Distinguishing between Risk Factors for Aggression Perpetration, and Victimization in Adolescent Dating Relationships

Ericka Daniels
Mentor: Dr. John Grych, Department of Psychology
Introduction

- A wide variety of research found that adolescents and young adults are more at risk of IPV (American Psychological Association, 2013).

- “About 1 in 5 women and nearly 1 in 7 men who ever experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, first experienced some form of partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010).

- “One in five female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner” (American Psychological Association, 2013).
Relevance

- Occurring at a substantial rate
- Negative effects on victims
- Further investigating risk factors could help with the lack of effective strategies in preventing or reducing IPV (Marshall et al., 2011; Babcock, Green & Robie, 2004)
Present Study

- Investigate risk factors associated with TDV (Teen dating violence) perpetration or victimization from the four general categories:
  - Family
  - Cognitions
  - Emotions
  - Alcohol use

- Examine whether particular predictors uniquely predict perpetration, victimization, or both

- Examine whether males or females are more likely to perpetrate or be victimized by dating aggression
Method

- 761 participants
- Informed consent
- Questionnaires online
- Measures
Measures

- CADRI (Conflict Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory)
- ICU (Inventory of Callous Unemotional Traits)
- SES (Sexual Abuse history)
- CTS (Conflict Tactics Scale)
- WCT (Word Completion Task)
- SAS (Sexual Attitudes Scale)
- TAS (Toronto Alexithymia Scale)
- CEBAA (Social Learning Theory)
- CPCS (Family Connectedness Scale)
- CRAFFT (Mnemonic)
Results

- Correlations - test relationships between perpetration, and victimization and each risk factor

- Regression - unique predictors

- T-test - male vs. female
Discussion

- Predictors common to perpetration and victimization:
  - Alexithymia
  - Alcohol use
  - Attitudes accepting/justifying dating aggression
  - Callous unemotional traits
  - Interparental conflict
  - Parent-child conflict
  - Relationship quality with partner
  - Relationship quality with father

- Specific to Victimization only:
  - Sexual attitudes
Discussion cont’d

- Unique predictors of perpetration and/or victimization:
  - Alcohol use
  - Relationship quality with partner
  - Attitudes accepting and justifying dating aggression

- Female reported perpetration of dating aggression more
Limitations

- Self-report
  - Underreport

- Participants
  - Students at private institution
  - May not generalize to other populations
Implications

- Investigate which specific risk factors are unique to female perpetration vs. male perpetration

- Prevention & Intervention Programs
  - Educating adolescents on link between alcohol use and TDV

- Implement relationship classes
  - Healthy relationships
  - Conflict resolution
  - Attitudes accepting dating aggression
Conclusion

- Purpose of study

- Each risk factor was a part of four general categories

- Found that majority of the risk factors were common to both perpetration and victimization

- Three unique predictors that should be target
  - May help decrease TDV rates
Selected References


Questions?