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TEEN DATING VIOLENCE: A LITERATURE REVIEW AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PREFACE

This annotated bibliography and summary of research identify significant research carried out in the decade since 1999 on the issue of dating violence among high school and middle school youth. The survey provided by the bibliography and summary covers quantitative and qualitative literature on the definition and prevalence of, as well as risk factors for, adolescent dating violence, also called teen relationship abuse. Commonly researched risk factors, correlates, or predictors of teen dating violence include demographic and community-level factors, as well as more proximate family-level, individual-level, and situational risks. Particular note is taken of longitudinal work on such factors. The survey also encompasses research on the deleterious effects of dating violence both in the context of the current relationship and in future intimate partnerships. Finally, the bibliography and summary cover the literature on the effectiveness of prevention programs and on responses to the issue of dating violence in the law and legal systems.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Abuse in dating relationships is common among adolescents. In the United States, according to commonly cited figures, 10 to 12 percent of teens report physical abuse, and 33 percent report some kind of abuse.¹ Other sources cite different figures, often higher. This dating abuse has a plethora of negative associated conditions or consequences. Despite the high prevalence rates and deleterious effects, however, teen dating abuse has been slow to gain recognition as a critical public-health and policy concern. Adult intimate-partner violence and marital abuse more generally have gained such recognition, as seen, especially in the past three decades, in policy, program, and legal responses, and in an extensive research literature base devoted to the problem. Adolescents, by comparison, were long overlooked as a population that suffers from relationship abuse. The research literature on this age-group, particularly, pre-college-age teens, has been sparse, notwithstanding indications that dating violence among teens is not only serious, but also exhibits unique features as compared with its manifestation at other life periods. Only recently, especially in the decade 2000 to 2010, has this neglect shifted, with teen dating violence moving higher on the policy and research agenda.

This recent emergence of teen dating violence as a societal concern was confirmed and advanced by a recent gesture in the U. S. Congress. In January 2010, the Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 373) to designate the month of February 2010 as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. In March 2010, the House passed a companion resolution (H. Res. 1081).² Along with expanding the previously designated Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week to a month, this legislation calls for prioritizing efforts to stop teen dating violence. The Senate resolution “calls upon the people of the United States, including youth and parents, schools, law enforcement, state and local officials, and interested groups to observe . . . [the month] with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in their communities.”

¹ NOTE: The footnotes in this summary of research generally consist of abbreviated citations that are cross-references to relevant items in the annotated bibliography. A full citation is provided only in the case of quoted material and other specific debts.

² S.Res 373, 111th Cong. (2010); H. Res 1081, 111th Cong. (2010), <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c111:2:./temp/~c111BhpNXK>.

In offering their rationale for the passage of these resolutions, the House and Senate outline some of the disturbing trends regarding teen dating violence that prompted passage of the resolutions. The resolutions touch on the high prevalence of dating violence and its deleterious consequences, specifically mentioning reduced school attendance, increased likelihood of risky sexual behavior, “substance abuse, eating disorders . . . suicide, and adult revictimization.” The resolutions also state that communities, including parents, are insufficiently aware of the issue of teen dating abuse. Finally, the resolutions mention a new factor that heightens the urgency of combating lack of awareness and neglect of the issue, the emergence of digital abuse as a new frontier for teen dating abuse. This abuse involves online harassment or bullying, including actions associated with “sexting,” the electronic receipt and sending of sexually explicit or suggestive images or text messages.

In addition to this recent action by the Congress to elevate teen dating violence on the policy agenda, more and more states have brought increased recognition to the issue. In particular, state legislatures have acted to improve legal provisions pertinent to dating abuse among teens, e.g., laws governing access to orders of protection, requirements for parental consent to such access, and mandates requiring schools to provide education for violence prevention.³ As of March 2011, 14 states reportedly had laws mandating education on teen dating violence: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. Another six had similar pending legislation: California, Georgia, Maryland, Oregon, and Texas.⁴

Accompanying and spurring legislative responses at the state level as well as the federal level has been a growing body of empirical research on adolescent dating violence. The current decade has seen belated stepped-up efforts to examine the nature and extent of teen dating abuse, to illuminate various forms of abuse, to investigate age, gender, racial, and other demographic differences, and to understand correlates, predictors, and outcomes with which the abuse is associated. A limited but growing quantity of evaluation research has also emerged with the aim of assessing the effectiveness of an array of prevention and intervention initiatives that seek to combat teen relationship abuse. The stepped-up research efforts of this decade are the focus of

³ Break the Cycle, *2010 State Law Report Cards: A National Survey of Teen Dating Violence Laws*, April 12, 2010, <http://www.breakthecycle.org/system/files/pdf/2010-Dating-Violence-State-Law-Report-Card-Full-Report.pdf>.

⁴ National Conference of State Legislatures, “Teen Dating Violence,” updated March 22, 2011, <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=17582>.

this summary of research and annotated bibliography. The summary and bibliography cover the following topics as they pertain to this decade's literature on dating violence: how adolescent dating violence is defined and measured, the prevalence of such violence, what factors influence dating violence for teens, and what types of programs might be effective means of prevention or intervention.

Definition of Teen Dating Violence

The body of research literature and evaluation studies on adolescent dating violence or abuse does not operate with a uniform definition of such violence. A consensus is evident in the literature that teen dating abuse resembles adult domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behavior used to control another person. However, apart from agreement that behaviors of interpersonal coercion and power assertion are involved, teen dating violence has been defined in a number of ways that vary in comprehensiveness.⁵ A minority of researchers restrict the definition to include only the use of physical force or threats of force by or against a current or former intimate partner. More commonly, researchers use the terms dating violence or dating abuse in more encompassing ways. In broader definitions and usage, the terms cover a continuum of controlling or dominating acts that cause some degree of harm.⁶ When the literature operates with broader definitions, it most often includes three forms or commonly studied subtypes—physical abuse, psychological/emotional or verbal abuse, and sexual abuse.⁷

Physical dating violence includes a wide spectrum of activities. One of the best known authorities on teen dating violence, Vangie A. Foshee, lists examples of physical dating violence, including scratching, slapping, pushing, slamming or holding someone against a wall, biting, choking, burning, beating someone up, and assault with a weapon.⁸ Such violence obviously manifests itself with degrees of seriousness. In the literature on dating violence, physical abuse has sometimes been divided for separate study into mild, moderate, and severe forms, based on the likelihood of resulting injuries.

Psychological/emotional/verbal abuse, like physical abuse, encompasses a broad array of behaviors in the literature on dating violence. Such abuse may include insulting, criticizing,

⁵ Glass, Fredland, Campbell, Yonas et al., 2003.

⁶ Wekerle and Wolfe, 1999.

⁷ Wekerle and Wolfe, 1999.

⁸ Foshee, Bauman, Linder, Rice, and Wilcher, 2007.

humiliating in front of friends, or berating a partner. The literature also commonly covers within the category of psychological abuse various threatening behaviors.⁹ Examples of such threatening behaviors include threats to hurt a partner, threats to damage a partner's possessions, throwing objects at a partner but missing, and starting but stopping short of hitting a partner. Further, psychological abuse includes emotional manipulation, for example, threatening suicide, ignoring the partner, or threatening to break up. Other common forms of such abuse are behaviors whose effect is to undermine the partner's self-esteem and independence, e.g., attempting to isolate a partner from family, friends, or other potential social supports, and attempting to make a victim feel "crazy" by continually questioning the person's judgment.¹⁰ A concept newly brought into the literature on dating violence, "relational aggression," is a further type of abuse related to psychological abuse.¹¹ Discussed until recently mostly in connection with peer rather than dating relationships, such aggression involves, among other things, trying to damage a person's relationship with friends by spreading smears and false rumors or by revealing information or images intended to be private.¹² Finally, psychological abuse covers various stalking and excessive monitoring activities, such as spying on a partner's interactions with others or insisting that a partner always account for his or her whereabouts.

A theme now emerging in the literature on dating violence with respect to psychological abuse—especially relational aggression and excessive monitoring—is the facilitation of such abuse through the use of electronic technologies—cell phones and social networking.¹³ While most of the literature on the use of these technologies for interpersonal abuse among teens still focuses on peer abuse and bullying, attention is growing to their specific uses in dating-related emotional abuse.

