

Interview Privacy and Social Desirability Effects in Cross-Cultural Survey Research: The World Mental Health Survey Experience

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Outline

1. Introduction
2. World Mental Health Surveys
3. Results (high, middle, and low income countries)
 - a) Rates of interview privacy
 - b) Rates of respondents with high social desirability scores
 - c) Prevalence of outcomes
 - d) Effect of interview privacy on
 - Suicidal Behavior
 - Partner Physical Violence
 - Relationship Ratings
4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Introduction

- A common survey practice is to instruct interviewers to conduct their interviews in private
- However between 37%-57% of the interviews are conducted in less than complete privacy in the US (Gfroerer, 1985; Pollner and Adams, 1997; Silver et al., 1986; Smith, 1997)
- Most frequent type of third party present is spouse followed by children (Silver et. al, 1986; Smith, 1997)
- The main concern of non-private interview settings is the deliberate misreport of information; especially for sensitive questions

Introduction

- Previous literature on effect of third party presence on reporting sensitive information is mixed:
 - No significant effect: *Anderson and Silver, 1987; Bradburn and Sudman, 1979; Silver et al, 1986; Smith, 1997*
 - Significant Effect: *Aquilino, 1993; Aquilino 1997; Aquilino et al., 2000; Moskowitz, 2004; Taiezt, 1962*
- None of the previously published studies :
 - Investigated characteristics of respondents that might make them more or less sensitive to third party presence
 - Investigated multiple types of third party: parent, spouse, children, youth, and other adult
 - Studied this phenomena in variety of cultures: party presence may be a welcome feature of everyday life in some socio-cultural contexts but exceptional or intrusive in others

World Mental Health Surveys

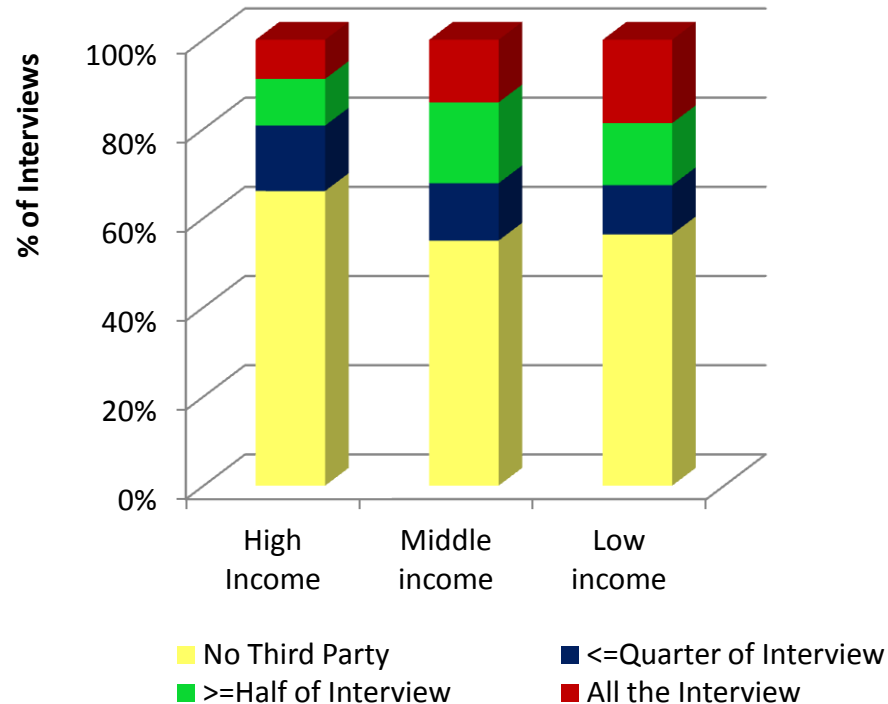
Current analyses focus on 16 countries that collected interviewer observation data on: interview privacy and relationship (of third party) to respondent and respondent's social desirability score

<u>Country</u> High Income	<u>Sample Size*</u>	<u>Country</u> Middle Income	<u>Sample Size*</u>	Low Income	<u>Sample Size*</u>
Belgium	1043	Lebanon	1031	China	1628
France	1436	Mexico	2362	India	1373
Germany	1323	Romania	2357	Nigeria	2604
Italy	1779	Bulgaria	2233	Ukraine	1720
Spain	2121	Brazil	2935		
Japan	1753				
United States	5692				

