

Cycles of Harm: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Intimate Partner Violence

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Problem and Purpose

Nearly half of all women killed in the United States over the past decade were killed by an intimate partner. Through a **public health** and **social capital** [3] framework, this model seeks to better understand the dynamic relationships that increase the risk for intimate partner violence (IPV) [1] at a community level. The public health measure of Adverse Child Experiences (ACEs) is used to quantify community trauma in the model.

Next Steps

- Refine the modelling of inflows to social capital and these effects on ACEs and IPV.
- Apply this model to specific communities and refine it for different types (i.e. urban/ rural)
- Consider developing an individual risk model for IPV from this community model.

Conclusions and Implications

- The effect of a drop in social capital from industry has long-lasting generational effects, even once the industrial base returns
- Without a boost from other forms of social capital (i.e. community support programs), social capital, ACEs, and IPV do not fully recover within 2 generations.
- Intimate Partner Violence increases most rapidly in communities with low levels of social capital and high levels of ACEs and is sensitive to the feedback relationship between ACEs and Social Capital.
- Social Capital is sensitive to the time-lag and magnitude of interventions.
- This suggests that aggressive, multi-pronged responses to drops in social capital would be effective policy approaches.

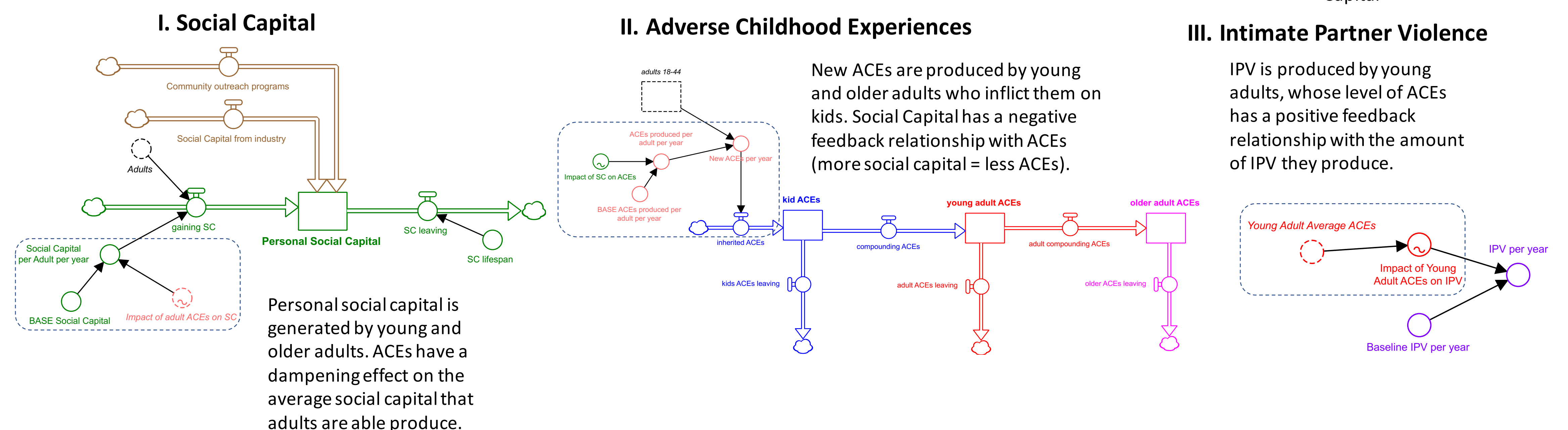
References & Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Professor Peterson and Lindsey Reitingger for all their help in the developing of this model.

- [1] "Intimate Partner Violence | Violence Prevention | Injury Center | CDC." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/index.html.
- [2] Mair, Christina et al. "Adverse childhood experiences and intimate partner violence: testing psychosocial mediational pathways among couples" *Annals of epidemiology* vol. 22,12 (2012): 832-9.
- [3] Amselem, Mary Clare. "Rebuilding Social Capital Through Community Institutions." *The Heritage Foundation*, www.heritage.org/poverty-and-inequality/report/rebuilding-social-capital-through-community-institutions.