Besides psychological and physical abuse, the third major subtype of abuse encompassed in broad definitions of teen dating violence is sexual abuse. Sexual abuse between adolescent partners can involve rape, attempted rape, and other forms of sexual coercion, including birth-control sabotage.¹⁴ Pressure to have sex before it is wanted or to have more sex than desired may

⁹ Draucker and Martsolf, 2010.

¹⁰ Smith and Donnelly, 2001.

¹¹ Leadbeater, Banister, Ellis, and Yeung, 2008.

¹² Schad, Szwedo, Antonishak, Hare, and Allen, 2008.

¹³ Draucker and Martsolf, 2010.

¹⁴ Rickert, Wiemann, Vaughan, and White, 2004. On birth-control sabotage, see Miller, Decker, Reed, Raj et al., September 2007.

also count as sexual abuse.¹⁵ Further, although sexual abuse can entail intercourse, other acts are also included within the definition of sexual abuse, insofar as “every act leading up to sexual intercourse can be classified as sexual abuse if it is without consent, painful, unprotected or performed in a demeaning way.”¹⁶

Whatever subtypes of abuse are considered, a complication in their understanding is the distinction between perpetration and victimization. Although the two are often reciprocal, particularly in adolescent dating situations, they are commonly separated for study and for measuring prevalence.

Prevalence

Although the comprehensiveness of the definition of teen dating violence varies, virtually all of the studies on such abuse make a point of mentioning the prevalence of the problem and are in agreement that rates of dating abuse among adolescents are quite high.¹⁷ A significant percentage of middle and high school youth experience dating violence, as perpetrator and/or victim. Low estimates of the problem put prevalence at about 10 percent. For example, according to the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a nationally representative high school survey conducted biennially by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 9.9 percent of high-school-aged teens reported violence in response to the question, “During the past year, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?”¹⁸ Many non-representative estimates for past-year physical victimization rates are higher, often falling in a range from 20 to 38 percent.¹⁹ Across the literature, still higher estimated top prevalence rates for dating violence are also common, reflecting mainly the reporting of psychological abuse or multiple types of abuse.

This large variability in reported prevalence rates for teen dating violence stems from several causes. The most important involves definitional differences across studies as to what constitutes dating violence. Studies differ in what subtypes of abuse they include when reporting prevalence figures, with some studies more inclusive than others. Some studies report only

¹⁵ Smith and Donnelly, 2001, 57.

¹⁶ Smith and Donnelly, 2001, 57.

¹⁷ Close, 2005; Holt and Espelage, 2005.

¹⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Youth Risk Surveillance Behavior—United States 2007,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 57, no. SS-4 (June 6, 2008): 7, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss5704.pdf>. See also Eaton, Davis, Barrios, Brenner, and Noonan, 2007; and Silverman, Raj, and Clements, 2004.

physical violence, some physical and psychological or sexual, and some all three major subtypes. A second major source of variability in reported prevalence is what particular subset of the overall high school and middle school student population is examined. The youth reported on are often a convenience sample, e.g., particular school populations, and only rarely are rates based on a random, nationally representative sample.²⁰ The youth may be of a particular age range, a single sex, only victims, or only teens in a dating relationship, or the youth may be high-risk teens, e.g., delinquents or sexual-minority teens. Additionally, differing prevalence rates may reflect different time frames, e.g., lifetime prevalence—encounters with dating violence at any time during youth—versus prevalence within a shorter or more defined period, e.g., “the past year.” Finally, the variability in prevalence data may reflect differences in study methods, e.g., differently administered surveys.

Prevalence Rates for Different Types of Abuse

When the differences in reported rates of abuse are a matter of differences in the subtypes included in the definition of abuse, the lower-end estimates of abuse clearly reflect more restrictive definitions used by the researchers or assumed by research subjects. The highest estimates likely reflect more comprehensive definitions in which various subtypes of violence are combined. One kind of restrictive definition—one that isolates physical violence for study—yields rates, as noted, from 10 to nearly 40 percent. While high and in a wide range, these rates are still lower than those for psychological/emotional forms of abuse, which are reported to have a prevalence rate as high as 76 percent among dating teens.²¹ Sexual violence tends to be reported at lower rates than the other two subtypes, i.e., at 3 to 11 percent.

Prevalence of Emerging Technologically Facilitated Variants of Psychological Abuse

An area of new interest in research on teen dating abuse and its prevalence, especially research with a focus on the psychological subtype, is the use of electronic technologies in the facilitation of abusive behaviors. Although the research is thus far limited, the prevalence of adolescents’ use of technology to commit acts of dating aggression appears to be high and is a

¹⁹ Feiring, Deblinger, Hoch-Espada, and Haworth, 2002.

²⁰ Studies that use nationally representative samples include: Ackard et al., 2003; Halpern et al., 2001, 2004; Howard and Wang, 2003a; Roberts, 2006; and Wolitsky-Taylor, 2008.

²¹ Arriaga and Foshee, 2004.

growing cause for concern.²² In 2007 a report funded by Liz Claiborne, Inc. appeared on teen dating violence and technology, including cell phones and computers.²³ Based on an online survey and interviews with teens, the report found that of the teens who had been in a relationship, a large number experienced levels of high-tech-facilitated partner monitoring, often experienced as excessive, as well as put-downs and harassment:

- One-third (36 percent) reported that their partner had checked up on them 10, 20, or 30 times per day via cell phone (for example, asking where he/she is, or who he/she is with).
- Almost one-third (30 percent) reported that their partner used email or text messaging to check up on them 10, 20, or 30 times per *hour*.
- One in four reported communicating electronically hourly between midnight and 5 A.M.
- Some 17 percent said their boy/girlfriend had made them afraid to not respond to an electronic communication.
- One in four experienced harassment, name-calling, or put downs from a current or former dating partner through cell phone or text messaging.
- Nearly one in five experienced harassment or put downs through a social networking site.²⁴

The survey also pointed to types of high-tech-facilitated psychological abuse other than excessive monitoring and insults, for example, “relational aggression” involving the use of technology to spread rumors designed to damage a partner’s friendships or reputation. In addition, teens used information posted on a networking site against a partner, used technology to demand unwanted sex, shared private or embarrassing photos or videos, or used technology to threaten a partner with physical harm. Overall, the survey found technology to be a significant facilitator of such abuse.²⁵ Other research on technology and dating abuse concurred, drawing attention to emerging concerns, such as the abusive technologically facilitated actions associated with “sexting.” Depending on the definition of sexting used, studies have found that between 13 and 31 percent of teens have received “sexting” messages or photos, and between 4 and 19 percent have sent them, with girls more often the senders than boys. Such private messages often wind up publicly shared without consent.²⁶

²² Draucker and Martsolf, 2010.

²³ Peter Picard, “Tech Abuse in Teen Relationships Study,” *Liz Claiborne Inc.*, January 2007, http://www.loveisnotabuse.com/c/document_library/get_file?p_1_id=45693&folderId=72612&name=DLFE-204.pdf.

²⁴ Picard, 2007.

²⁵ Draucker and Martsolf, 2010.

²⁶ For estimates of the prevalence of sexting by four national studies, see the following chart:

As noted by the anti–dating violence advocacy group Break the Cycle in a 2008 issue brief, the use of technology to perpetrate dating abuse is problematic, because the high-tech forms of abuse are so private as to allow the abuse to remain hidden.²⁷ At the same time, Break the Cycle cautions against demonizing the technology, which is likely merely the tool of abuse.²⁸ The research on dating violence and technology is as yet at too early a stage to say whether the technology actually heightens the risk or prevalence of dating violence or, if so, by how much.²⁹ This uncertainty about the prevalence of high-tech-facilitated dating abuse in turn contributes to the continuing variability in prevalence estimates for dating abuse overall and its various subtypes.

Prevalence Rates of Different Population Samples

In addition to the variability in prevalence rates that stems from the multiplicity of subtypes of dating violence, variability in rates is also traceable to the variety of subpopulations or samples of youth that the literature on dating violence examines. Only a minority of the research on teen dating abuse derives prevalence figures from nationally representative samples.³⁰ More typically, the research, even when examining data on large numbers of youth, uses some kind of convenience sample, such as the student population of a particular school or school district. The research also commonly singles out a particular segment of the adolescent population for study—an age segment, high-risk youth, youth with minority sexual orientations, victims only, or youth from an ethnic/racial minority group.³¹

Sexting by the Numbers

	% Who Sent	% Who Received
National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (2008)	19%	31%
Cox Communications (2009)	9%	17%
MTV/AP (2009)	10%	15%
Pew (2009)	4%	15%
Hinduja and Patchin (2010)	8%	13%

Based on: Sameer Hinduja and Justin W. Patchin, “Sexting: A Brief Guide for Educators and Parents,” Cyberbullying Research Center, 2010. Retrieved February 20, 2011, from http://www.cyberbullying.us/Sexting_Fact_Sheet.pdf.