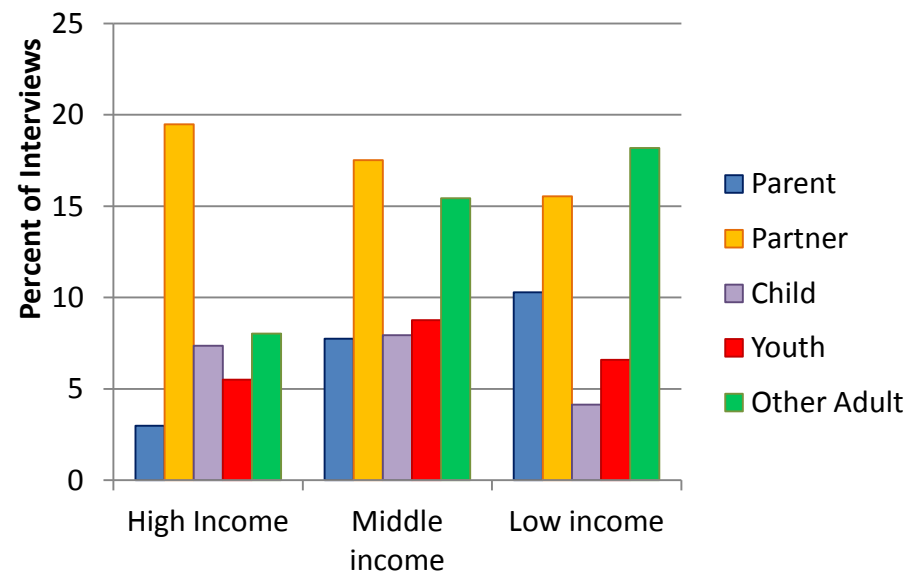
* Part II sample

Interview Privacy Across WMH Surveys

Presence of Third Party During Interview

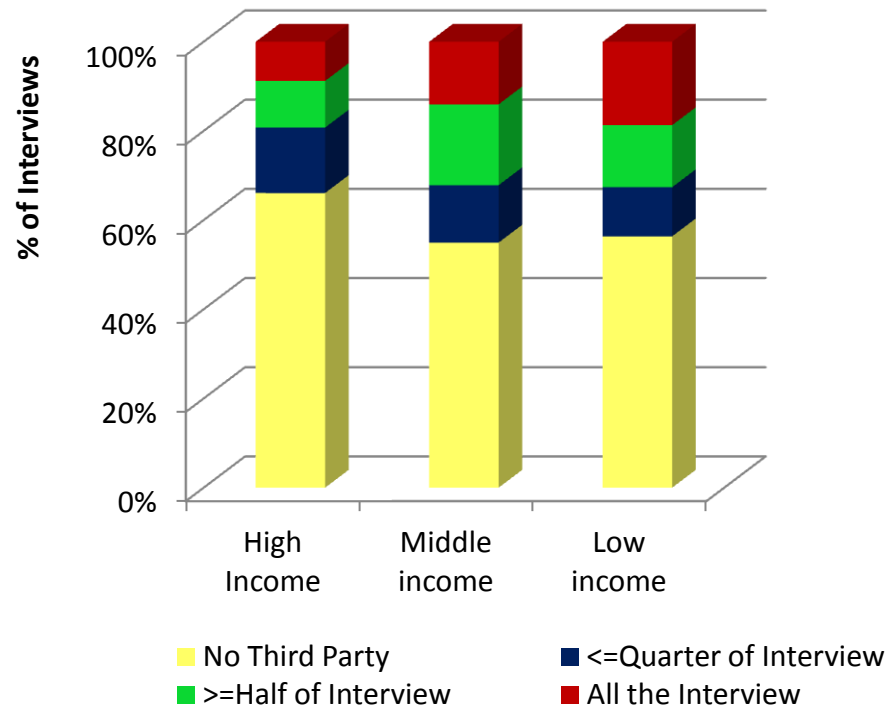


Relationship of Third Party to R

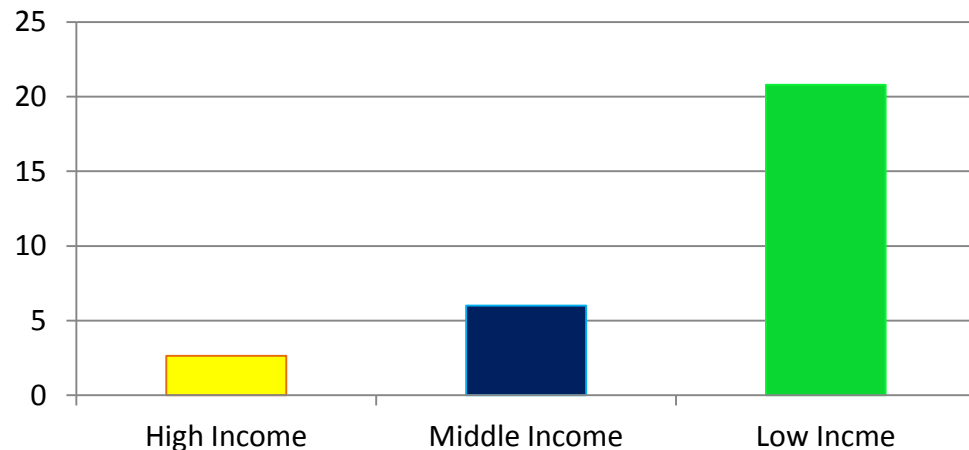


Interview Privacy Across WMH Surveys

Presence of Third Party During Interview



Percent Respondents with High Social Desirability Score



Prevalence of Outcomes

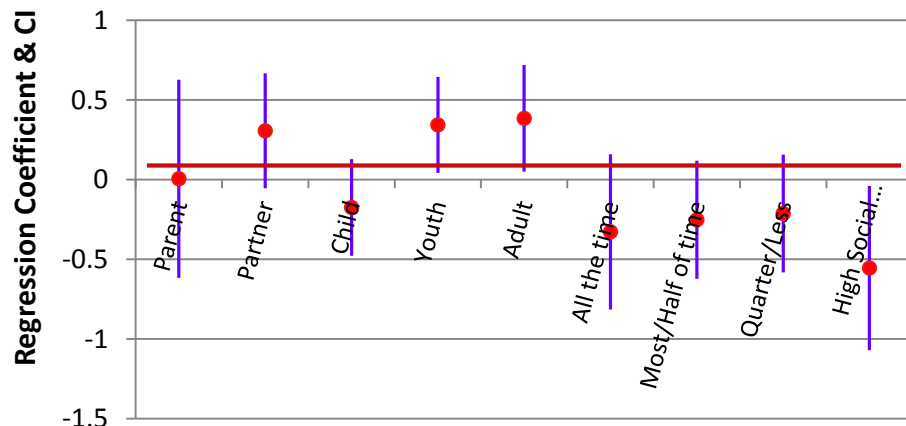
Weighted Prevalence of Suicidal Behavior, Relationship Ratings, and Partner Physical Violence

