



The Relationships between Adverse Childhood Experience, Intimate Partner Violence Victimization, Family Support, and the Challenges of Re-entry: An Examination of Female Inmates in Taiwan

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Background

- Adverse childhood experience (ACE) and intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization may pose more challenges for incarcerated women's re-entry.
- Studies reveal that family support is critical to successful re-integration for formerly incarcerated individuals (e.g., Mowen et al., 2019).
- Nevertheless, few studies have simultaneously examined the linkage between ACE, IPV victimization, family support, and perceived challenges of re-entry among female inmates.

Purposes of this Study

- To bridge the gap in the literature, we examined the relationships between ACE, IPV victimization, family support during incarceration, and perceived challenges of re-entry.
- We also assessed whether family support mediates the relationship between ACE, IPV victimization and perceived challenges of re-entry.

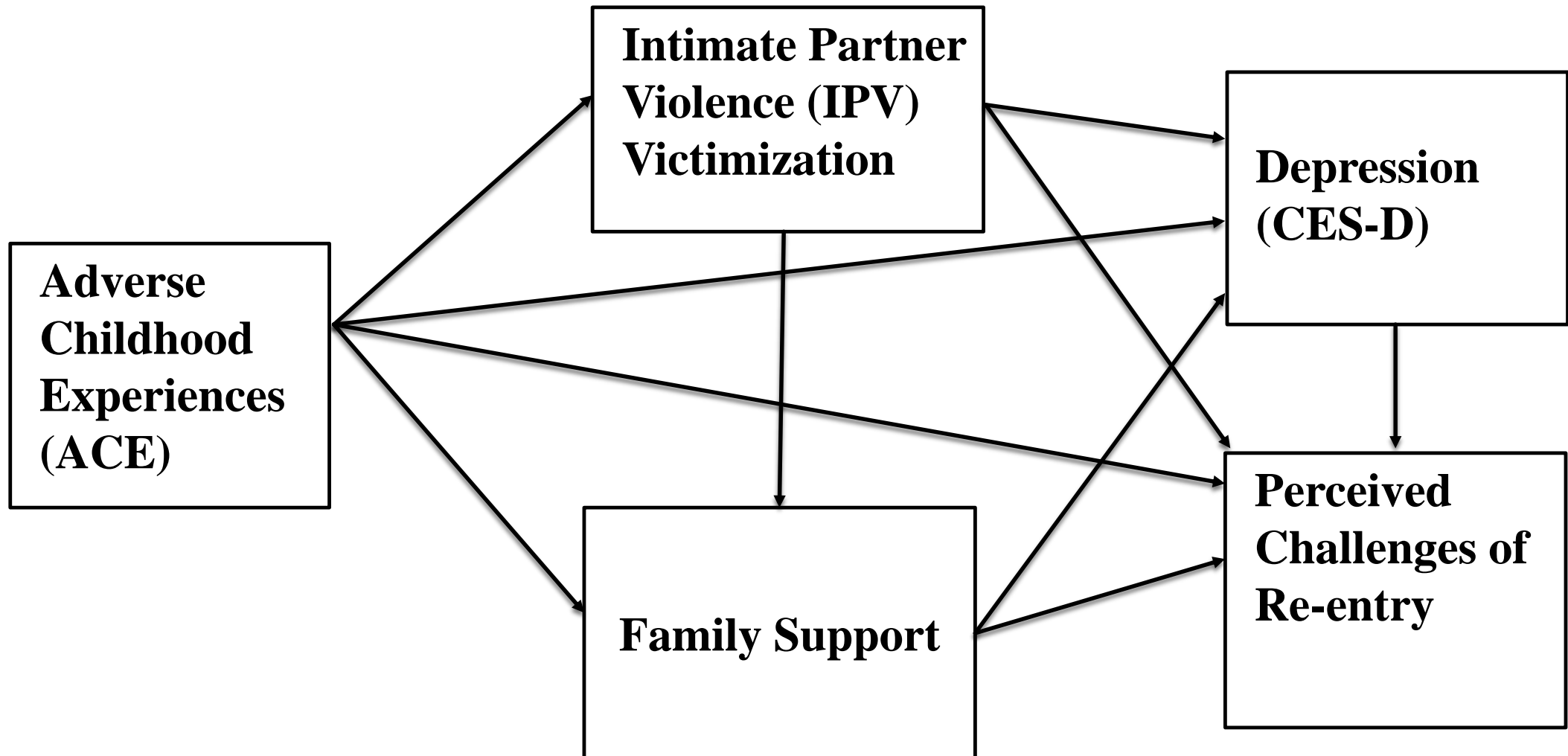
Literature Review

- Previous research found that female prisoners' life histories had particularly high rates of childhood maltreatment and intimate partner abuse in adulthood (Belknap et al., 2015).
- Victimization of childhood maltreatment and intimate partner violence are major routes to substance abuse, reduced job opportunities, prostitution, and criminal involvement, especially for women (van Wormer & Bartollas, 2007).