²⁷ Break the Cycle, “Technology and Teen Dating Violence,” *Issue Brief*, no. 4 (December 2008), <http://www.vaw.umn.edu/documents/technologytdv/technologytdv.pdf>.

²⁸ Break the Cycle, 2008.

²⁹ Draucker and Martsolf, 2010.

³⁰ Ackard, Neumark-Sztainer, and Hannan, 2003.

³¹ Arriaga and Foshee, 2004.

With respect to age, the literature has found that the prevalence, as well as the severity, of dating abuse increases over time. The frequency and severity of both perpetration and victimization rise from the early to mid-teen years.³² For example, in a six-month longitudinal study of eighth- and ninth-grade students, self-reported perpetration increased from 20 to 32 percent prevalence, and victimization increased from 36 to 48 percent.³³ Another study found that more physical and emotional abuse was reported among high school students than among middle school students.³⁴ In addition, research has suggested that, while the prevalence of physical perpetration begins to decline in late adolescence/early adulthood, the deleterious physical and psychological health consequences increase in severity with age.³⁵

Besides age-group-specific prevalences of abuse, segment-specific prevalence rates have been found for various adolescent subpopulations. Not surprisingly, for example, youth singled out for study as high-risk have a higher prevalence of dating violence than comparison groups.³⁶ The research literature defines high-risk youth as adolescents participating in high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse, or coming from high-risk environments, e.g., impoverished homes or disadvantaged neighborhoods. One study of youth in an alternative school showed elevated rates of perpetration of physical dating violence, with 33 percent of boys and 68 percent of girls classified as dating violent (as measured by the Conflict Tactics Scale).³⁷ A study of girls receiving child-protection services found that half were victims of physical or sexual dating violence.³⁸

In the cases of some youth subpopulations studied, notably, sexual and ethnic/racial minorities, the hypothesized higher prevalence of dating violence has not been borne out consistently in the research. Research on dating violence among sexual minorities—gay, lesbian,

³² Champion, Foley, Sigmon-Smith et al., 2008. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 72 percent of eighth- and ninth-graders report “dating.” See CDC, “Choose Respect,” March 5, 2010, http://www.cdc.gov/chooserespect/understanding_dating_violence/dating_violence_facts.html.

³³ Arriaga and Foshee, 2004.

³⁴ Holt and Espelage, 2005.

³⁵ Ackard, Eisenberg, and Neumark-Sztainer, 2007. On the severity of dating aggression as a function of age in a sample of Spanish adolescents, see Marina J. Muñoz-Rivas, Jose Luis Graña, K. Daniel O’Leary, M. Pilar González, “Aggression in Adolescent Dating Relationships: Prevalence, Justification, and Health Consequences,” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 40, no. 4 (April 2007): 298–304, <http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X%2806%2900570-2/fulltext>.

³⁶ Roberts, Klein, and Fisher, 2003.

³⁷ Chase, Treboux, and O’Leary, 2002, 36. According to these authors (p. 34), “This prevalence rate is considerably higher than the 15% to 35% prevalence found among normative adolescents (i.e., those attending regular high schools and not exhibiting major behavior problems).”

bisexual, or transgendered youth—is limited in quantity. Studies hitherto show rates of abuse that are comparable to heterosexuals, or at most slightly higher.³⁹ At highest risk among male gay and lesbian teens, according to one 2002 study, were youth in covert bisexual and homosexual relationships. The study found that much of the physical and emotional abuse in these relationships was linked to “outing”—the unwanted disclosure of a person’s sexual orientation to others.⁴⁰

As in the case of sexual-minority youth, the research on ethnic/racial minority youth is not definitive as to whether such youth have higher rates. Some evidence suggests that racial/ethnic minority youth, especially African American males and females, may be involved in dating violence perpetration and victimization more than are Caucasian adolescents.⁴¹ When national data are examined by ethnicity, Hispanic girls appear more likely than their peers to report dating violence victimization.⁴² Other research finds that such victimization and perpetration are more common among African Americans than among either Hispanics or Caucasians.⁴³ However, even when higher rates are found for ethnic/racial subpopulations, it is unclear whether the elevated rates are associated with race/ethnicity per se, rather than with other characteristics of the youth for which race stands as a marker, such as neighborhood of residence or socioeconomic status.⁴⁴

Gender Parity in Rates, Reciprocal Aggression, and Gender-Specific Impacts

Perhaps the most discussed issue within the teen dating violence literature on prevalence rates concerns gender-specific rates. Much of the literature on teens finds that boys and girls report abuse about equally.⁴⁵ Some research finds different rates of perpetration by gender, with adolescent females tending to exhibit higher prevalence of inflicting abuse than adolescent

³⁸ Wekerle and Wolfe, 1999.

³⁹ Halpern, Young, Waller et al., 2004.

⁴⁰ Freedner, Freed, Yang, and Austin, 2002.

⁴¹ Howard and Wang, 2003a, 2003b; Ackard and Neumark-Sztainer, 2002; Ackard, Neumark-Sztainer, and Hannan, 2003; Glass, Fredland, Campbell et al., 2003; Eaton, Davis, Barrios et al., 2007.

⁴² Howard and Wang, 2003b; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2001,” *CDC Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 51, no. SS-4 (June 28, 2002), http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/indss_2002.html.

⁴³ CDC, “Youth Risk Surveillance Behavior—United States 2007,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 57, no. SS-4 (June 6, 2008), 7; Glass, Fredland, Campbell et al., 2003.

⁴⁴ Ackard, Neumark-Sztainer, and Hannan, 2003.

⁴⁵ O’Keefe, 2005.

males.⁴⁶ This finding of higher female perpetration is unique to dating violence as a subset of all violence. Although girls may perpetrate more frequently than boys, some research on physical violence finds that boys and girls are about equally likely to be victims of physical dating violence.⁴⁷ The National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey found essentially no gender differences in victimization rates, with 9.8 percent of female high school students and about 9.1 percent of male students saying they had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year.⁴⁸ In accounting for the findings of possibly higher rates of female perpetration and gender parity in victimization, some literature has attributed the findings to the fact that the majority of violent adolescent relationships involve mutual or reciprocal violence. Some 66 to 86 percent of violent teen couples report reciprocal violence.⁴⁹

The relatively similar levels of victimization reported by males and females do not preclude significant gender differences in either the consequences of abuse or the subtypes of aggression to which the two sexes resort.⁵⁰ Some research suggests that boys tend to perpetrate more severe physical violence—e.g., involving weapons and punching—and more sexual violence than females, whereas girls may commit minor to moderate abusive acts—e.g., scratching, slapping, and throwing objects—may perpetrate more verbal aggression, and may suffer more psychological and sexual victimization than males.⁵¹ Other research on psychological abuse shows that males most commonly use psychological abuse alone, whereas girls more commonly use psychological abuse in combination with physical abuse.⁵² Whatever the gender differences in types of abuse used, however, across the literature, boys consistently appear to be less severely victimized than girls, as measured by the severity of reported violent acts and the frequency and severity of injuries sustained.⁵³ Although boys, like girls, suffer negative consequences of victimization, such as depressive symptoms and injury, girls report

⁴⁶ Feiring, Deblinger, Hoch-Espada, and Haworth, 2002; Champion, Foley, Sigmon-Smith et al., 2008.

⁴⁷ Arriaga and Foshee, 2004.

⁴⁸ CDC, “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2001,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 51, no. SS-4 (June 28, 2002).

⁴⁹ O’Leary, Slep, Avery-Leaf, and Cascardi, 2008.

⁵⁰ For a discussion of the problems of overemphasizing gender parity in violence, see Elizabeth Reed, Anita Raj, Elizabeth Miller, and Jay G. Silverman, “Losing the “Gender” in Gender-Based Violence: The Missteps of Research on Dating and Intimate Partner Violence,” *Violence Against Women* 16, no. 3 (March 2010): 348 (accessed via Proquest).