Outcome	
Suicidal Behaviors	
Thought	
Plan	
Attempt	
Partner Physical Violence	
Victim of Violence	
Perpetrator of Violence	
Low Relationship Ratings	
Marital Relationship	
Children Relationship	

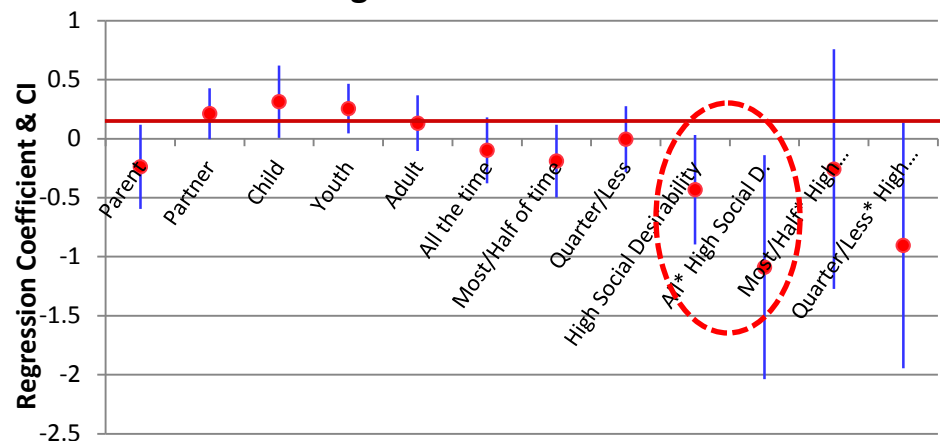
A couple of countries within strata did not measure certain outcomes and were excluded from the analysis
s.e.= standard error

Effect of Interview Privacy and Social Desirability on Suicidal Thoughts

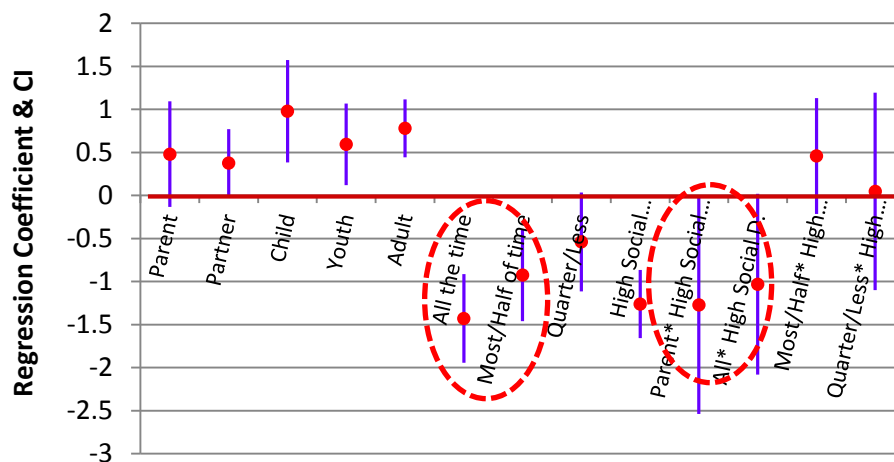
Effect of Interview Privacy on Reporting Suicidal Thoughts : High Income