Literature Review

- Previous studies have found that family support is associated with lower recidivism (e.g., Boman and Mowen 2017; Shollenberger 2009), increased likelihood of employment (Berg and Huebner 2011), and better mental health (Grieb et al. 2014; Wallace et al. 2016) after prisoners return to society (Mowen et al., 2019) .
- A number of empirical studies have shown that individuals who receive social support (e.g., visits from family) are less likely to have institutional misconduct (Cochran, 2012; Jiang & Winfree, 2006; Mancini et al., 2016).
- Naser & Visher (2006) also indicate that relationships with family members are critical to successful re-entry for most former prisoners.

Conceptual Framework



Methodology

- Data were analyzed based on surveys conducted with 686 incarcerated women in several female prisons in Taiwan.
- Structural equation modeling was employed in the current study.

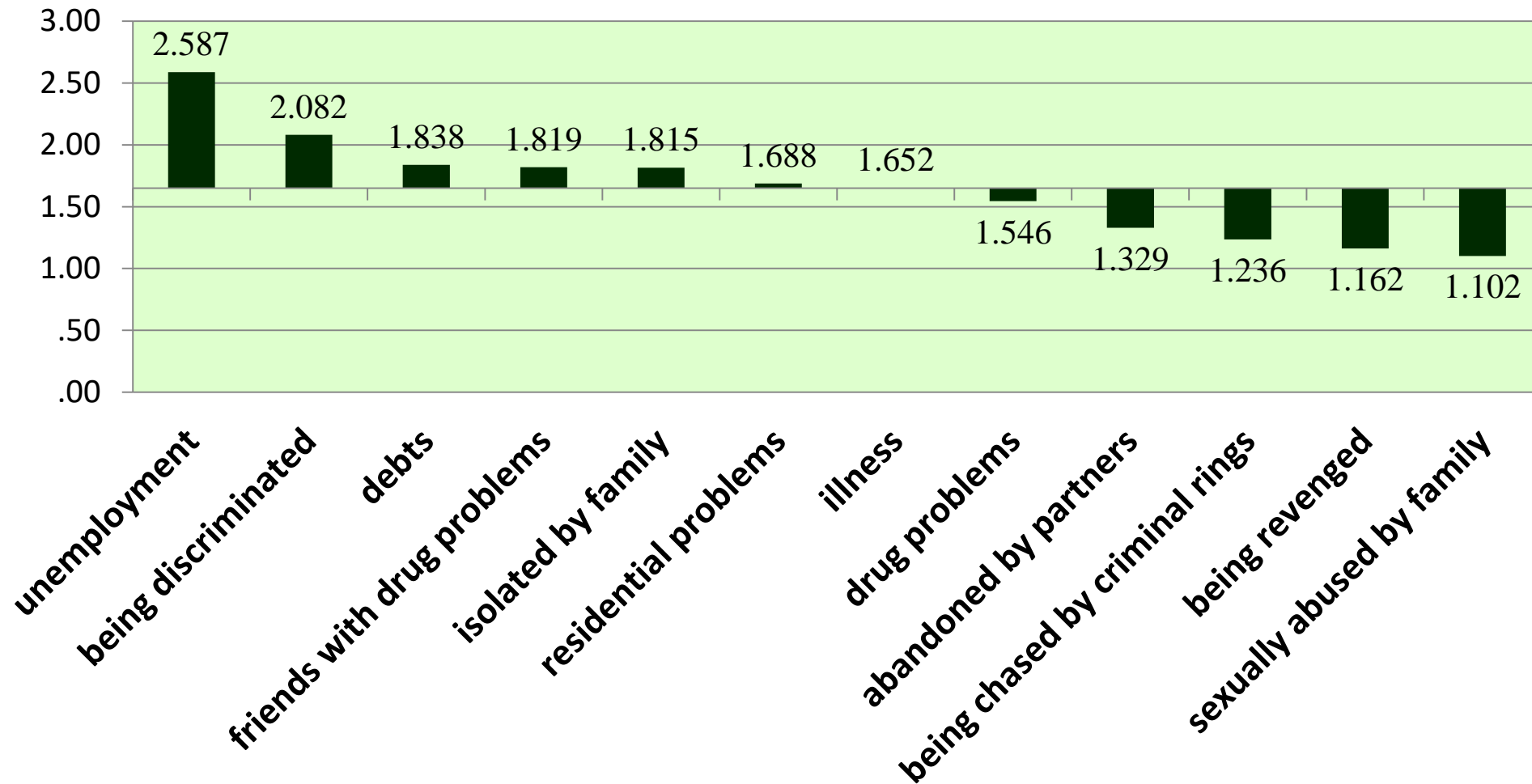
Findings



Descriptive Statistics for Variables (n=686)

Variables	Mean	SD	Frequency (%)
Dependent variable			
Perceived challenges of re-entry	19.857	6.351	
Independent variables			
Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)	0.136	0.343	no = 593 (86.443) yes = 93 (13.557)
IPV Victimization	1.192	1.736	
Family Support	20.879	5.450	
Depression	16.340	9.120	
Control Variables			
Marital status			married/widowed = 217(31.633) divorced/cohabited/remarried = 469(68.367)
Drug Use	0.624	0.485	no = 258 (37.609) yes = 428 (62.391)

MEANS OF PERCEIVED CHALLENGES OF RE-ENTRY (N=686)