⁵¹ Sears, Byers, and Whelan, 2006. See also Foshee, Benefield, Suchindran et al., 2009, on boys of all ages as the perpetrators of more severe physical and sexual dating abuse than girls.

⁵² Sears, Byers, and Price, 2007.

⁵³ Arriaga and Foshee, 2004.

greater fear of their partner as a consequence of the violence, and otherwise suffer a disproportionate share of negative and lasting sequelae.⁵⁴

Research on Risk Factors and Predictors of Dating Abuse

Although debates about the prevalence of teen dating violence overall and for particular groups are ongoing, a consensus exists in the literature that the problem is a serious public-health and policy issue. As such, it warrants concerted research efforts better to understand the risk factors or correlates and predictors of abuse. The literature on teen dating violence has examined a myriad of risk factors—factors associated with an increased probability of the onset or occurrence of such abuse. With respect to risk factors, researchers regularly underscore that they are correlates of dating violence and not necessarily causative factors. For example, a behavior such as substance abuse may heighten the likelihood of dating abuse but may also be an outcome made more likely by abuse.

A cursory review of the research shows that the risk factors/correlates range from the more remote community-level or demographic factors through family-level and peer characteristics to individual-level factors and features of the immediate abuse situation. The bulk of research on teen dating violence is concentrated on the less remote end of the spectrum—familial, peer, individual, and situational factors. The sometimes-stated grounds for this concentration are that these factors may be more amenable to change through policy intervention. In fact, many studies in the literature deliberately and explicitly control for sociodemographic factors—holding them constant—in order to isolate the effects of more immediate risk factors, such as the number of prior episodes of dating violence, alcohol usage, or individuals' psychological states, e.g., depression or low self-esteem.⁵⁵ Whatever the level or category of risk factor studied, the research studies commonly separate the risk factors for perpetration and for victimization, seeking to illuminate both perpetrator characteristics and victim attributes.

⁵⁴ Foshee et al., 2007.

⁵⁵ Ackard and Neumark-Sztainer, 2002.

Socioeconomic and Demographic Factors

While most research on adolescent dating violence to date has focused on individual, familial, and peer determinants or correlates of victimization and perpetration, some research within the body of literature on teen relationship abuse has undertaken to investigate the question of differential risk by various socio-contextual and demographic factors. That is, a minority of studies on dating abuse deviate from the common practice of controlling for sociodemographic and broad contextual factors, instead directly addressing their role in dating abuse. Typically, the questions addressed are not just whether and to what degree certain socioeconomic and demographic factors heighten the likelihood of abuse, but also how they influence the nature of the abuse, interact with other risk factors, and affect responses to abuse, such as help-seeking behavior.

Prominent among the broad contextual/community-level and sociodemographic variables examined for their role in dating abuse have been socioeconomic status—community or household—and race/ethnicity. In addition, geographic region as a possible risk factor, particularly the U.S. North/South divide, has received some attention, as has the geographic factor of urban versus rural location or inner-city versus suburban setting. Research has also weighed family structure, specifically, single-parent versus two-parent, as a risk factor.⁵⁶

A number of studies have found socioeconomic disadvantage—whether of a youth’s family, school, or neighborhood—to be a factor that heightens the risk for dating violence.⁵⁷ In fact, by some definitions, low socioeconomic status—proxied sometimes by parental education—is one of the defining attributes of “high-risk” youth or youth at risk.⁵⁸ At the same time, studies of dating violence have made at best only limited efforts to clarify how low socioeconomic status exercises an effect on teen dating abuse. The studies do not necessarily have as their aim to claim differential risk as a *direct* function of being of low socioeconomic status. The studies are ambiguous as to whether low socioeconomic status affects abuse directly and independently by the same dynamic that produces other excess health-risk and antisocial behaviors, or indirectly by fueling other more immediate risk behaviors that increase the odds of abuse, such as association with violent peers, or by modifying the influence of other risk factors.

⁵⁶ Foshee, Benefield, Ennett et al., 2004; Foshee, Benefield, Suchindran et al., 2009.

⁵⁷ Ackard, Neumark-Sztainer, and Hannan, 2003; Foshee, Benefield, Suchindran et al., 2009.

⁵⁸ Foshee, Benefield, Suchindran et al., 2009.

Similarly limited in their clarifying ambitions are studies in the literature on dating violence that find positive associations between race/ethnicity and dating violence. A considerable number of studies document differences in dating abuse between blacks and whites, not just with respect to higher participation rates for blacks but also different predictors and consequences.⁵⁹ Other studies find differences between whites and minorities, and between blacks and other minorities, most often Hispanics.⁶⁰

When the studies find differential risk by race/ethnicity, they consistently find African American youth to be at highest risk among the other groups examined, whether just white youth or whites and other minorities.⁶¹ Hispanics are sometimes found to have higher rates of dating abuse than whites, but also, in the case of immigrant Hispanics, sometimes lower.⁶² In the sparse research on teens of Asian/Pacific Islander background, the findings are also variable, with some having greater and some lower odds of participating in dating violence than whites and Hispanics.⁶³ In regard to the correlates of dating abuse and possible differences in correlates across racial/ethnic groups, not all studies on such groups are explicitly comparative.⁶⁴ Some studies simply identify the correlates for a racially specific sample, for example, African American females.⁶⁵ However, research with overtly comparative elements has documented notable inter-group differences in the salient correlates of abuse. Studies have found, for example, that being African American is associated with a heightened impact of other risk factors: One study provided evidence that exposure to family violence was more predictive of the onset of dating violence perpetration for black teens than for whites.⁶⁶

Whatever the findings of the studies about ethnically/racially distinctive rates of, reasons for, and results from dating violence, a feature common to most of the studies is that they abstain from questioning whether the distinctiveness is attributable in some sense to race/ethnicity per se. That is, in general they do not broach the possibility that the distinctiveness is rather a function of factors disproportionately but accidentally associated with race, such as community-level socioeconomic disadvantage. However, one strand of thinking occasionally detectable in

⁵⁹ Williams, 2008; Glass, Fredland, Campbell, Yonas et al., 2003; Foshee, Reyes, and Ennett, 2010.

⁶⁰ Silverman, Decker, and Raj, 2007.

⁶¹ Glass, Fredland, Campbell, Yonas et al., 2003.

⁶² Howard and Wang, 2003b; Glass, Fredland, Campbell, Yonas et al., 2003; Silverman, Decker, and Raj, 2007.

⁶³ Ramisetty-Mikler, Goebert, Nishimura, and Caetano, 2006.

⁶⁴ Wingood, DiClemente, McCree et al., 2001.

⁶⁵ Raiford, Wingood, and DiClemente, 2007.

⁶⁶ Foshee, Ennett, Bauman et al., 2005.

the dating violence literature runs counter to its usual approach.⁶⁷ Influenced by a substantial and growing body of “neighborhood effects” literature in sociology, this strand within the literature highlights not race but the characteristics of neighborhoods in which people of a given race are disproportionately concentrated.⁶⁸ In the broader neighborhood literature, community disadvantage—a matter of high unemployment, residential instability, high rates of single-parent families, etc.—detracts from a community’s collective capacity to maintain order and monitor youth. The community’s disadvantage and reduced collective monitoring capacity, not race, heighten the likelihood among youth of dysfunctional and aggressive behaviors of various kinds.⁶⁹ Some researchers have succeeded in showing a positive relationship between neighborhood disadvantage and either dating violence or risk factors for it.⁷⁰

Beyond the small strand of research on neighborhood effects within the literature on dating violence, another limited collection of studies on broad contextual risk factors addresses the possibility of differential risk by geographic location, in particular by region, mainly the North versus the South, and by urban versus rural or suburban settings. The studies overall have produced conflicting results. With regard to regional effects, for example, a 2007 national study found rates of dating violence to be higher among adolescents in the southern United States than in other regions of the country.⁷¹ The study found rates in the South of 43.8 percent, followed by the West at 27.5 percent, the Midwest at 25.7 percent, and the East at 22.8 percent. The authors concluded that the high rate in the South reflected the “culture of violence” that has long characterized the southern U.S. states, as well as more traditional views on gender roles. Other research, however, has failed to substantiate such regional differences, undermining claims that, per se, residence in the South is a risk factor for teen dating violence. Similarly conflicting evidence emerges in the research on urban versus rural or suburban setting as a risk factor. Some have found that the rates of inflicting physical aggression against a dating partner are higher in urban inner-city areas than in rural areas.⁷² Others have found that youth from rural areas are at

⁶⁷ Champion, Foley, Sigmon-Smith et al., 2008.