Effect of Interview Privacy on Reporting Suicidal Thoughts : Middle Income

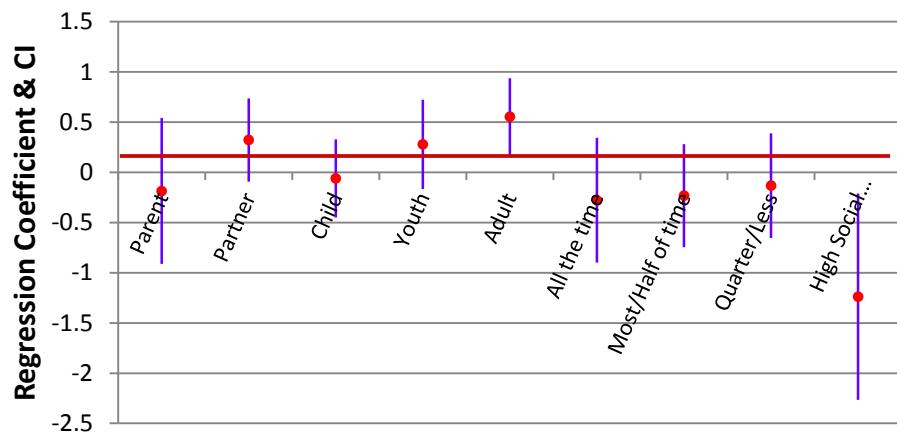


Effect of Interview Privacy on Reporting Suicidal Thoughts : Low Income

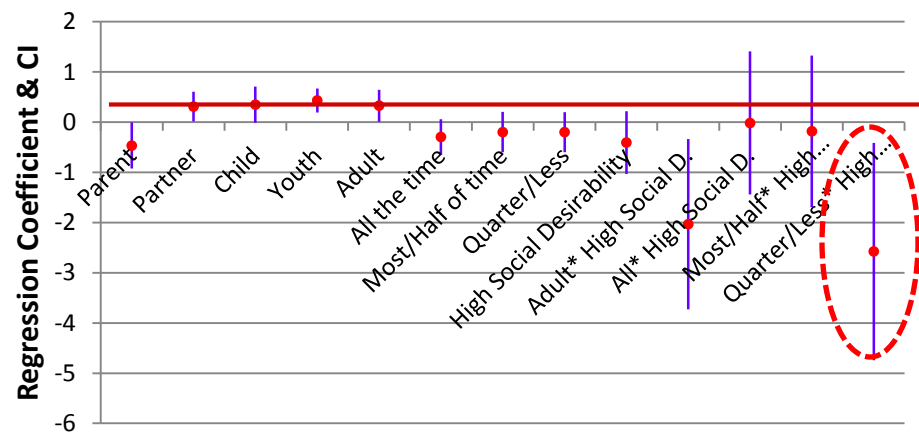


Effect of Interview Privacy and Social Desirability on Suicidal Plan

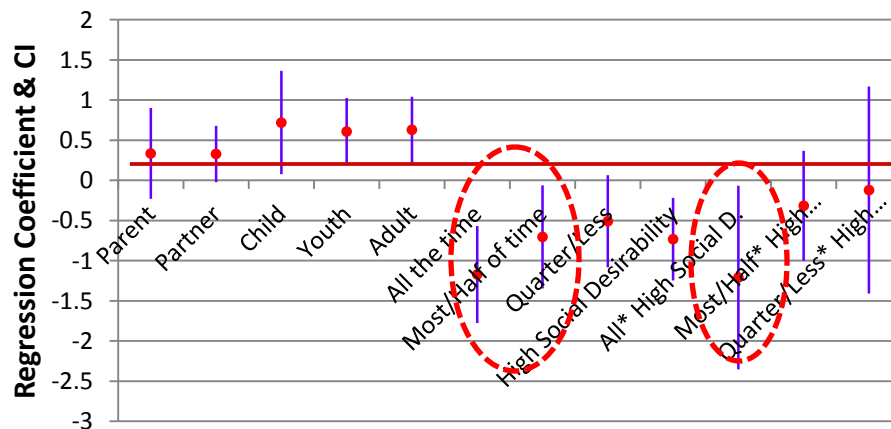
Effect of Interview Privacy on Reporting Suicidal Plans : High Income



