



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)
- CEBA (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

- American Psychological Association. (2013) Intimate Partner Violence. *American Psychological Association*. July 16, 2013, from <http://www.apa.org/topics/violence/partner.aspx>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010) Teen Dating Violence. *Center for Disease Control and Prevention*. July 19, 2013, from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen_dating_violence.html



Questions?