

Cash transfers, relationship dynamics and intimate partner violence among youth in Malawi

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Background

- Cash transfers show promise in promoting healthy transitions of youth to adulthood
- There is **limited evidence on the role of cash transfers on relationship dynamics** for young women and men
- There is no evidence of cash transfer impact on intimate partner violence (IPV) among young women living in participating households when young people themselves do not receive the transfer

Research questions

- What is the impact of the Malawi SCTP on relationship dynamics (trust and relationship quality) among young women and men aged 19-32 years?
- What is the impact of the Malawi SCTP on young women's experience of intimate partner violence?

Data and methods

Trust

- Dyadic trust scale: 8 statements, 5 point response scale
- Statements include:
 - I feel that I can trust my partner completely*
 - My partner is truly sincere in his or her promises*
 - I feel that my partner can be counted on to help me*

Relationship quality

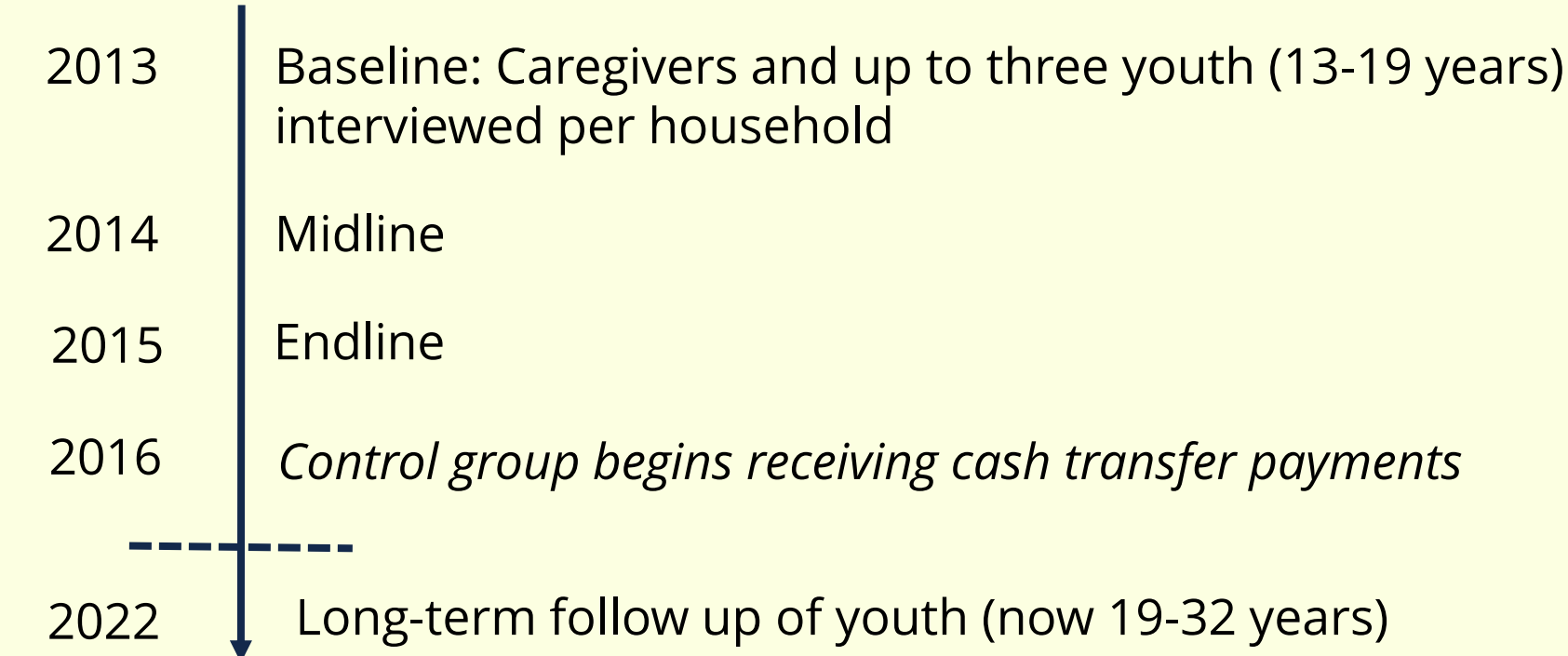
- Relationship flourishing scale: 12 statements, 5 point response scale (frequency or agreement)
- Statements include:
 - I have more success in my important goals because of my partner's help*
 - How often do you make it a point to celebrate your partner's successes?*
 - How often do you and your partner do things that are deeply meaningful to you as a couple?*