Effect of Interview Privacy on Reporting Suicidal Plans : Middle Income

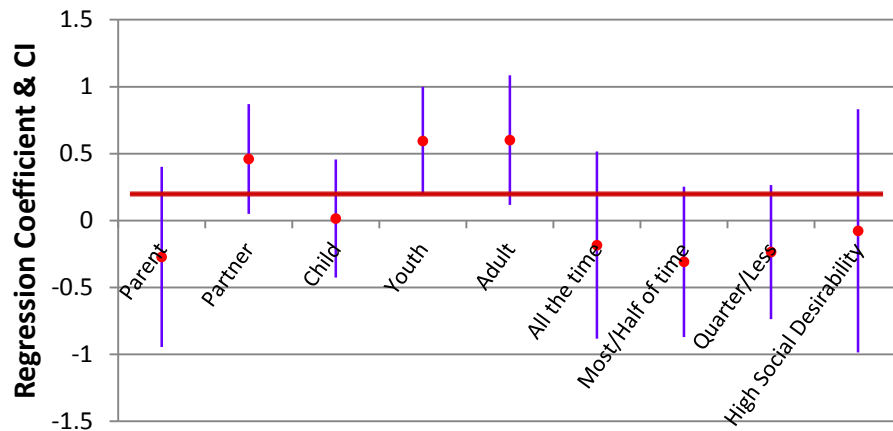


Effect of Interview Privacy on Reporting Suicidal Plans : Low Income

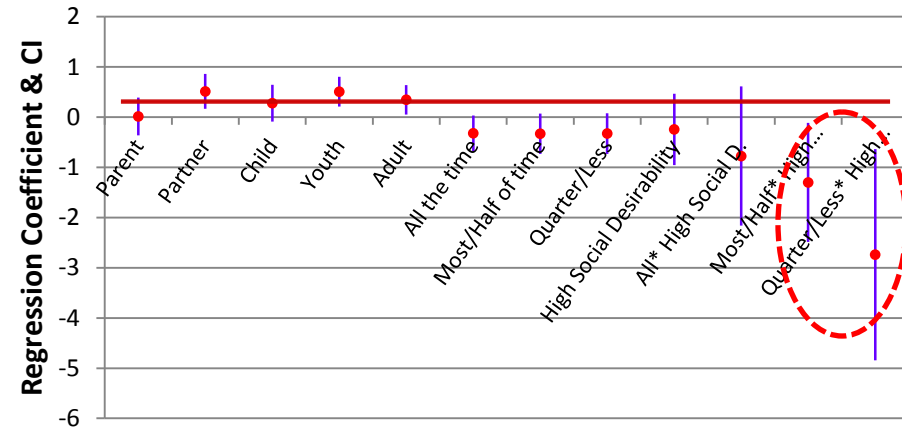


Effect of Interview Privacy and Social Desirability on Suicidal Attempt

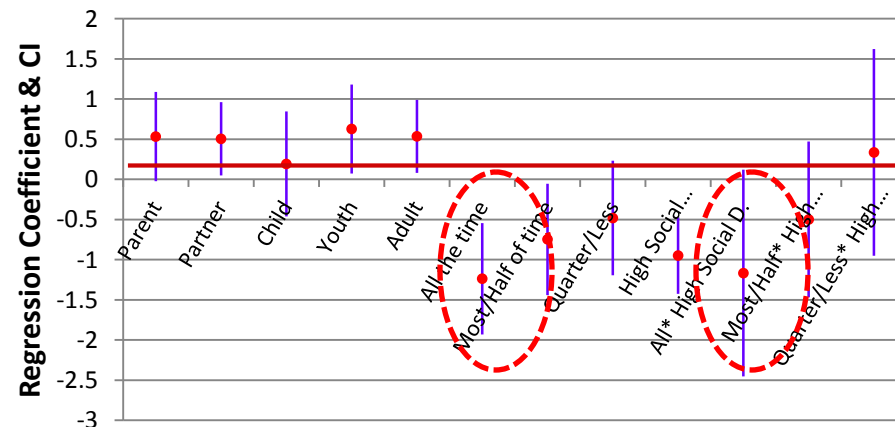
Effect of Interview Privacy on Reporting Suicide Attempt : High Income



Effect of Interview Privacy on Reporting Suicide Attempt : Middle Income

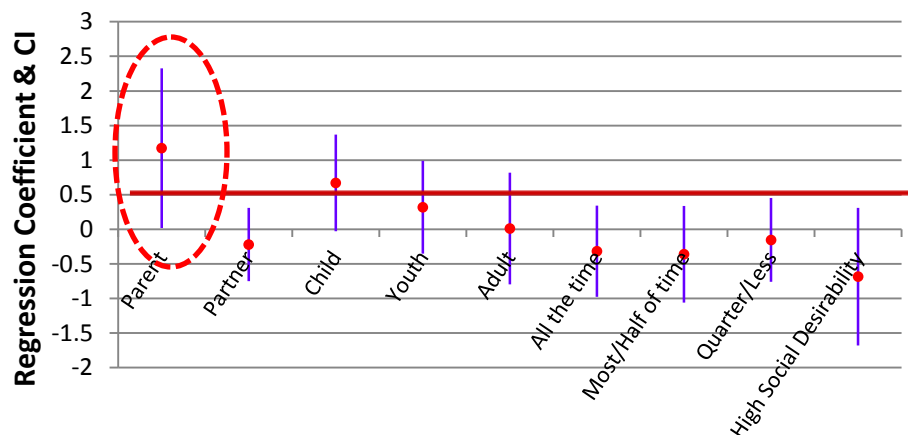


Effect of Interview Privacy on Reporting Suicide Attempt : Low Income

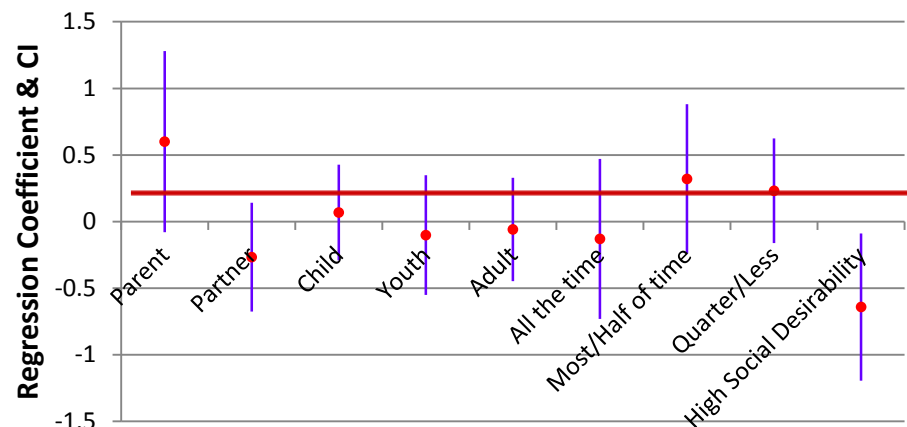


Effect of Interview Privacy and Social Desirability on Being a Victim of Physical Violence by Partner

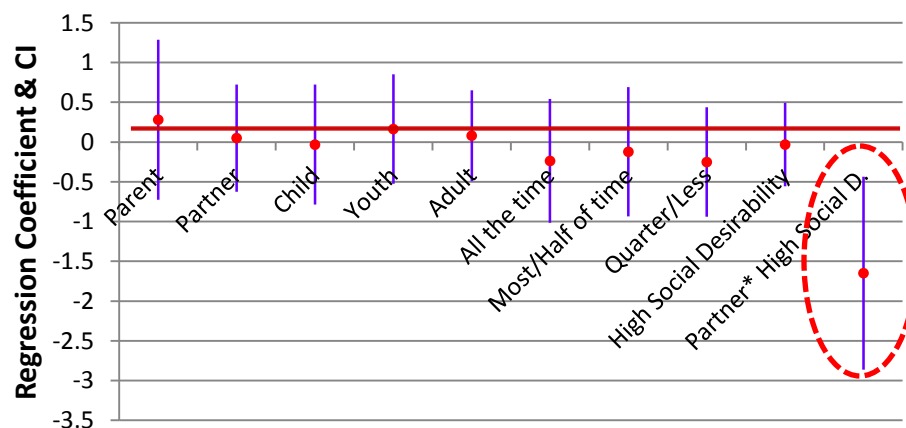
Effect of Interview Privacy on Victim of Violence: High Income