⁶⁸ For a representative example of research in the neighborhood studies tradition, see Thomas L. McNulty and Paul E. Bellair, “Explaining Racial and Ethnic Differences in Adolescent Violence: Structural Disadvantage, Family Well-Being, and Social Capital,” *Justice Quarterly* 1 (2003): 1–31.

⁶⁹ Browning, Leventhal, and Brooks-Gunn, 2005.

⁷⁰ Karriker-Jaffe, Foshee, Ennett, and Suchindran, 2009.

⁷¹ Marquart, Nannini, Edwards et al., 2007.

⁷² Hickman, Jaycox, and Aronoff, 2004.

increased risk of dating violence compared to suburban and even to metropolitan areas.⁷³ Again, the prevalence of traditional beliefs about gender roles is among the reasons suggested.

Prior Exposure to Violence in the Family, Among Peers, and in the Community

Compared to the research on sociodemographic and broad contextual factors, the body of dating-abuse studies that focus on more immediate risk factors is considerable in quantity and tends to be more definitive in its findings. One of these more immediate factors—one of major interest to researchers—is prior exposure to violence, whether violence in the family, violence among peers, violence at school, or community-level—“street”—violence.

Familial Violence Variables and Other Family Factors

Literature on dating violence consistently shows important relations between family- or parental-violence variables and teen dating abuse.⁷⁴ Among the family-violence variables commonly studied are negative interactions of youth with their parents—corporal punishment or other harsh discipline or violence against the child with the intention of harm—and witnessing intrafamilial violence, particularly between parents.⁷⁵ Other family factors include lack of closeness in the parent/child relationship and lax parental monitoring—a level of monitoring disproportionately associated with a particular family structure, namely, single-parent households.⁷⁶

Substantial evidence exists demonstrating associations between dating abuse and the negative interactions of youth with their parents. For both sexes, a history of parent-to-child maltreatment or physical abuse (i.e., being hit with the intention of harm) is associated with verbal, physical, and sexual dating violence as both victim and perpetrator.⁷⁷ Studies examining male youth have highlighted punitive parenting as a risk factor for elevated levels of dating violence perpetration.⁷⁸ For females, studies have linked a history of childhood sexual abuse with significantly higher rates of teen dating violence perpetration and victimization compared to non-abused peers, with prevalence rates of physical victimization as high as 45 percent and

⁷³ Marquart, Nannini, Edwards et al., 2007.

⁷⁴ Gorman-Smith, Tolan, Sheidow, and Henry, 2001.

⁷⁵ Wekerle and Wolfe, 1999.

⁷⁶ Chase, Treboux, and O’Leary, 2002.

⁷⁷ Foshee, Benefield, Ennett et al., 2004; Foshee, Ennett, Bauman, Benefield, and Suchindran, 2005.

⁷⁸ Lavoie, Robitaille, Hébert, Tremblay et al., 2002.

prevalence rates of reciprocal psychological abuse at more than 90 percent.⁷⁹ The duration of sexual abuse and actual penetration further strengthened the associations.⁸⁰

Apart from the impact on dating abuse of having been the target of family-of-origin violence, studies have shown impacts from witnessing conflict and violence within the home, particularly interparental violence.⁸¹ Exposure to parents' marital violence during childhood has been found to have significant links with, for example, dating violence victimization, especially for girls.⁸² For boys especially, exposure to interparental conflict is a significant predictor of verbal and physical dating violence perpetration.⁸³

Besides family-of-origin violence variables, another cluster of family factors often scrutinized for their effect on dating violence has to do with parental monitoring or supervision.⁸⁴ Studies have shown that adequate parental monitoring is a protective factor, associated with lower levels of victimization for both sexes and with lower levels of perpetration for boys.⁸⁵ Parental monitoring is also protective against relational forms of perpetration.⁸⁶ Conversely, lax monitoring is a well-documented risk factor for dating violence. This factor may account for the finding of some studies that residence in a single-parent household increases a youth's odds of being involved in dating abuse.⁸⁷

Peer Group and “Street” Influence

In addition to investigating the impact of family-of-origin factors, most notably, intrafamilial violence, the literature, especially recently, has devoted a significant amount of attention to another type of exposure to violence, that afforded by interactions in an individual's peer network.⁸⁸ An accumulation of research shows that peer violence, such as fighting amongst peers or peer involvement in violent dating relationships, strongly predisposes adolescents to become involved in relationship violence.⁸⁹ Evidence indicates, for example, that early

⁷⁹ Cyr, McDuff, and Wright, 2006.

⁸⁰ Cyr, McDuff, and Wright, 2006.

⁸¹ Wekerle and Wolfe, 1999; Lichter and McCloskey, 2004.

⁸² Foshee, Benefield, Ennett et al., 2004.

⁸³ Kinsfogel and Grych, 2004.

⁸⁴ Browning, Leventhal, and Brooks-Gunn, 2005.

⁸⁵ Leadbeater, Banister, Ellis, and Yeung, 2008; Lavoie, Robitaille, Hébert, Tremblay et al., 2002.

⁸⁶ Chase, Treboux, and O'Leary, 2002; Leadbeater, Banister, Ellis, and Yeung, 2008.

⁸⁷ Bailey, 2000; Foshee, Benefield, Ennett et al., 2004.

⁸⁸ Chase, Treboux, and O'Leary, 2002; Foshee, Benefield, Ennett et al., 2004; Adelman and Kil, December 2007.

⁸⁹ Capaldi, Dishion, Stoolmiller et al., 2001; Arriaga and Foshee, 2004; Foshee, Reyes, Ennett, 2010.

association with antisocial peers heightens the likelihood of dating violence perpetration for males and females.⁹⁰ Studies show as well that having friends in violent relationships increases the odds of involvement in dating aggression as both perpetrators and victims.⁹¹ Significant associations hold for both boys and girls, with some differences.⁹² Peer violence has been correlated with perpetration and sexual aggression more consistently for boys. For girls, membership in a deviant or violent peer network, male peer sexual harassment, and physical fights have more consistently predicted dating victimization.

Perhaps the literature's most interesting finding about these well-demonstrated peer violence–dating violence associations is that they appear to be stronger than the associations between familial factors and dating violence. That is, some evidence suggests, extrafamilial violence—aggressiveness in the peer network—is more predictive of involvement in dating violence than exposure to violence in the adolescent's family of origin.⁹³ Researchers attribute this finding to the potent part that peers play as role models for youth behavior.

Beyond peer-group violence, a further type of extrafamilial violence that demonstrably predisposes adolescents to dating aggression is community-level “street” violence or violent crime exposure.⁹⁴ Research has shown that exposure to community violence, including exposure to weapons and violent injury, can exacerbate the impact of witnessed interparental violence and aggressive peers.⁹⁵ One study showed that adolescents who witnessed violent crime were more likely to report dating violence victimization.⁹⁶ Another study detailed the interplay in a sample of urban African American and Latino males aged 15 to 19 between partner abuse and street offending.⁹⁷ The study found that subjects were more likely to report the use of violence in relationships if they were also participating in violence as part of other criminal behavior. More than one-third of the youths who engaged in violence perpetrated both partner violence and street violence.⁹⁸

⁹⁰ Schnurr, 2009.

⁹¹ Arriaga and Foshee, 2004.

⁹² Foshee, Reyes, and Ennett, 2010.

⁹³ Arriaga and Foshee, 2004.

⁹⁴ Gorman-Smith, Tolan, Sheidow, and Henry, 2001.

⁹⁵ Schnurr, 2009.

⁹⁶ Spriggs, Halpern, and Martin, 2009.

⁹⁷ Gorman-Smith, Tolan, Sheidow, and Henry, 2001.

⁹⁸ Gorman-Smith, Tolan, Sheidow, and Henry, 2001.

