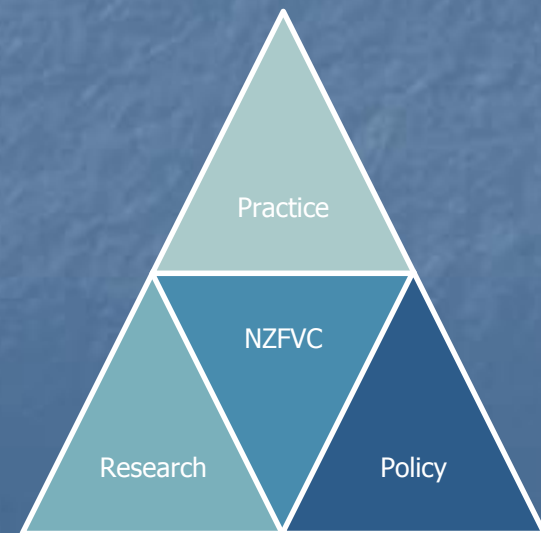




# New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

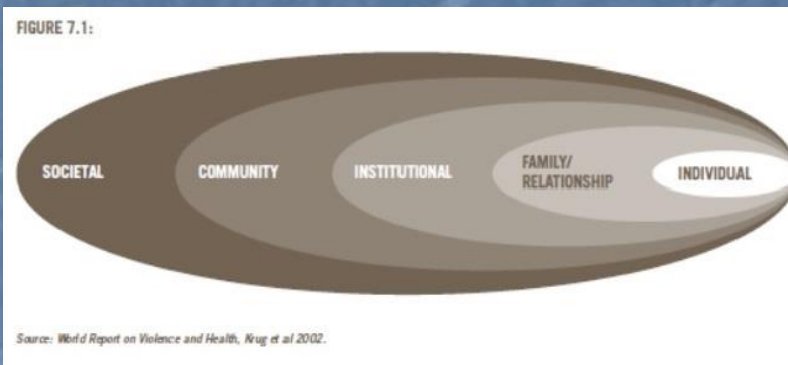
- Link family violence research, policy and practice
- Central site for information
- Seek to support the effectiveness of all of our work
- Access to research
- Research synthesis, translation
- Phone, email, face-to-face