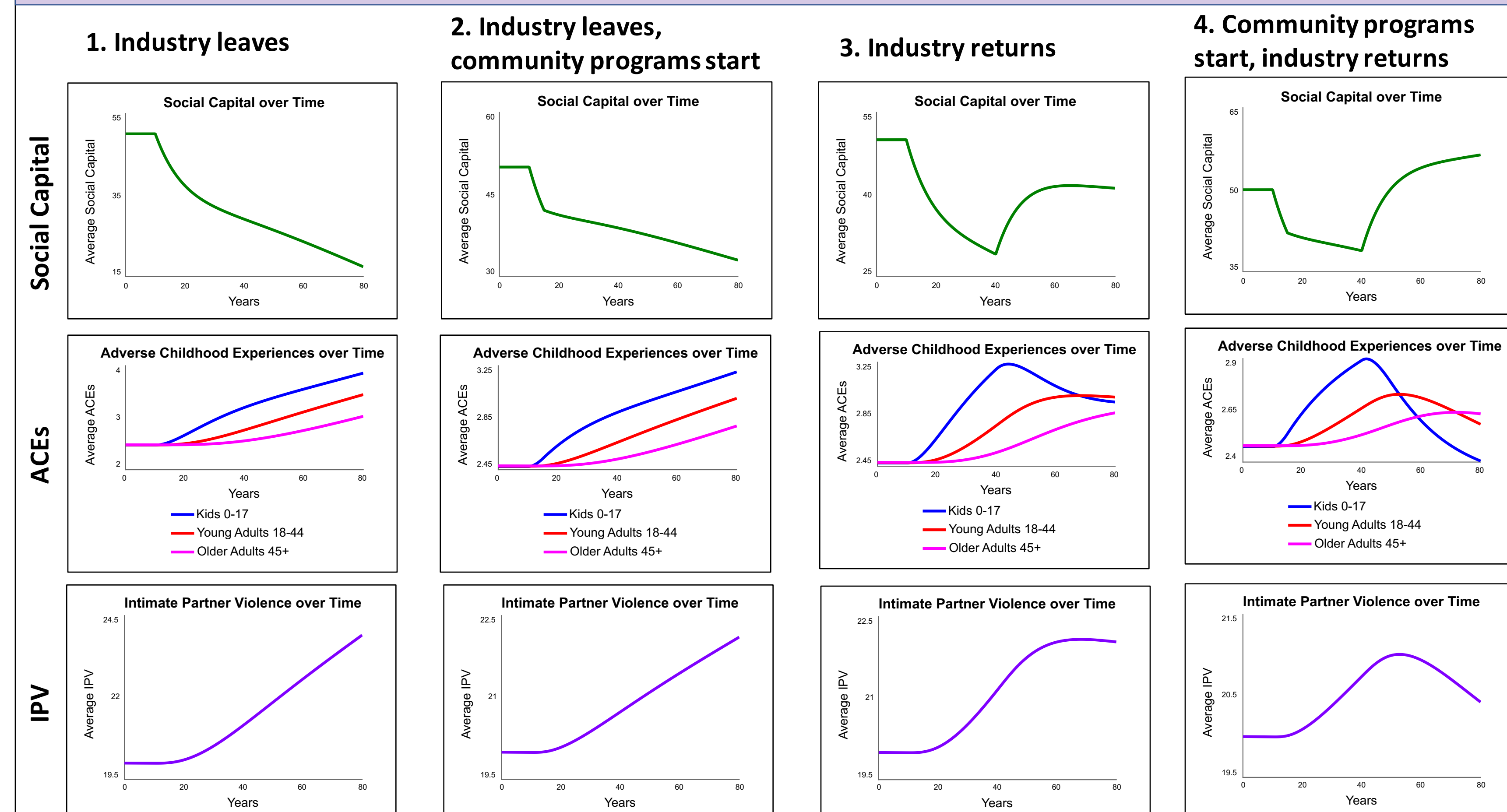
Model Approach & Architecture

The model describes the dynamic relationship between social capital, ACEs, and IPV within a community with a steady population. Social capital has three inflows from community programs, industry, and the amount each adult is capable of producing via personal relationships. The model follows the compounding of ACEs with age and the impact these ACEs have on the average social capital and IPV in the community.



Driving Question: How do Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) impact the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in a given community?

Model Scenarios



- Scenario 1:** Social capital decreases dramatically and ACEs and IPV rise.
- Scenario 2:** When industry leaves and community outreach programs start 5 years later, the same trends are seen after brief improvement.
- Scenario 3:** When industry returns, social capital begins to rise, but not to levels seen before industry left. ACEs and IPV are at elevated rates but no longer rising.
- Scenario 4:** When industry returns after the start of community programs, social capital rises above its initial value and ACEs and IPV are decreasing.