Beliefs and Norms as Risk Factors: Attitudes Regarding Violence and Gender

In the case of both extrafamilial and intrafamilial violence, ample evidence suggests that exposure per se is a less reliable predictor of dating violence than are the attitudes and beliefs to which such exposure is liable to contribute. Childhood exposure to marital violence between parents, for example, may strengthen an adolescent's beliefs about the justifiability of resorting to violence in dating relationships. As studies have found, these beliefs about dating relationships are a stronger predictor than the exposure to marital violence itself.⁹⁹ Indeed, a consistent finding in studies is that beliefs and attitudes tolerant of dating violence are among the most significant risk factors, particularly for perpetration, and according to some studies, particularly among males.¹⁰⁰ Some evidence suggests that male perpetrators of dating violence are more likely to expect positive consequences, whereas non-violent males are more likely to expect violence to dissolve the relationship.¹⁰¹

Often accompanying attitudes tolerant of violence in romantic relationships are attitudes or beliefs about the "proper" roles of males and females in relationships. Some evidence indicates that holding traditional beliefs about male and female gender roles in relationships is a risk factor for involvement in dating violence.¹⁰² More specifically, patriarchal gender ideas about males may promote the infliction of abuse and influence the type of abuse used, while sexist stereotypes about females and a female's gender socialization may increase the odds of victimization.¹⁰³ However, as some research on youth attitudes shows, a double standard on gender roles can dampen the proclivity of males to use violence when such a standard leads to condemning a male's resort to violence more harshly than a female's.¹⁰⁴ That is, the findings on gender-stereotyped norms and beliefs across studies are not consistent.

Notwithstanding the inconclusiveness of some of the research on specific beliefs and norms as risk factors, the literature remains heavily concentrated on assessing belief, norms, and attitudes. The reason in part is that these factors may be more amenable to change than many others that could heighten the odds of dating abuse directly or fuel pro-violence or sexist

⁹⁹ Lichter and McCloskey, 2004.

¹⁰⁰ Sears, Byers, and Price, 2007; Sears, Byers, and Whelan, 2006.

¹⁰¹ Helms, 2009; Ulloa, Jaycox, and Marshall, 2004.

¹⁰² Lichter and McCloskey, 2004.

¹⁰³ Foshee, Benefield, Ennett et al., 2004.

¹⁰⁴ Gallopini and Leigh, 2009.

beliefs—e.g., residence in a neighborhood with a low capacity to combat violence or rearing in a harshly punitive family.

Individual-Level Risk Factors

Another major area of concentration in research on risk factors is individual-level variables, including mental-health problems (e.g., low self-esteem,¹⁰⁵ anxiety, anger or depressed mood, and suicidality¹⁰⁶); participation in maladaptive or antisocial behaviors (e.g., substance abuse, risky sex);¹⁰⁷ low academic achievement;¹⁰⁸ deficient communication skills and aggressive conflict-management styles;¹⁰⁹ and low help-seeking proclivities.¹¹⁰ Studies on these individual-level risk factors typically examine their associations with both perpetration and victimization for male and female adolescents.¹¹¹ For example, studies find depressed mood associated for females with perpetration of dating abuse.¹¹² Sad and hopeless feelings have been associated for both males and females with increased risk for physical victimization.¹¹³ For both males and females, physical and emotional dating victimization have also been associated with symptoms of anxiety and depression, although perceived social support may moderate this relation, particularly for African American males.¹¹⁴ Also for males, dating victimization is predicted by low self-esteem and is associated with suicidal ideation or attempts.¹¹⁵ In one study, female victimization was associated with alcohol and marijuana use, early initiation of alcohol use, and sexual history (i.e., ever having sex, number of lifetime partners), whereas victimization among males was associated only with sexual history.¹¹⁶ For females, sexual victimization is associated with depressed mood.¹¹⁷

Although the findings of positive associations between individual-level variables and abuse are plentiful and robust, it is in connection with these variables that the ubiquitous issue of

¹⁰⁵ Ackard and Neumark-Sztainer, 2002.

¹⁰⁶ Chase, Treboux, and O’Leary, 2002; Howard, Wang, and Fang, Summer 2007.

¹⁰⁷ Silverman, Raj, Mucci et al., August 2001.

¹⁰⁸ Gorman-Smith, Tolan, Sheidow, and Henry, 2001; Wekerle and Wolfe, 1999.

¹⁰⁹ Gardner and Boellaard, 2007; Feiring, Deblinger, Hoch-Espada, and Haworth, 2002.

¹¹⁰ Weisz and Black, 2009.

¹¹¹ Champion, Foley, Sigmon-Smith et al., 2008; Glass, Fredland, Campbell, Yonas et al., 2003.

¹¹² Chase, Treboux, and O’Leary, 2002; Banyard and Cross, 2008.

¹¹³ Howard and Wang, 2003a, 2003b; Howard, Wang, and Fang, Summer 2007.

¹¹⁴ Holt and Espelage, 2005.

¹¹⁵ Foshee, Benefield, Ennett et al., 2004; Howard and Wang, 2003a.

¹¹⁶ Eaton, Davis, Barrios, Brenner, and Noonan, 2007.

¹¹⁷ Foshee, Benefield, Ennett et al., 2004.

causality—what is cause and what effect—is most manifest. That is, for example, is low self-esteem or depressed mood a predisposing vulnerability factor for abuse or a result of it? Sorting out the temporal sequence—what direction influence flows—is not an unimportant matter, insofar as clarifying the direction can have significant implications for the design of programs intended to ameliorate abuse.¹¹⁸ Prevention and intervention programs presuppose having an idea of what correlates of abuse need to be targeted to reduce the risk of future abusive behavior. For prevention programs, appropriately targeted correlates would seem to be factors antecedent to abuse. For many typically targeted correlates—e.g., pro-violence attitudes, rigid beliefs about sex roles, or poor conflict-management skills—the assumption that they are antecedent makes at least intuitive sense. However, many vulnerability factors, such as illicit substance abuse, risky sexual behaviors—e.g., condom nonuse—depressed mood, and eating disorders may be consequences of abuse, occurring or increasing subsequent to it, and best treated as effects rather than as predisposing factors.¹¹⁹

The solution ordinarily proposed in the dating literature for this problem of temporal sequence—cause versus effect—is longitudinal studies, especially studies with relatively long follow-up periods.¹²⁰ With the help of longitudinal studies, researchers are able to determine which cross-sectional correlates of abuse are actually effects—a determination needed in cases where the temporal sequence does not make this as obvious as it does, for example, with physical injury.¹²¹ Notwithstanding wide acknowledgement in the literature of the value of the clarification that longitudinal design permits, studies with such design, especially those with long follow-up periods, are limited in number.¹²²

Consequences of Abuse

With or without explicit reliance on the clarification that longitudinal studies offer on some temporal relationships, many studies in the literature call attention to numerous serious consequences of dating abuse. The effects on which the literature focuses are not so much physical injuries or even fatalities, although some research stresses their magnitude and prevalence. One recent study estimated that as many as 25 percent of male and female abuse

¹¹⁸ Roberts, Klein, and Fisher, 2003.

¹¹⁹ Howard and Wang, 2003a, 2003b; Wingood, DiClemente, McCree, Harrington, and Davies, 2001.

¹²⁰ Arriaga and Foshee, 2004; Ackard, Eisenberg, and Neumark-Sztainer, 2007.

¹²¹ Lavoie, Robitaille, Hebert, and Tremblay, 2002.

victims suffered injury.¹²³ Some studies focus as well on gender differences in the seriousness of injuries.¹²⁴ Still, the bulk of studies on effects concentrate on the host of non-physical deleterious consequences as an issue of public health.

Many studies focus on consequences that can be seen near-term, such as victims' reduced mental health and post-traumatic stress,¹²⁵ lower self-esteem, declines in school achievement, and increases in eating disorders and substance use.¹²⁶ One notable longitudinal study was conducted on depressed mood and a wide variety of risky behaviors, using that research design to ensure a correct assessment of the temporal direction of influences.¹²⁷ The nationally representative study found not only that the negative mood and behaviors increased subsequent to abuse, but also that the effects were lasting. Another longitudinal study found negative psychological and behavioral health impacts of dating violence for both males and females, with females, in particular, at increased risk of long-term impacts.¹²⁸

Other studies assess consequences that can be seen only after a time lapse of some years, most notably, the carryover of violence to later relationships, that is, the increased likelihood of participation in intimate-partner violence as an adult.¹²⁹ One such study, examining data on college men over five years, found that the perpetration of sexual abuse during adolescence predicted increased rates of such perpetration in early adulthood.¹³⁰ A similar study of college women over four years showed that those who were physically victimized in high school were at significantly greater risk for physical victimization throughout the college years. The study found also that victimization of one type (i.e., either physical or sexual) elevated the risk of victimization of the other type. The patterns of revictimization and covictimization persisted throughout the college years.¹³¹

¹²² Arriaga and Foshee, 2004; Ackard, Eisenberg, and Neumark-Sztainer, 2007.