Effect of Interview Privacy on Victim of Violence: Middle Income

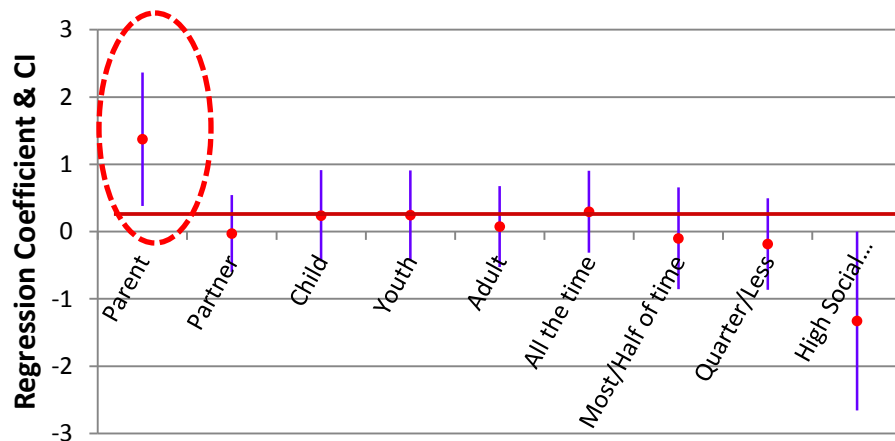


Effect of Interview Privacy on Victim of Violence: Low Income

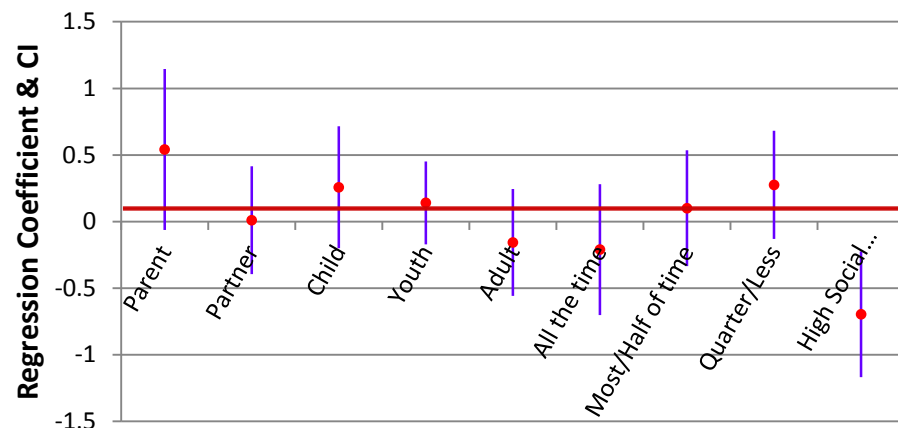


Effect of Interview Privacy and Social Desirability on Being a Perpetrator of Physical Violence by Partner

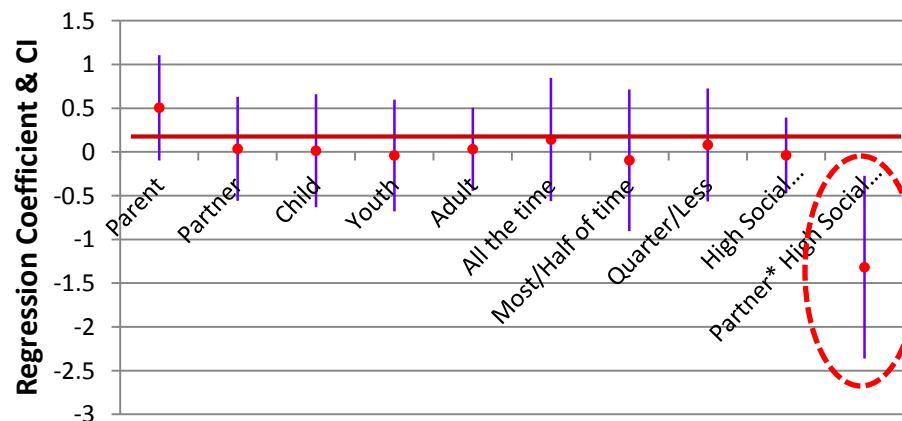
Effect of Interview Privacy on Perpetrator of Violence : High Income