→ Here to save you time

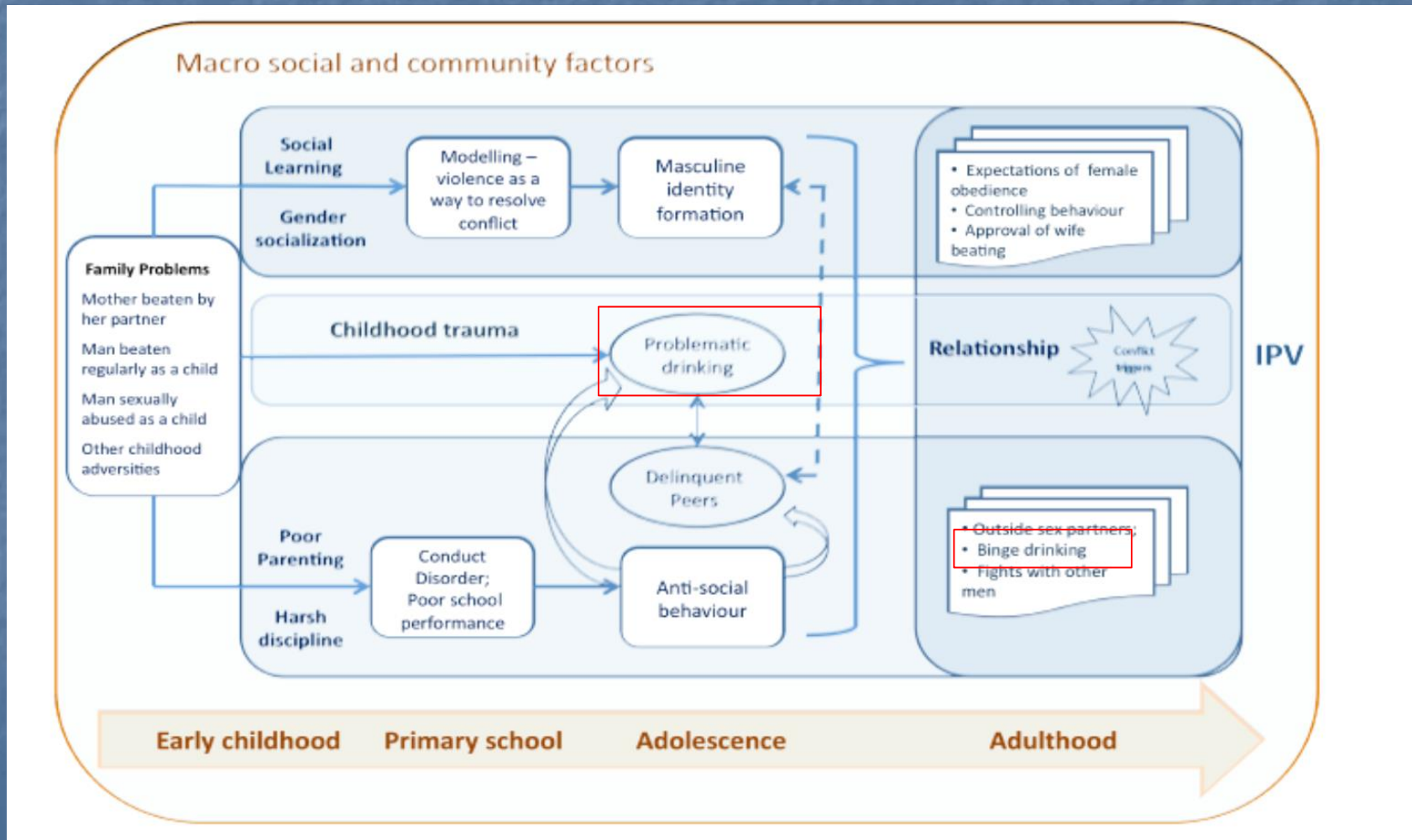


# The ecological model of intimate partner violence

- Multiple risk factors at every level
- No 'magic bullet'
- Fits the definition of a 'wicked' problem:
  - Problems with definition
  - Different perspectives
  - Undefined boundaries
  - Complex and changing approaches to intervention



# Developmental pathways to intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration



# NZ Violence Against Women Survey

- Problem alcohol consumption:
  - “In the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following problems, related to your drinking?”
    - Money problems
    - Health problems
    - Conflict with family or friends
    - Problems with authorities
    - Other, specify”
  - Similar question asked concerning partner’s alcohol consumption (or most recent partner if no longer with a partner).

- Problem alcohol consumption associated with:
  - **His consumption of alcohol:**
    - His use of violence
  - **Her consumption of alcohol:**
    - Lifetime experience of intimate partner violence
  - **Both partners consumption of alcohol:**
    - Current (as opposed to previous) violence
    - Her use of violence outside of a violent episode

# SuPERU: *Reducing the impact of alcohol on family violence*

## ■ Key findings:

- Link between alcohol and IPV
- Alcohol escalates aggressive incidents between intimate partners.
- Women experience more severe outcomes of IPV.
  - females reporting greater severity, anger and fear with victimisation when alcohol was involved compared with males who were victimised in alcohol-related incidents.
- IPV is related to the density of alcohol outlets in an area.





RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

# Alcohol interventions, alcohol policy and intimate partner violence: a systematic review

Ingrid M Wilson<sup>1\*\*</sup>, Kathryn Graham<sup>2,3,4,5†</sup> and Angela Taft<sup>1†</sup>