¹²³ O'Leary, Slep, Avery-Leaf, and Cascardi, 2008.

¹²⁴ O'Leary, Slep, Avery-Leaf, and Cascardi, 2008; Halpern, Oslak, Young, Martin, and Kupper, 2001.

¹²⁵ Wolitsky-Taylor, Ruggiero, Danielson et al., 2008.

¹²⁶ Ackard and Neumark-Sztainer, 2002; Howard and Wang, 2003b; Close, 2005; Cyr, McDuff, and Wright, 2006; Champion, Foley, Sigmon-Smith et al., 2008.

¹²⁷ Roberts, Klein, and Fisher, 2003.

¹²⁸ Ackard, Eisenberg, and Neumark-Sztainer, 2007.

¹²⁹ Paige, White, and Holland, 2003; Arriaga and Foshee, 2004; O'Keefe, 2005; Wekerle and Wolfe, 1999; Ramisetty-Mikler, Goebert, Nishimura, and Caetano, 2006.

¹³⁰ White and Smith, 2004.

¹³¹ Smith, White, and Holland, 2003.

Literature on Amelioration Efforts in Programs and Law

Whatever the specific findings of the research on the deleterious effects of teen dating abuse, the overall thrust of the findings serves to stress the need for serious responses to the abuse problem and to counter what many researchers perceive as its minimization by authorities, schools, and general society, including teenagers themselves and their parents. Such responses are urged and emerging on several fronts: prevention/intervention programming—in effect, public-health outreach—to ameliorate the abuse problem and, more rarely and recently, changes to the legal/justice system. In tandem with the two major types of responses—program initiatives and legal reforms—a literature that covers each has also emerged.

Programs and Program Effectiveness

With respect to programs, a significant number have been put in place, mostly school-based and some community-based. Most are “primary prevention” programs whose aim is to preempt abuse, stopping it before it starts. The emphasis of the programs is usually conveying accurate knowledge and appropriate attitudes about dating abuse. Typical curricula focus on raising awareness of dating violence, combating pro-violence beliefs and gender stereotypes, promoting help-seeking, and, sometimes, skill-building to improve conflict-management and communication strategies.¹³² The programs range widely in program length and session spacing. In one large sample of programs, 35 percent involved single-session presentations, while the rest involved multiple sessions.¹³³ In a sample of 11 pre-2003 interventions covered in a systematic review by Daniel J. Whitaker et al., only two programs totaled more than five hours in duration.¹³⁴ Ample descriptive material exists on prevention programs—their goals, settings, curricula, intervention methods, target populations, presenter training, measures, and the like—both in materials of the programs themselves and in surveys of programs in the literature on dating violence, specifically, in the subcategory of prevention studies.¹³⁵

In much shorter supply than descriptive materials on prevention/intervention programs are well-executed empirical studies on their effectiveness—evaluations that go beyond the mere

¹³² Close, 2005, 5; Meyer and Stein, 2004.

¹³³ Weisz and Black, 2009, 76ff.

¹³⁴ Whitaker, Morrison, Lindquist et al., 2006. The systematic review by Whitaker et al. includes studies published from 1990 through April 2003.

¹³⁵ Close, 2005; Weisz and Black, 2009.

descriptions of programs and anecdotal reporting of program outcomes. Although all programs call for some form of evaluation to assess their effectiveness, comprehensive and methodologically rigorous evaluation studies are limited in number.¹³⁶ In the systematic review by Whitaker and colleagues of 11 evaluation studies on primary prevention programs, only three studies were rated as being of high methodological quality.¹³⁷ A non-systematic review conducted in 2004 likewise found a shortage of rigorous evaluation studies,¹³⁸ as did a 2009 overview of programs and their evaluations.¹³⁹

Evaluation studies usually involve assessments of the intervention group—program participants—before and after interventions. The studies using this pre- and post-test design differ in many aspects, such as the pre- and post-test measurement instruments used, sample sizes, and the use of control groups for comparison.¹⁴⁰ An especially crucial distinction among the studies, however, is what accomplishments count as the mark of the program’s success—behavioral change or merely change in knowledge and/or attitudes, and long-term change versus immediate, short-run change.¹⁴¹

Most evaluations, as pointed out in the critical reviews, are modest in the criteria of effectiveness they impose on programs, often demonstrating changes in knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes only. Relatively few studies go beyond measuring for knowledge/attitude change in an effort to demonstrate actual behavioral change, especially behavioral change over an extended period of time. According to the critical reviews, this abstention stems from the ease of measuring and demonstrating changes in beliefs and attitudes as compared to the difficulty of demonstrating behavioral change.¹⁴² Many evaluation studies indeed succeed in documenting at least an immediate positive change in knowledge and/or attitudes related to dating violence.¹⁴³

Apart from what program outcomes are measured, another major and related distinction among evaluations of interventions is whether or not they use a longitudinal design with a significant follow-up period. In many evaluations, the post-intervention follow-up test(s) to

¹³⁶ O’Keefe, 2005; Cornelius and Resseguie, 2007; Weisz and Black, 2009.

¹³⁷ Whitaker, Morrison, Lindquist et al., 2006.

¹³⁸ Hickman, Jaycox, and Aronoff, 2004.

¹³⁹ Weisz and Black, 2009.

¹⁴⁰ For the use of comparison groups, see Foshee, Bauman, Arriaga et al., 1998; Wolfe, Wekerle, Scott et al., 2003; and Wolfe, Crooks, Jaffe, Chiodo et al., 2009.

¹⁴¹ Wolfe, Wekerle, Scott et al., 2003.

¹⁴² Weisz and Black, 2009.

¹⁴³ Taylor, Stein, Burden, 2010, 202.

identify changes in the treatment group is given almost immediately—from the final program day to a week later. Evaluations with such short follow-up time points largely preclude judgments about behavioral change. Short follow-up periods also preclude judgments as to whether and what desired program outcomes initially seen are sustained beyond the immediate post-intervention period. Longitudinal designs with substantial follow-up periods are designed to permit the identification of lasting changes, whether attitudinal or behavioral. However, longitudinal designs differ sharply in the lengths of their follow-up periods, with most extending only over weeks or months, and only some over years.

Among evaluations on prevention programs, a few noteworthy studies that both use longitudinal design and examine actual behavioral change include several by teams headed by Foshee on her Safe Dates Program and several by teams headed by David A. Wolfe.¹⁴⁴ The latter studies include a 2003 evaluation of the team's community-based program for at-risk youth and a 2009 evaluation of their school-based intervention for a general population of ninth-grade public-school students.¹⁴⁵ A further study with a longitudinal design and a behavioral focus is an evaluation by Lisa Jaycox and colleagues of a program targeting Latino youth.¹⁴⁶ Also notable are evaluations by the team of Bruce Taylor, Nan Stein, and Frances Burden on two primary prevention curricula they created for sixth- and seventh-grade students.¹⁴⁷ In various ways, the evaluation studies by these several teams demonstrate the value of the longitudinal approach and a focus on behavioral change. Among the studies that assessed changes in behavior, almost all demonstrated some positive intervention impact.

The Foshee studies on Safe Dates, which involve several multiyear follow-ups on the same sample of students, are the most elaborate of any evaluation efforts in the literature on teen dating violence.¹⁴⁸ Foshee and colleagues examined the effects of Safe Dates on both victimization and perpetration of several subtypes of violence at a number of follow-up time points. The studies demonstrated both behavioral reductions in several subtypes of violence and the long-term persistence of such reductions. The longitudinal data reported in 2004 on two-, three-, and four-year follow-ups revealed lower levels of both perpetration and victimization in

¹⁴⁴ Foshee, Bauman, Arriaga et al., 1998; Foshee, Bauman, Ennett et al., 2004; Wolfe, Wekerle, Scott et al., 2003; Wolfe, Crooks, Jaffe, Chiodo et al., 2009.

¹⁴⁵ Wolfe, Wekerle, Scott et al., 2003; Wolfe, Crooks, Jaffe, Chiodo et al., 2009.

¹⁴⁶ Jaycox, McCaffrey, Eiseman et al., 2006.

¹⁴⁷ Taylor, Stein, Burden, 2010.