Effect of Interview Privacy on Perpetrator of Violence : Middle Income

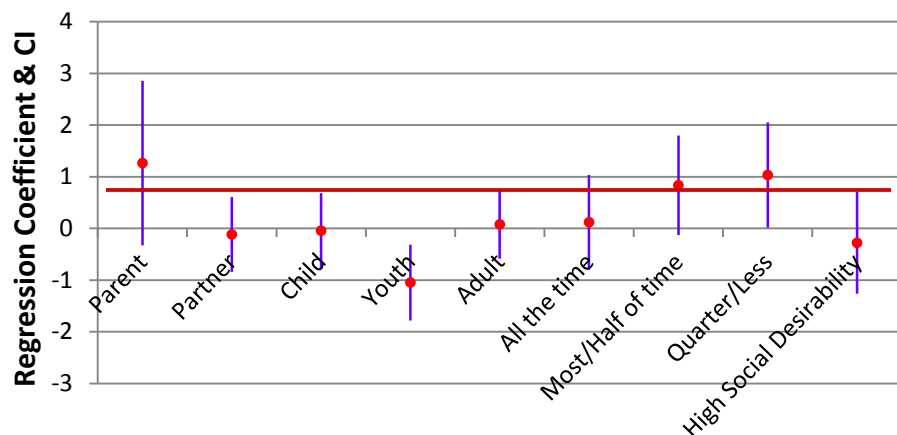


Effect of Interview Privacy on Perpetrator of Violence: Low Income

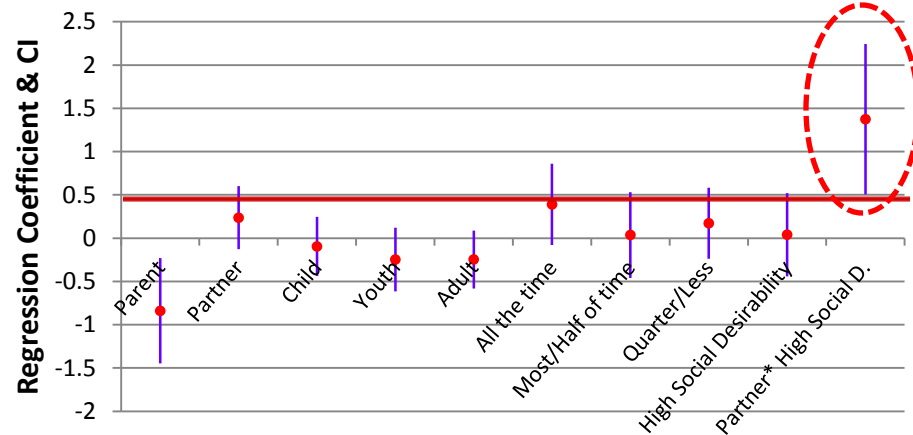


Effect of Interview Privacy and Social Desirability on Reporting Good Rating of Marital Relationship

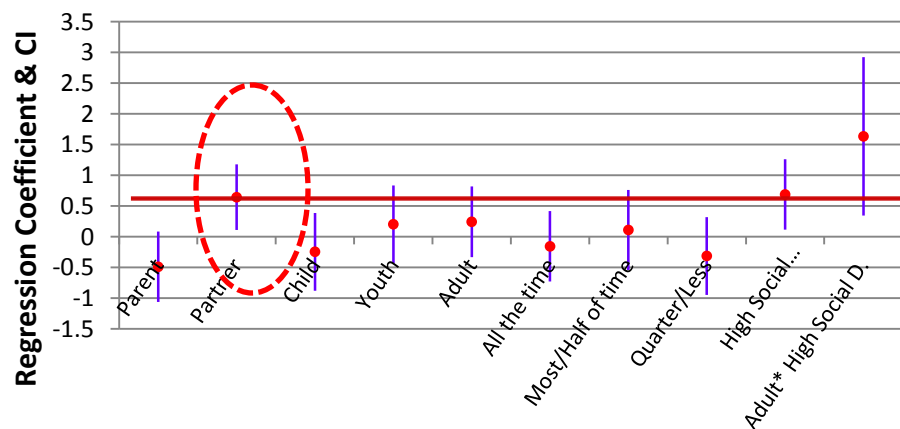
Effect of Interview Privacy on Marital Rating :
High Income



