

Intimate Partner Violence and Contraceptive Use in Developing Countries

How does the relationship depend on context?

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Background

The complex relationship between intimate partner violence (IPV) and contraceptive use is an object of ample scholarly debate. Research has documented conflicting findings across multiple settings, data sources, and analytic strategies, finding evidence of both:

a) A positive relationship

Experiences of IPV increase the probability of contraceptive use by negatively affecting women's expectations and attitudes towards future childbearing (Alio et al. 2009, Kidman et al. 2015).

b) A negative relationship

Experiences of IPV decrease the probability of contraceptive use by diminishing women's bargaining power and their ability to negotiate the use of contraception (Stephenson et al. 2013, Maxwell et al. 2015).

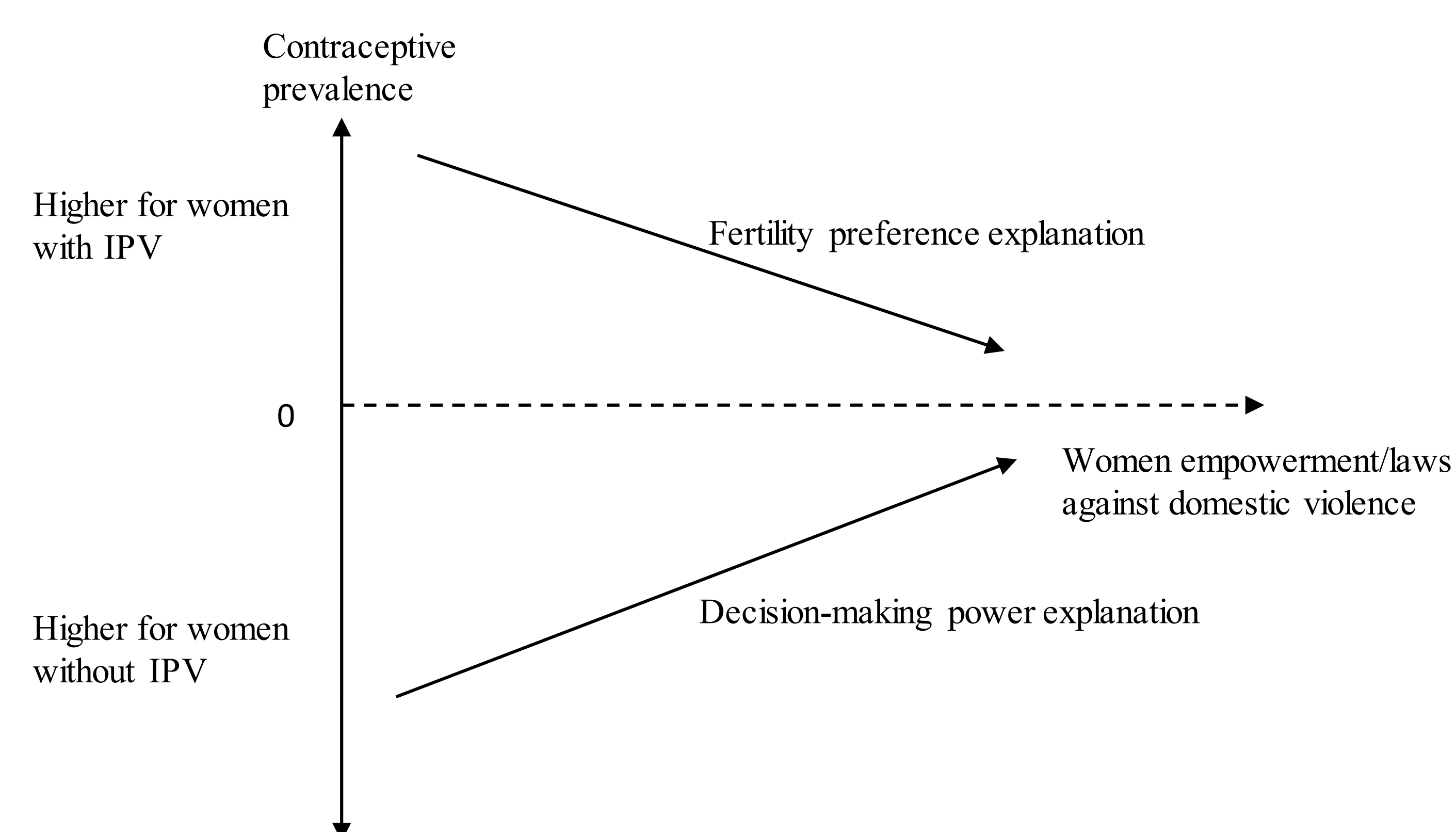
Research Question and Framework

Research Questions:

- What is the relationship between IPV and contraceptive use across countries?
- How does the relationship depend on national contexts?

