

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

Ericka Daniels & John H. Grych, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology



Introduction

Teen Dating Violence (TDV)

- 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).

The Present Study

- This study investigates risk factors that may anticipate a person’s role as a victim or perpetrator of aggression in dating relationships.
- This study examines whether particular risk factors uniquely predict perpetration, victimization, or both. Also, whether males or females are more likely to perpetrate or be victimized by dating aggression.
- Each risk factor is from one of the following four categories:
 - 1) Family
 - 2) Cognitions
 - 3) Emotions
 - 4) Alcohol use

Method

Sample

- 761 participants ages 18-25
- Undergraduate students at Marquette University

Procedure

- Participant signed an informed consent sheet
- A number of questionnaires were completed online



Measures

- CADRI (Perpetration and victimization of dating aggression)
- ICU (Callous unemotional traits)
- SA (Sexual abuse history)
- CTS (Interparental conflict; parent-child conflict)
- WCT (Aggression and hostility)
- SAS (Sexual attitudes)
- TAS (Alexithymia)
- CEBA (Attitudes about dating aggression)
- CPCS (Relationship quality with mom, partner, father)
- CRAFFT (Alcohol use)

Results

Correlations

- 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
- Predictor of Victimization only:
 - Sexual Attitudes



Regression

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

T-test

- Females reported perpetration more often than males



Discussion

Conclusion

- The majority of the predictors were common to both perpetration and victimization.
- Only one predictor specific to victimization.
- Of all the correlated risk factors there were three that uniquely predicted victimization and/or perpetration.
- These unique predictors should be targeted by prevention and intervention programs.
- Females reported perpetrating TDV more than males.

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

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