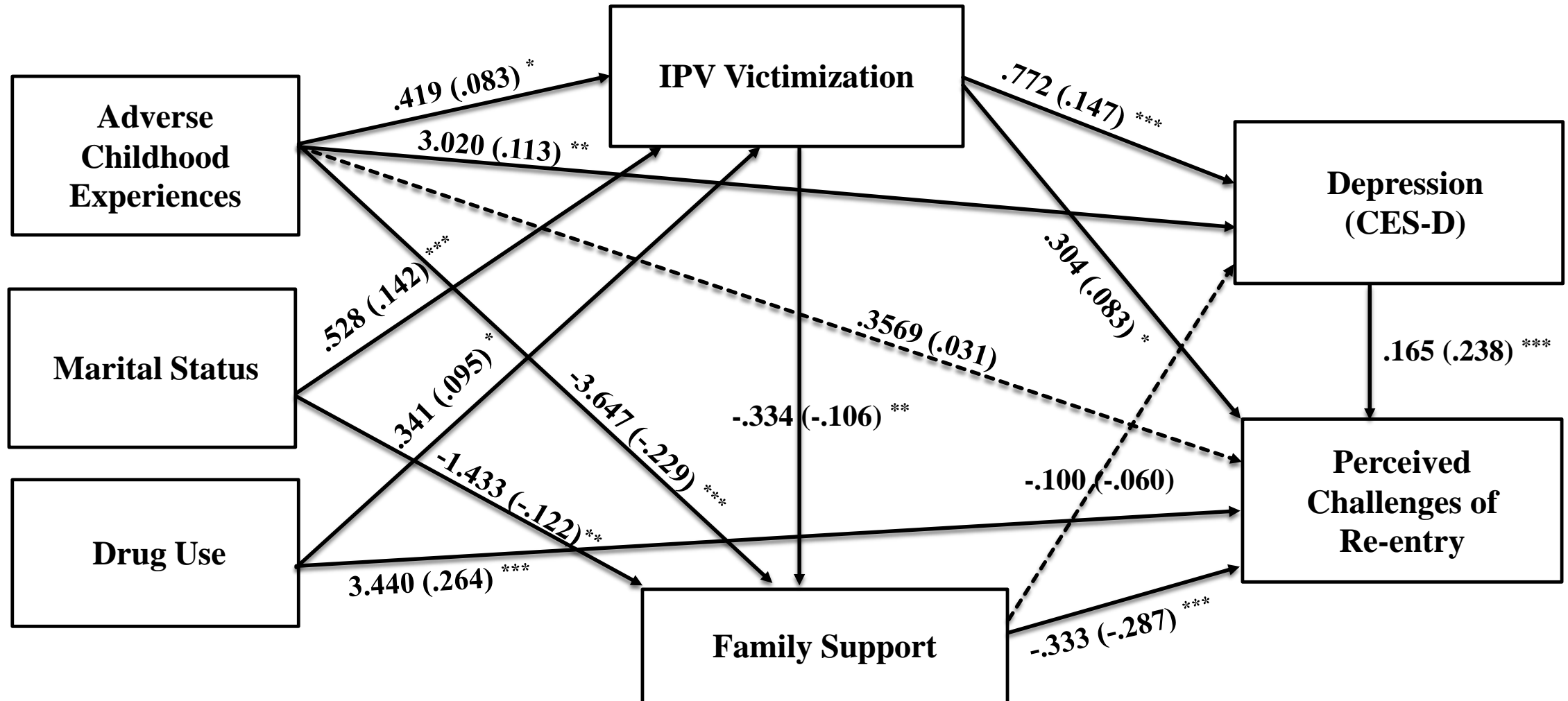


Differences Between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) In Research Variables (N=686)

Variable	ACE ¹		t ; p-value
	No (n=593)	Yes(n=93)	
IPV victimization	1.125 (1.708)	1.624 (1.859)	t = -2.587; p = .010
Family support	21.411 (4.890)	17.484 (7.333)	t = 4.994; p = .000
Depression	18.257 (10.141)	23.366 (8.887)	t = -4.585; p = .000
Perceived challenges of re-entry	19.444 (6.304)	22.484 (6.044)	t = -4.347; p = .000

1. Standard deviation in parentheses

The Paths from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) to the Challenges of Re-entry (n = 686)



Direct from Path Analysis (n=686)

Parameter Estimate	Unstd. β	Std. β
Marital status ¹ → IPV victimization	.528***	.142
Marital status → Family support	-1.433**	-.122
Drug use ¹ → IPV victimization	.341*	.095
Drug use → Perceived challenges of re-entry	3.440***	.264
ACE → IPV victimization	.419*	.083
ACE → Family support	-3.647***	-.229
ACE → Depression	3.020**	.113
ACE → Perceived challenges of re-entry	.569	.031
IPV victimization → Family support	-.334**	-.106
IPV victimization → Depression	.772***	.147
IPV victimization → Perceived challenges of re-entry	.304*	.083
Family support → Depression	-.100	-.060
Family support → Perceived challenges of re-entry	-.333***	-.287
Depression → Perceived challenges of re-entry	.165***	.238

Indirect from Path Analysis (n=686)

Parameter Estimate	Unstd. β	Std. β
Marital status ¹ → IPV victimization → Family support	-0.176*	-0.015
Marital status → IPV victimization → Depression	0.408*	0.021
Marital status → IPV victimization → Perceived challenges of re-entry	0.161	0.012
Marital status → Family support → Depression	0.1433	0.007
Marital status → Family support → Perceived challenges of re-entry	0.477*	0.035
