Relation Between Bully & Teen Dating Violence Perpetration Across Early to Late Adolescence

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Bullying & TDV Overlap

• Violence against peers has been correlated with using sexual and physical violence against dates (Ozer et al., 2004).
• Early antisocial behavior and aggression have been shown to predict later use of violence against dating partners in three longitudinal studies (Capaldi & Clark, 1998; Lavoie et al., 2002; Simons et al., 1998).
• A study by Brendgen et al (2001) showed aggression perpetrated by young adolescent boys was associated with dating violence perpetration at the age of 16 and 17 years.
• Similarly, students who reported bullying their peers also reported more violence victimization in their dating relationships (both physical and social) than non-bullies (Connolly, Pepler, Craig, & Taradash, 2000).
• Miller and colleagues (2013) demonstrate how dating violence and bullying often co-occur, highlighting the need to recognize the interrelatedness of these behaviors.
Developmental model of bullying, sexual harassment and dating violence

Family/Community Context

Peer Identity/Inclusion Grades 6-8

Romantic and Sexual Identity Grades 9-11

Exposure to trauma/abuse or violence

- Beliefs
- Attitudes
- Personal Characteristics

Family conflict/aggression

Deviancy (deviant peer affiliation)

Bullying

Teens dating violence

- Sex roles
- Peer support for sexual coercion
- Attitudes toward sexual, dating violence

Sexual Harassment

Health Risk Behavior (Substance Use, Risky Sex)
Developmental model of bullying, sexual harassment and dating violence
Demographics:
- 625 students (49.1% female)
- 3 cohorts (5th, 6th, 7th graders)
- Racially diverse (51% Black, 34% White)
- 60% Free/reduced lunch
- Six waves of data collection
  (spring 2008; fall 2008; spring 2009; fall 2009; spring 2010; spring 2012)
Bully Perpetration

- **Non-physical bullying perpetration** was measured using the nine-item Illinois Bully Scale (Espelage & Holt, 2001) which assesses the frequency of teasing, name-calling, social exclusion, and rumor spreading.

- Students are asked how often in the past 30 days they teased other students, upset other students for the fun of it, excluded others from their group of friends, and helped harass other students etc. at school.

- Response options include “Never”, “1 or 2 times”, “3 or 4 times”, “5 or 6 times”, and “7 or more times.”

- Scale scores have converges with peer nominations and diverges with physical fighting measures (Espelage, Holt, & Henkel, 2003)
The next questions ask about “dating.” By “dating,” we mean spending time with someone you are seeing or going out with. Examples of this might include hanging out at the mall, in the neighborhood, or at home or going somewhere together like the movies, a game, or a party. It doesn't have to be a formal date or something you planned in advance and it may be with a small group. The term "date" includes both one-time dates and time together as part of long-term relationships.

Do your parents allow you to date?
Do your parents know where you are when you are out on a date?
What was the length of your longest dating relationship?
Dating History

- 490 of the 625 high school students surveyed at Wave 6 said their parents allow them to date.

- 559 of the 625 high school students surveyed at Wave 6 had dated.

- Number of partners ranged from 0 to 10; \( M = 3.24 \) partners.
Teen Dating Violence Perpetration Assessment

- Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (CADRI; Wolfe et al., 2001)

If you have started dating (even one date), fill in the bubble that is your best estimate of how often you did the following to anyone you were dating. As a guide, use the following scale:

- Never: this has never happened in your relationships
- Seldom: this has happened only 1-2 times in your relationships
- Sometimes: this has happened about 3-5 times in your relationships
- Often: this has happened 6 times or more in your relationships
Teen Dating Violence Perpetration Assessment

- Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (CADRI; Wolfe et al., 2001)
  - 29 items were approved by IRB
  - Factor Analysis yielded four subscales
  - Verbal TDV perpetration (9 items; $\alpha = .88$)
    - Name-calling, insults, bringing up past behaviors
  - Relational TDV perpetration (4 items; $\alpha = .70$)
    - Spread rumors, turned friends against dating partner
  - Physical TDV perpetration (12 items; $\alpha = .91$)
    - Slapping, biting, choking, throwing things etc.
  - Sexual TDV perpetration (4 items; $\alpha = .75$)
    - Forced to kiss, forced to have sex
TDV Frequencies

- Verbal TDV perpetration
  - 31% did something to make partner angry.
  - 26% used hostile tone with partner.
- Relational TDV perpetration
  - 29% kept track of partners activities.
- Physical TDV perpetration
  - 10% slapped or hit partner.
  - 11% bit partner.
- Sexual TDV perpetration
  - 6% forced partner to kiss.
TDV Perpetration – Gender Differences

- Verbal TDV perpetration
  - 68% females and 52% males reported at least one item.

- Relational TDV perpetration
  - 25% females and 21% males reported at least one item.

- Physical TDV perpetration
  - 43% females and 28% males reported at least one item.

- Sexual TDV perpetration
  - 18% females and 23% males reported at least one item.
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Scale level differences: $\eta^2 s = .05, .01, .00, .05$
### Logistic Regression Results

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TDV Perpetration Correlation Wave 6

Males $r = .33$

Females $r = .60$
TDV Perpetration & Victimization

Verbal Victim → Verbal Perpetration

Males $r = .67$
Females $r = .71$

Physical Victim → Physical Perpetration

Males $r = .55$
Females $r = .64$
Youth who engaged in high rates of self-reported bully perpetration during middle school were almost 7X more likely to self-report engaging in physical TDV perpetration four years later in high school.

This association was not moderated by gender.

This transition from nonphysical bullying perpetration toward peers to physical violence perpetration toward dating partners highlights an important developmental trend.

Bully perpetration was not associated with verbal or relational TDV perpetration over time.

Of note, perpetration and victimization are highly correlated at Wave 6.
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