Goals:

1. Examine the impact of IPV on contraceptive use.
 - Across several years and countries.
 - Distinguish between experiences of physical and sexual violence.
 - Explore the **mechanism** that drives the relationship.
2. Explore how the national context **moderates** the relationship between IPV and contraceptive use.
 - Legal actions against domestic violence.
 - National context of women's empowerment.



Data, Measures and Method

- Demographic Health Surveys (DHS)
 - Sample of 17 developing countries
 - 30 waves of data from 2003 to 2016
- Dependent variable: Current use of any contraceptive method (0,1)
- Independent variables:
 - Physical violence (0,1)
 - Sexual violence (0,1)
- National Context:
 - Legal actions against domestic violence during survey year (0,1)
 - Women's empowerment score: national-level average of women's decision-making power

Analytic Strategy:

- Inverse Probability Weighting
- Multilevel models

Main Results

Fig. 1. Association between IPV and Contraceptive use by sample and year

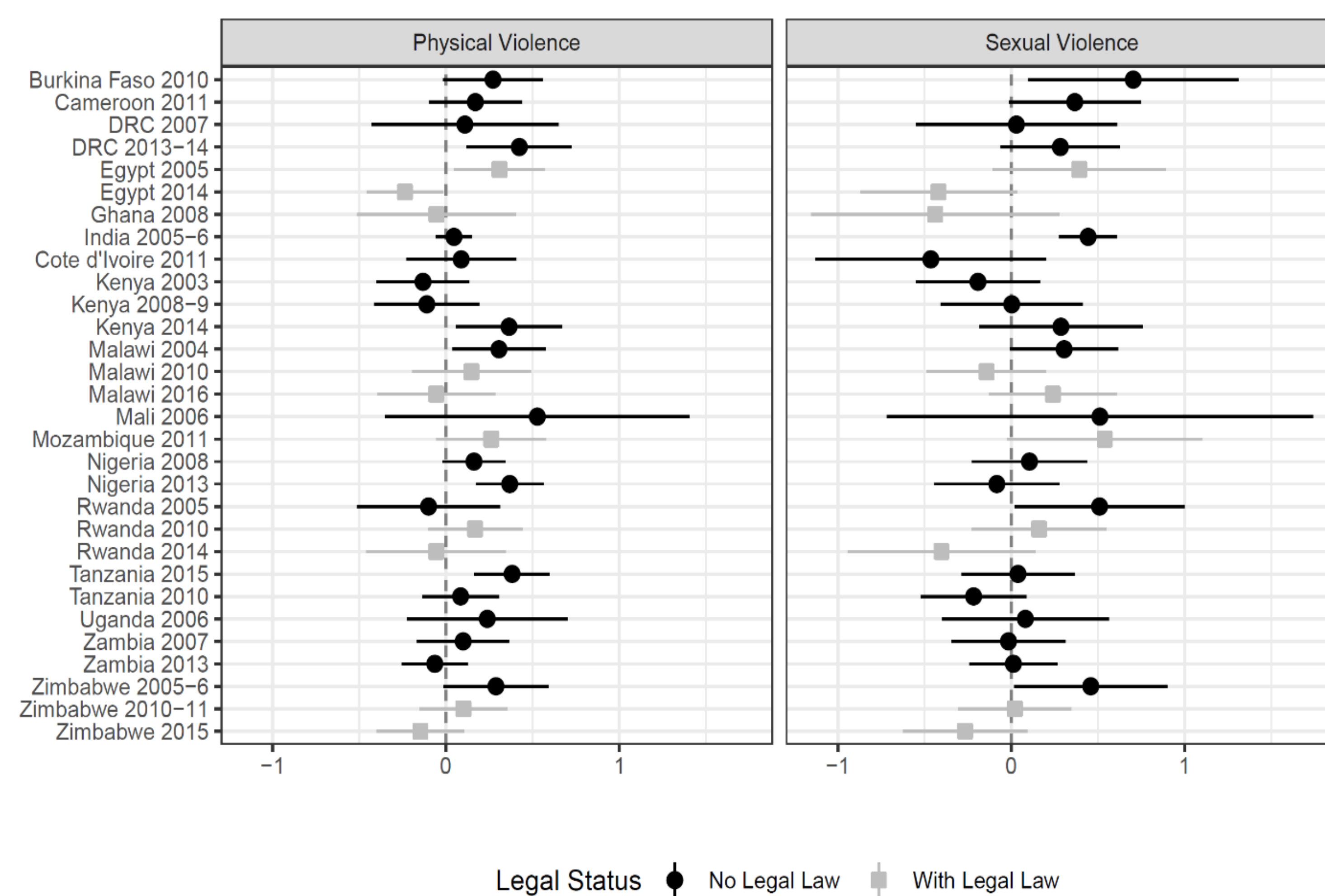
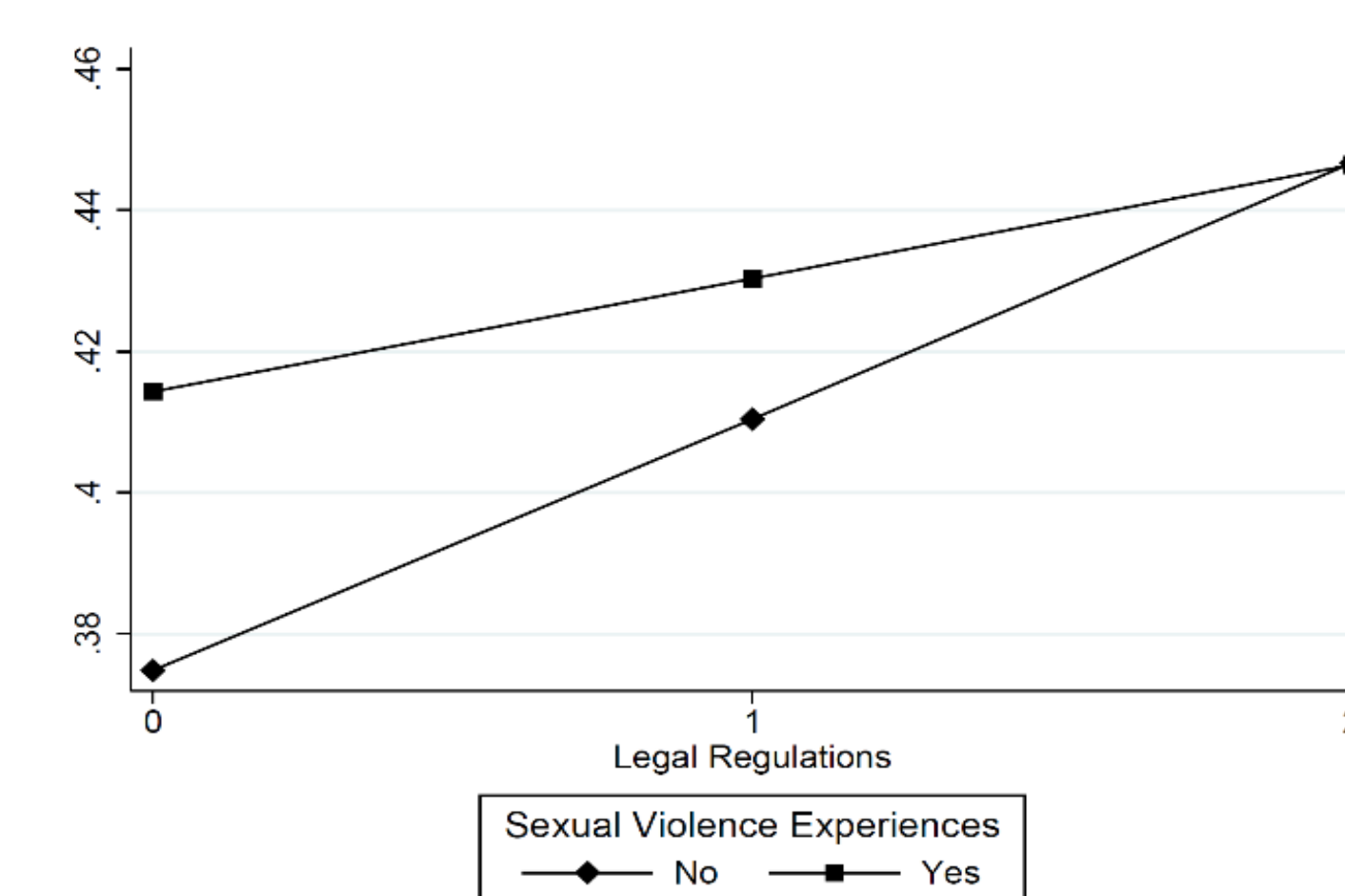
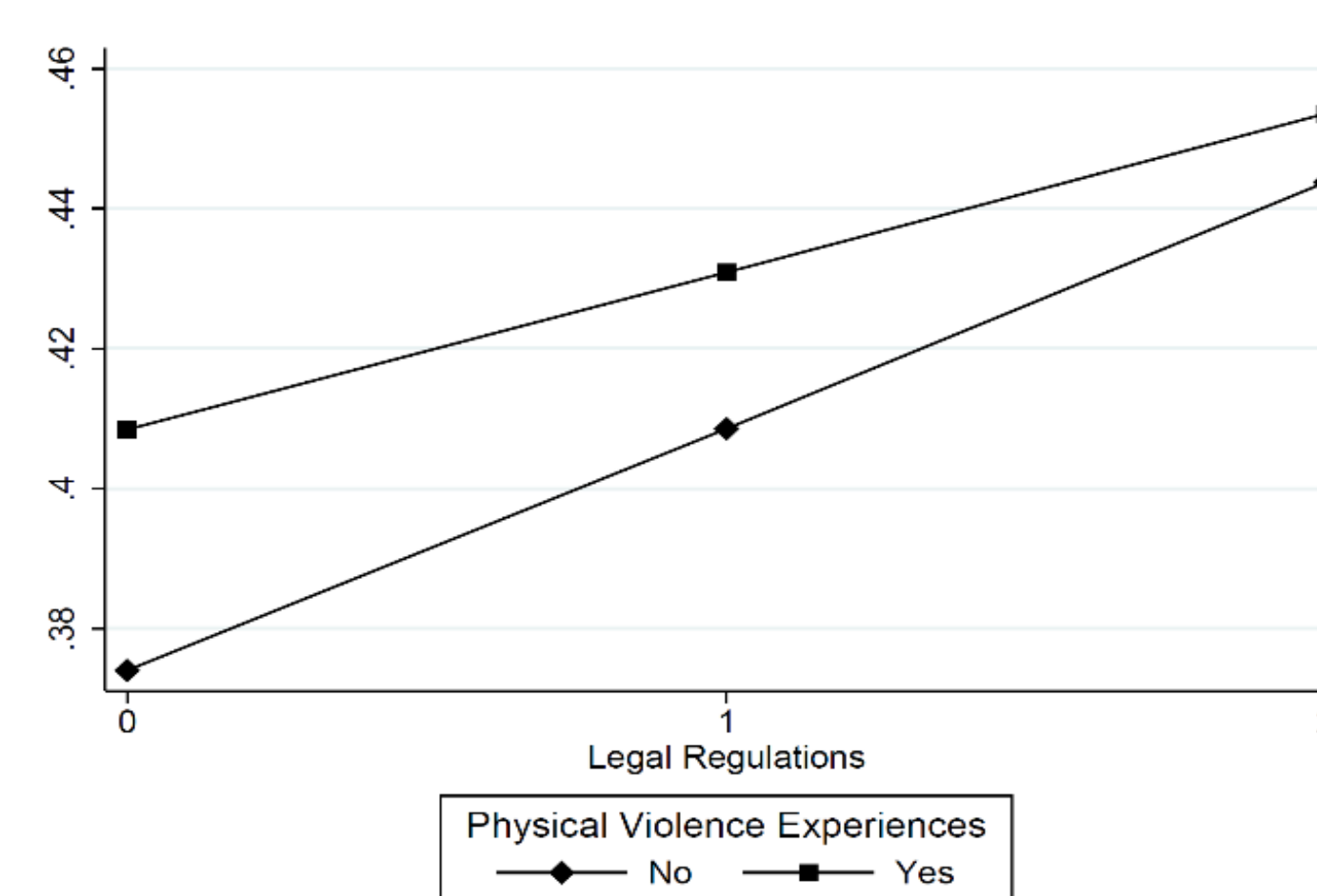
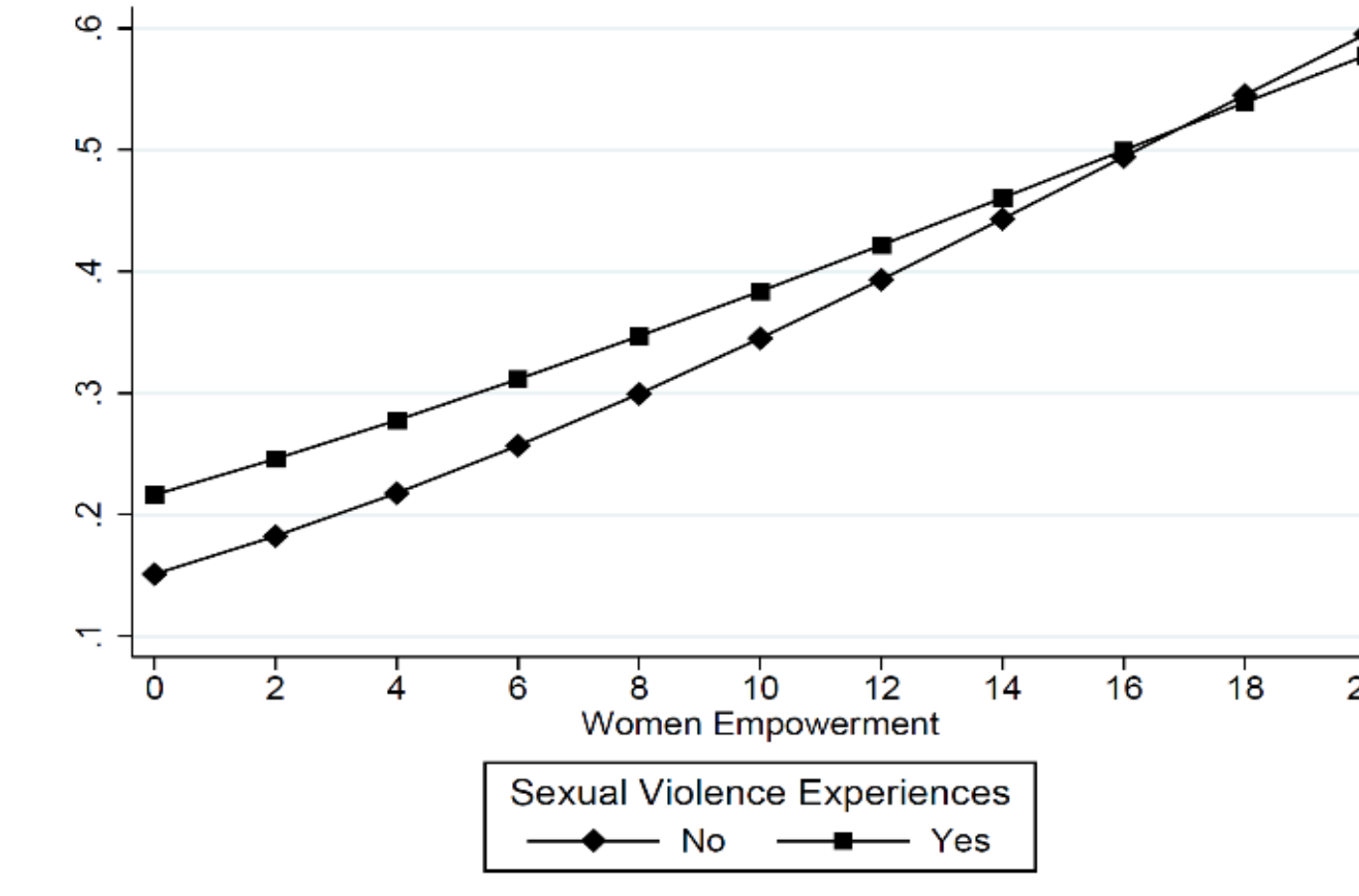
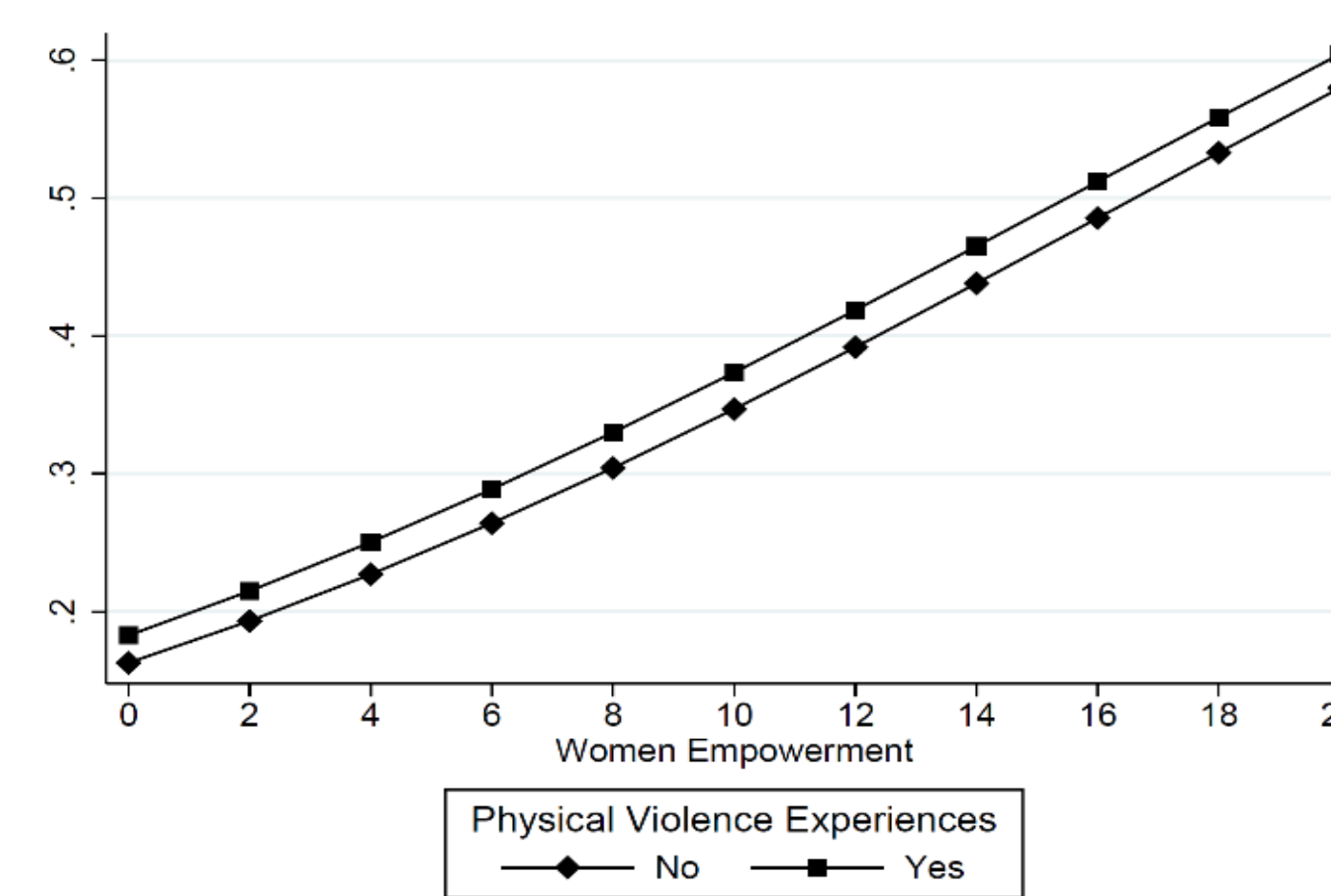


Fig. 2 Predicted probabilities of using contraception by IPV experiences and national context

Panel A. Legal Regulation Status



Panel B. Women Empowerment



Discussion

Positive impact of IPV on contraceptive use across multiple years and national settings.

The **moderation** of the national context:

- The presence of national actions against IPV decreases the positive impact of sexual violence and physical violence on contraceptive use.
- A higher level of women's empowerment decreases the positive impact of sexual violence on contraceptive use.

Additional results indicate a **mechanism** for the impact of IPV on contraceptive use: women's negative attitudes and expectations towards future childbearing is a mechanism that explains the positive relationship between IPV and use of contraception.

As we reveal in this study, elements of women's social, cultural, legal and political **contexts** can modify the relationship between contraception and domestic violence, potentially even changing its direction.

References:

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