Intimate Partner Violence

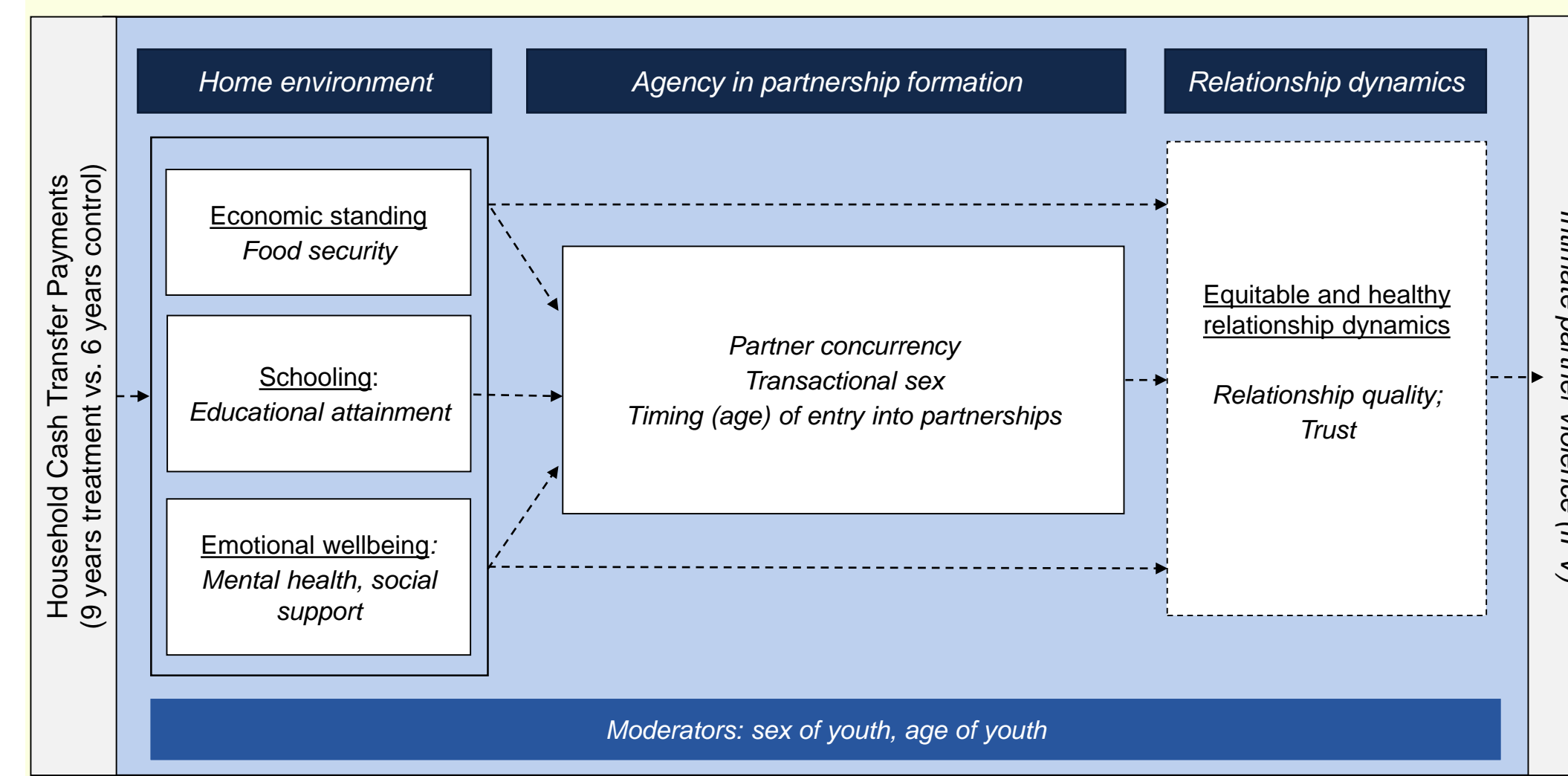
- Lifetime experience of emotional, physical and sexual IPV collected based on questions from the World Health Organization Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence administered to young women
- Estimates are intent-to-treat, single-difference impacts on outcomes
- Regressions controlled for respondent age, education, and whether in a current partnership; main caregiver characteristics; household size and district-traditional authority fixed effects
- Ethical approval received from UNC Chapel Hill
- Respondents were interviewed in private by same sex enumerators and offered de-identified referral information for violence services