Effect of Interview Privacy on Marital Rating :
Middle Income

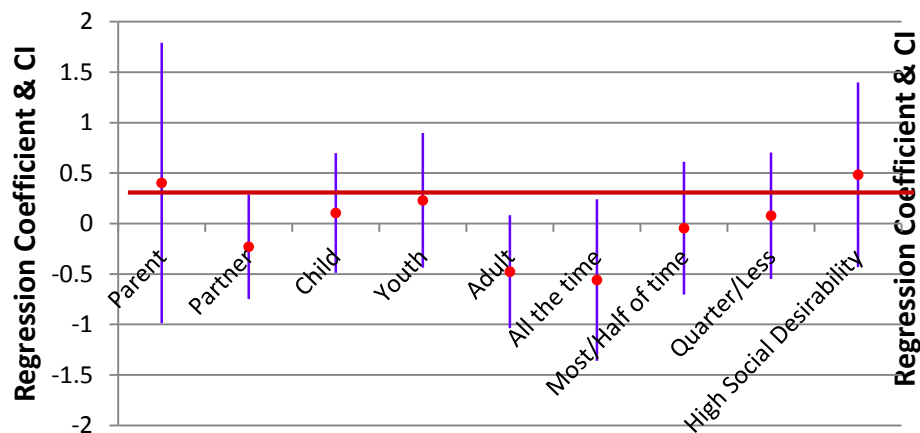


Effect of Interview Privacy on Marital Rating:
Low Income

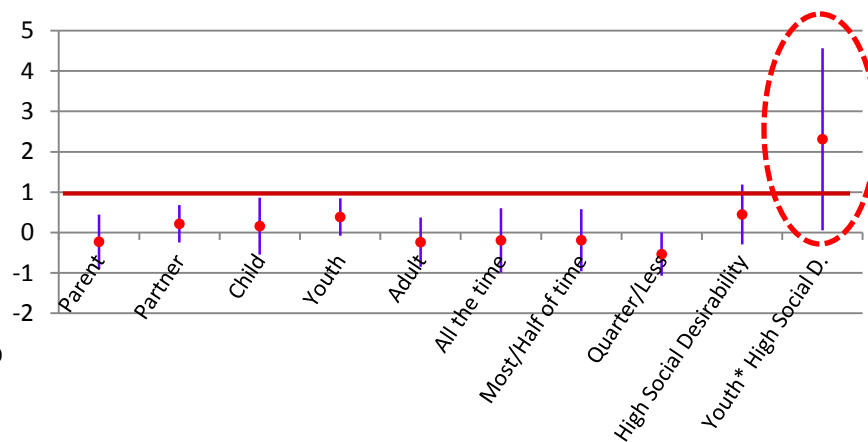


Effect of Interview Privacy and Social Desirability on Reporting Good Rating of Relationship w Children

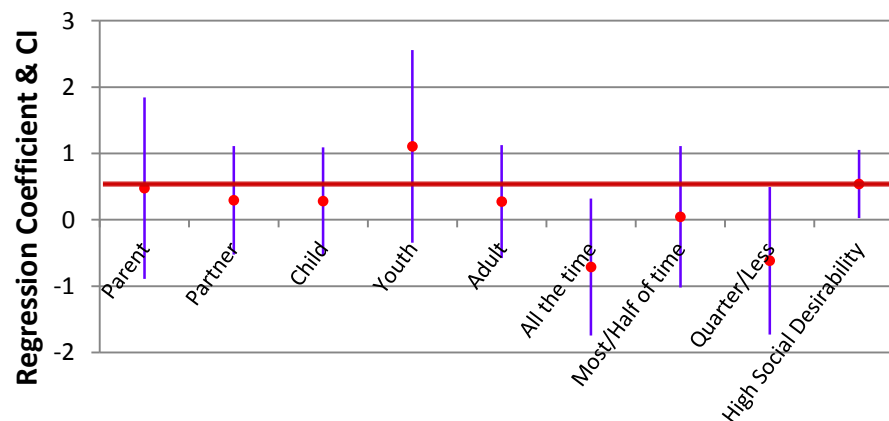
Effect of Interview Privacy on Child Rating :
High Income



Effect of Interview Privacy on Child Rating :
Middle Income



Effect of Interview Privacy on Child Rating:
Low Income



Conclusion

- None private interviews are more common in low and middle income countries
- About 1 in 5 respondents interviewed in low income countries scored high on scale measuring social desirability
- Effects of third party presence on disclosure of sensitive information vary by cultures and by type of question

Conclusion

- Personal sensitive outcomes:
 - *Low income countries*: Lower reporting in presence of any third party and effect heightened among respondents with high social desirability scores
 - *Middle income countries*: Lower reporting only among respondents with high social desirability scores (i.e. interaction effects)
 - *High income countries*: No such effects; but presence of parents reduced reporting
 - *Low, middle, and high income countries*: Higher reporting in the presence of child, youth, and other adults
- Interpersonal outcomes:
 - *Low income countries*: Lower reporting in the presence of concerned member (either main or interaction effect depending if factual or attitudinal)
 - *Middle income countries*: Lower reporting in the presence of concerned member only among respondents with high social desirability scores
 - *High income countries*: No such effects, but presence of parents increase reporting of partner violence

Conclusion

- Lack of misreporting due to presence of third party in high income countries could be attributed to:
 - Lower taboos associated with outcomes such as suicide and physical violence
 - Lower social desirability concerns exhibited by respondents
- Differences in effects of interview privacy in middle and low income countries could possibly explain the lower/ higher prevalence of outcomes

Reccomendation

- Interview privacy needs to addressed more seriously in light of its possible effect and the protection of human subjects and informed consent procedures
- Observations on interview privacy measures need to be revised to measure
 - Specific timing of presence (During which instrument sections ?)
 - Dynamics of third party presence (Is the third party within hearing range, did they participate in the interview, etc....)
 - Motivation behind third party (Did the respondent request their presence ? Did they impose themselves ?)
 - Better refinement of relationship of third party to respondent (e.g. Who is the other adult ? Did they seem to be close to R)

Reccomendation

- Respondents characteristics that mediate effect of interview privacy need to be collected and analyzed
- Interviewers need to be better trained on how to request privacy
- Effect of interview privacy need to be investigated using more private modes (such as A-CASI)
- Use of validation data is needed to accurately study misreporting

Thank you!

Introduction (Continued)

- Tourangeau and Yan (2007) literature review:
 - Spouse presence does not have significant overall impact on responses
 - Parental presence seems to reduce socially undesirable responses
 - Children presence does not seem to affect responses (however based only on two studies)
- Tourangeau and Yan review article draws our attention to :
 - The small number of articles investigating the effect of third party presence on misreporting
 - The need to investigate other types of relationship to respondent and its effect on reporting including children, adolescents and others
- Most importantly, the effect of third party presence could be influenced by cultural factors due to variations in the norms and patterns of social relations, and the level of economic and social development