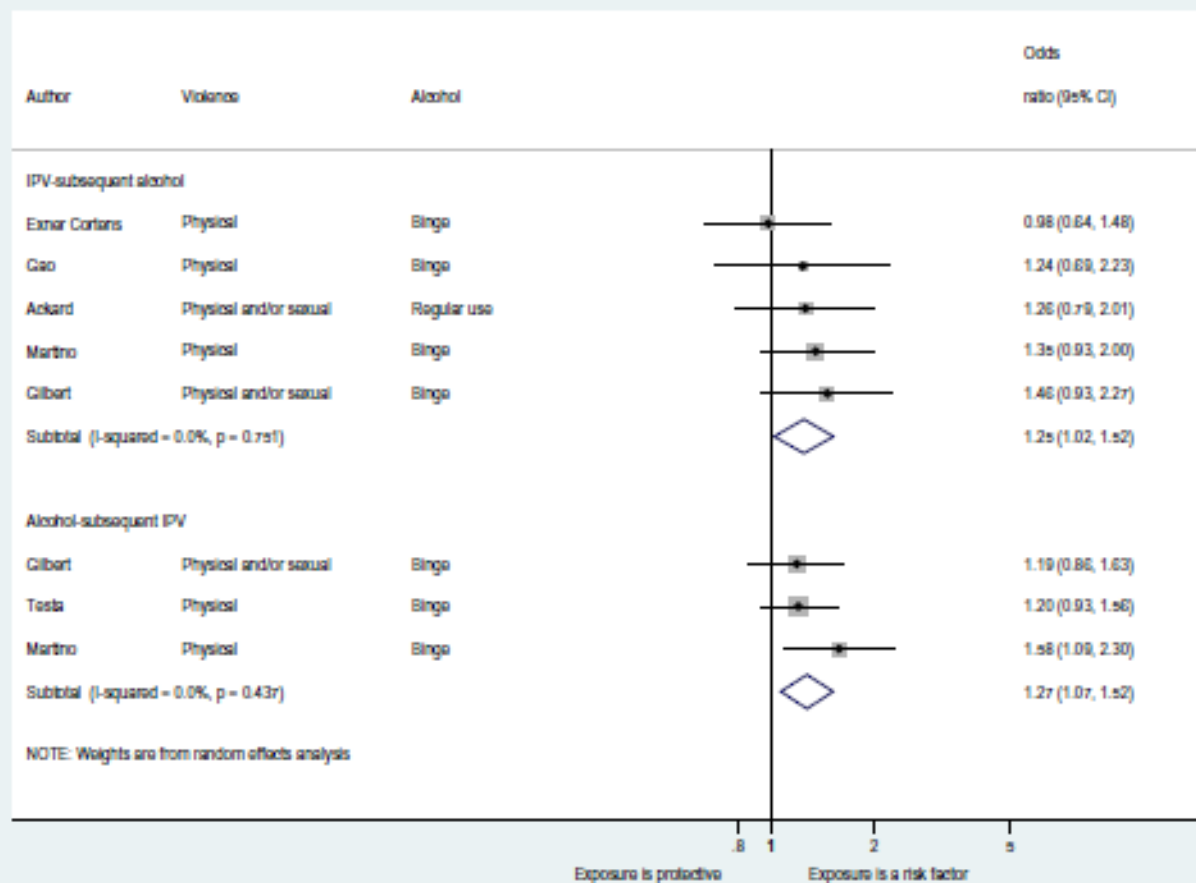
- Couples-based and individual alcohol treatment studies:
  - ↓ alcohol consumption = ↓ IPV,
    - Study designs precluded attributing changes to treatment.
  - Randomised controlled trials:
    - Combined alcohol and violence treatment programs = positive effects for hazardous drinking IPV perpetrators
    - Effects were often not sustained.
  
- Conclusions:
  - The potential for alcohol interventions to reduce IPV has not been adequately tested
  - Combining alcohol and IPV intervention/policy approaches at the population, community, relationship and individual-level may provide the best opportunity for effective intervention.

# Possible mechanisms for involvement

- Self medication to cope with trauma of abuse
- ↑ risk of victimization
  - Impact on problem solving ability;
  - ↑ willingness to take risks
  - ↓ ability to understand social cues

## Intimate partner violence victimization and alcohol consumption in women: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Karen M. Devries<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer C. Child<sup>1</sup>, Loraine J. Bacchus<sup>1</sup>, Joelle Mak<sup>1</sup>, Gail Falder<sup>1</sup>, Kathryn Graham<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>, Charlotte Watts<sup>1</sup> & Lori Heise<sup>1</sup>



# Concluding points

- Problem alcohol consumption is part of a wider constellation of risk factors for IPV perpetration and victimization.
- May be a cause and a consequence of IPV.
- Any alcohol intervention needs to be considered as a piece in the puzzle for the prevention of violence.

# Framing questions

- For further discussion:
  - Alcohol as a form of self medication
    - What does this mean for your practice?
    - What does this mean for staff training?
  - What mechanisms do you have for talking with clients or staff about self medication?