Malawi Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP)

- Unconditional cash transfer program targeted to ultra-poor, labor-constrained households administered by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (MoGCSW)
- Initial impact evaluation in two districts (Salima and Mangochi) with 15 village clusters randomized

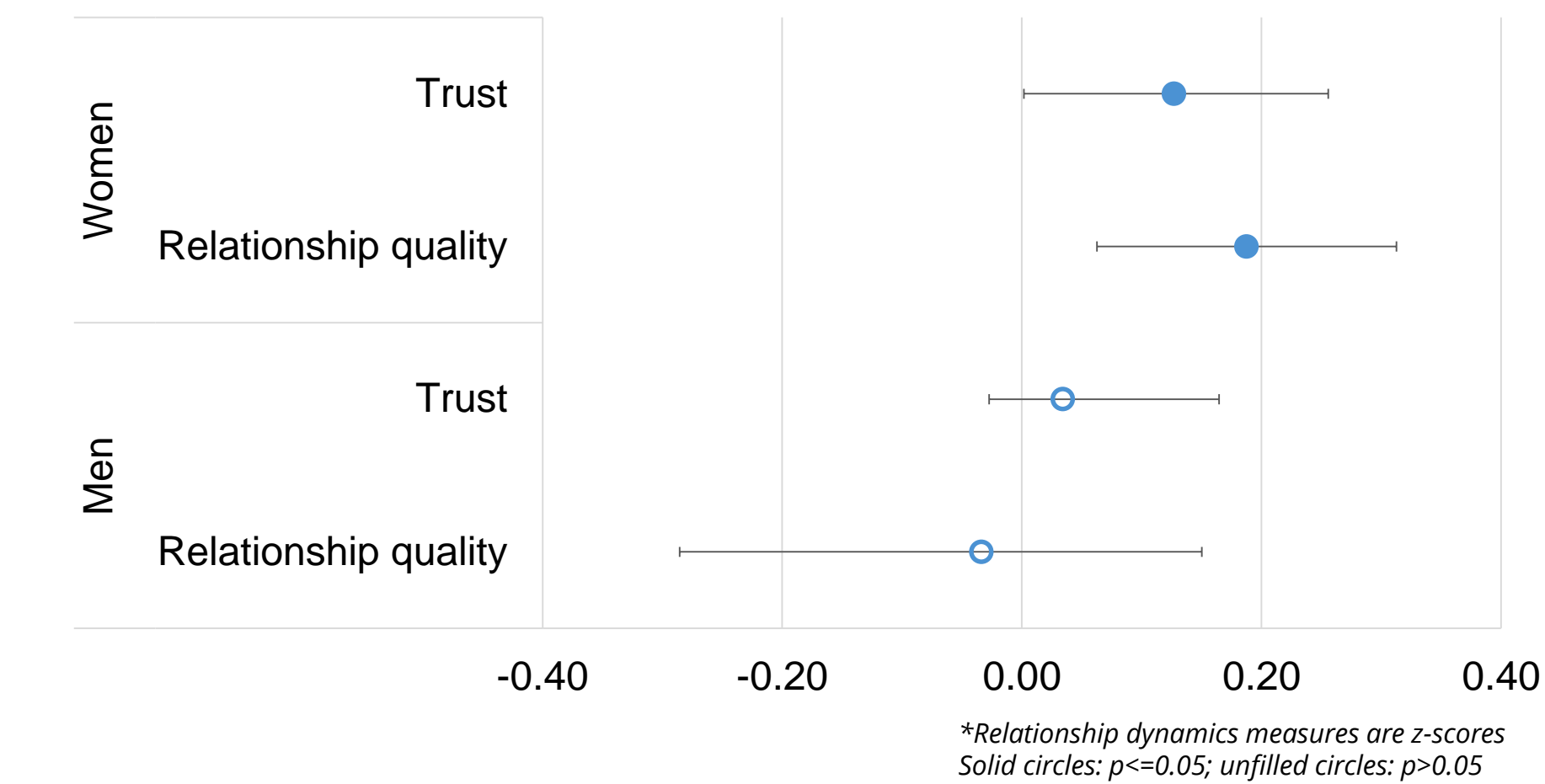


Conceptual framework



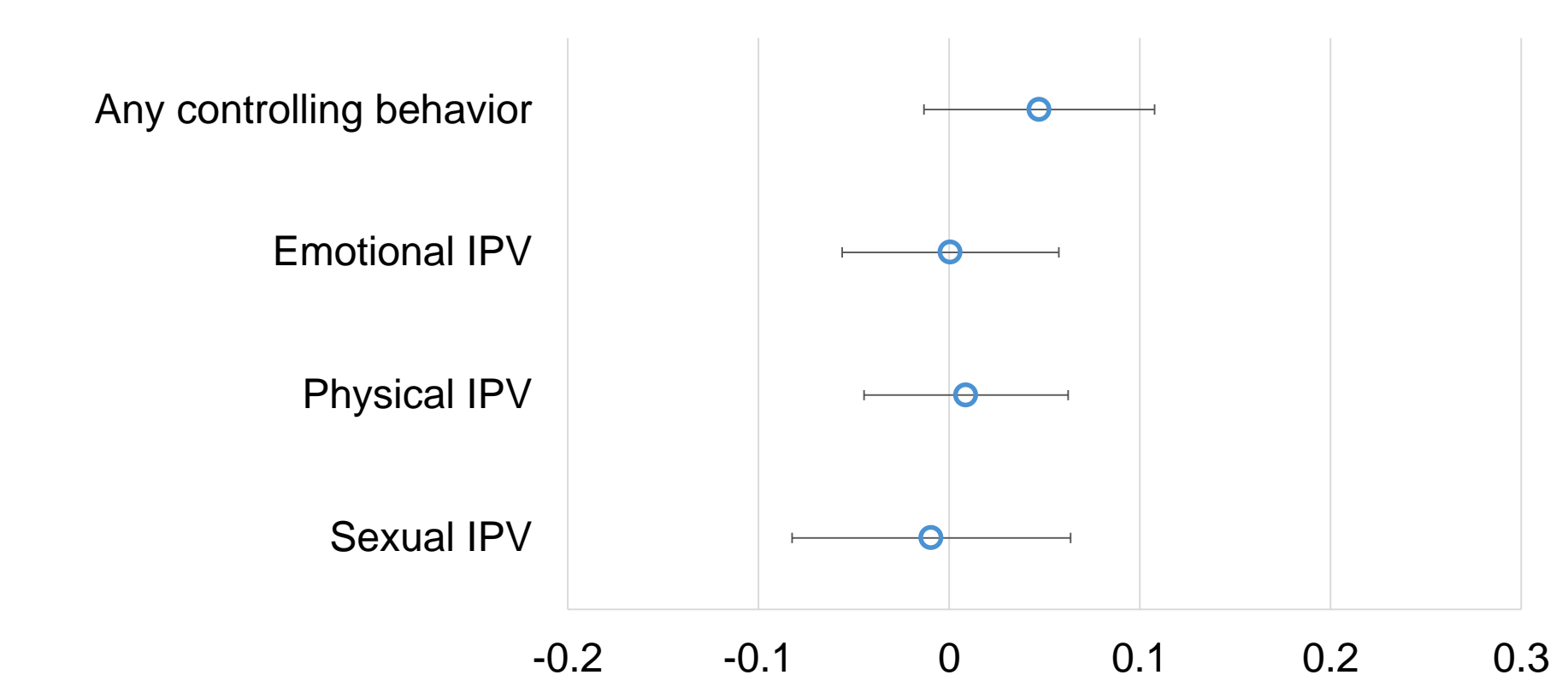
Results

Relationship dynamics



- SCTP increased trust and relationship quality among women, but not among men
- Effects among women were more pronounced for those in the younger (19-24 years) age group for relationship quality, and those with a current (vs. former) partner for trust and relationship quality

Intimate Partner Violence (lifetime)



- No effects of the SCTP on young women's experiences of controlling behaviors or lifetime emotional, physical or sexual IPV
- We are currently analyzing data on the mechanisms for these relationship dynamics effects
- Complementary qualitative analysis in progress will explore how youth form relationships, their relationship dynamics, and young women's experience of IPV

Acknowledgments

This study is part of the Malawi SCTP follow up under NIA Grant #5R01AG061437. Funding for this study was also provided by the IFPRI Cash Transfer and Intimate Partner Violence (CT-IPV) Research Collaborative. This research also received support from NIH's Population Research Infrastructure Program awarded to the Carolina Population Center (P2C HD050924) and the Population Research Training grant (T32 HD007168) at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and NIA (P30 AG066615).

We thank all study participants for sharing their stories and lives with the research team.

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