Drug use ¹ → IPV victimization → Family support	-0.114⁺	-0.010
Drug use → IPV victimization → Depression	0.263*	0.014
Drug use → IPV victimization → Perceived challenges of re-entry	0.104	0.008
ACE → IPV victimization → Family support	-0.140⁺	-0.009
ACE → IPV victimization → Depression	0.324	0.012
ACE → IPV victimization → Perceived challenges of re-entry	0.127	0.007
ACE → Family support → Depression	0.365	0.014
ACE → Family support → Perceived challenges of re-entry	1.215***	0.066
IPV victimization → Family support → Depression	0.033	0.006
IPV victimization → Family support → Perceived challenges of re-entry	0.111⁺	0.030
IPV victimization → Depression → Perceived challenges of re-entry	0.127*	0.035
Family support → Depression → Perceived challenges of re-entry fs de re	-0.017	-0.014

+ p < .10; *p < .05; **p < .01; ***p < .001

Findings

- It was found that individuals who experienced childhood maltreatment and IPV were more likely to be depressed and perceive more challenges for their re-entry.
- Inmates with drug offences perceived more challenges for their re-entry.
- Inmates who experienced IPV victimization were less likely to perceive instrumental and emotional support provided by their family, which poses more challenges for their re-entry.

Discussion

- Early interventions and promotion of family connection may help female inmates tackle the challenges of re-entry.
- Female inmates who experienced child maltreatment and IPV victimization were more likely to suffer from depression, which may create more challenges for their re-entry; suitable interventions that tackle their mental health problems are needed.

Thank You For Your Attention.

We Welcome Any Questions You May Have.