¹⁴⁸ Foshee, Bauman, Arriaga et al., 1998; Foshee, Bauman, Ennett et al., 2004.

physical violence, serious physical violence, sexual violence, and psychological abuse amongst Safe Dates participants, when compared with a control group.¹⁴⁹ Providing evidence of program effectiveness over time, the Foshee team showed their program to be a tool for meaningful change.

The 2003 evaluation study by Wolfe and colleagues Christine Wekerle, Katreena Scott, and others on their community-based intervention for at-risk youth, the Youth Relationships Project, also demonstrated change in the desired direction over an extended period in some behaviors.¹⁵⁰ At the final assessment, the team reported less perpetration of physical violence for intervention participants compared with controls. Girls and boys in the intervention group were 3.2 and 1.9 times less likely than girls and boys in the control group to have perpetrated physical partner violence. The 2009 study by Wolfe and colleagues Claire Crooks, Peter Jaffe, Debbie Chiodo, and others showed that their 21-lesson “Fourth R” curriculum reduced physical dating violence perpetration by boys compared with controls at the 2.5-year follow-up, as well as increased condom use.¹⁵¹

Jaycox and colleagues examined the effects of a gender violence prevention program on ninth-grade students, specifically Latino/a youth, in a large urban district using a randomized experimental design.¹⁵² The prevention curriculum focused on rights and help-seeking, teaching that the law protects victims of domestic violence and can punish perpetrators. The team’s 2006 evaluation study showed the persistence beyond six months of added knowledge about the role of attorneys and the perception that an attorney might be helpful but little persistence of initial changes in either other beliefs/attitudes or behavior.

The Taylor, Stein, and Burden team addressed the potential of extending primary prevention efforts for gender violence, including dating violence, to a population of students younger than about 12 years of age, namely, students in the sixth and seventh grades. The team’s rationale was that both dating and problems with relationship violence begin as early as age 12. The team used a longitudinal randomized controlled trial to assess the effectiveness of two five-lesson curricula they created—one with a focus on law and the other with a focus on communication and interaction. The evaluation found that both curricula improved knowledge,

¹⁴⁹ Foshee, Bauman, Ennett et al., 2004.

¹⁵⁰ Wolfe, Wekerle, Scott et al., 2003.

¹⁵¹ Wolfe, Crooks, Jaffe, Chiodo et al., 2009.

¹⁵² Jaycox, McCaffrey, Eiseman et al., 2006.

attitudes, and awareness of abusive behaviors six months later, while the interaction curriculum also decreased rates of gender violence victimization over the same period. Neither curriculum affected the self-reported experience of other behaviors, including being a perpetrator or victim of sexual harassment and interventions as a bystander. Indeed, on some measures, the intervention appeared to increase self-reported dating violence perpetration. The researchers suggested that this finding reflected increased reporting because of increased awareness produced by the program.

Whatever their findings, the studies with longitudinal design and a behavioral focus are more precisely informative than other evaluations about what programs do and do not accomplish, and thus have the strongest potential to serve the purpose of such evaluations, which is to improve the programs designed to ameliorate teen dating violence.

Legal Responses to Teenage Dating Violence

In addition to evaluation studies on program initiatives, the literature on responses to dating violence includes a limited amount of reporting on reforms in the legal arena, both legislative changes and changes in judicial practice. Only a minority of teen victims of dating abuse ever pursues a legal case or otherwise seeks legal remedies, such as protection orders, against abusive dating partners.¹⁵³ In some part, the low usage by teens of legal remedies reflects legal barriers to access that teens in abusive relationships face. The barriers limit the availability to teens of remedies and protections commonly made available to adults under domestic violence and other statutes, e.g., civil and criminal protection orders. A small body of studies has emerged in recent years detailing these barriers as they present themselves in the statutes of particular states or across states. For example, a 2008 study by Lorrie Cantrell and Sarah Buel calls attention to the limits on availability for minors of protection orders in Texas.¹⁵⁴ In a 2000 paper, Helene Marcy and Monica Martinez provided coverage of statutes in Illinois, stressing the barriers posed by parental-consent requirements for protection orders, transitional living services, and mental-health services.¹⁵⁵ The leading advocacy group for the prevention of dating violence, Break the Cycle, regularly publishes reports complete with letter grades on all U.S. states, giving

¹⁵³ Break the Cycle, 2008, 4.

¹⁵⁴ Cantrell and Buel, 2008.

¹⁵⁵ Marcy and Martinez, 2000.

low marks to states that fail to rectify explicit barriers or barriers of omission in their statutes.¹⁵⁶ All of the studies, which are also effectively policy/advocacy papers, also outline remedies in the framing of existing statutes or proposed statutes that would remove the barriers and better serve adolescents. One paper, by Pamela Saperstein, offers model statutory language, specifically, language that would ensure minors' access to civil protection orders without parental consent.¹⁵⁷ The major statutory barriers to access identified by all of the studies are age requirements, relationship requirements, and parental-consent requirements. Statutory provisions that make age a prerequisite for protection and services are a problem for teens at ever-younger ages. The group Break the Cycle applauds states that set the age for various protections without parental consent as low as 12 or eliminate age limits altogether. Provisions that define domestic violence as abuse between intimate partners who are married, cohabiting, or have children together exclude young people who live in their respective parents' homes, as most teen couples do. And provisions requiring parental consent for many remedies and services block access for many unemancipated teens who will not or cannot confide in their parents about their abuse. As recognition has grown of the magnitude and seriousness of teen dating violence, states have gradually altered these three statutory requirements. These reforms, along with statutory mandates for school-based education on violence prevention, have earned six states and the District of Columbia A's and 15 states B's on Break the Cycle's report card. The report commended New Hampshire as the only state where the law specifically allows minors of any age to go to court by themselves to request a protection order. It received an A along with California, Illinois, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Washington. Getting F's were Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, and Virginia. Failure was automatic for states where protective orders are unavailable for minors, or where dating relationships are not explicitly recognized as valid for obtaining such orders.

Pressure is ongoing for further statutory reforms to ensure minors expanded access to the justice system. Ongoing too is pressure to continue developing awareness-raising programs in schools and throughout communities. In 2007, in response to a dating violence fatality, Rhode Island passed the Lindsay Ann Burke Act, becoming the first state to require that seventh- to

¹⁵⁶ Break the Cycle, *2010 State Law Report Cards: A National Survey of Teen Dating Violence Laws*, April 12, 2010, <http://www.breakthecycle.org/system/files/pdf/2010-Dating-Violence-State-Law-Report-Card-Full-Report.pdf>.

¹⁵⁷ Saperstein, 2005.

twelfth-grade students be educated about violence in dating relationships.¹⁵⁸ In June 2008, the National Association of Attorneys General passed a resolution supporting the Lindsay Ann Burke Act and education on teen dating violence in all states.¹⁵⁹ As reported by the National Conference of State Legislatures in March 2011, at least 14 states now have laws that urge or require school boards to develop curriculum on teen dating violence.¹⁶⁰ Through mandates and otherwise, schools, in particular, have increasingly recognized their legal liability as well as their moral culpability for failure to inform and protect youth.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁸ E. Tucker, "R.I. Schools Required to Teach about Dating Violence," *USA Today*, October 6, 2008.

¹⁵⁹ National Association of Attorneys General, "Resolution in Support of Teen Dating Violence Education," June 17–19, 2008, <http://www.naag.org/assets/files/pdf/Resolution.TeenDatingViolenceEducation.Adopted.pdf>.

¹⁶⁰ National Conference of State Legislatures, "Teen Dating Violence," updated March 22, 2011, <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=17582>.

¹⁶¹ Carlson, 2003.

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Ackard, Diann M., and Dianne Neumark-Sztainer. "Date Violence and Date Rape among Adolescents: Associations with Disordered Eating Behaviors and Psychological Health." *Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal* 26, no. 5 (May 2002): 455–73.

The study first ascertained the prevalence of dating violence and rape in a school-based Minnesota sample of 81,247 ninth- to twelfth-graders. The study found that 9 percent of girls and 6 percent of boys had experienced them, with significant differences across race and grade. The study then examined the associations of such violence and rape with disordered eating behaviors and psychopathology, including low self-esteem and suicidality. Finally, the study investigated whether any links remained significant after controlling for sociodemographic characteristics and abuse by an adult. Dating violence and rape were associated with higher rates of disordered eating behaviors and suicidality, as well as reduced emotional well-being and self-esteem. Controlling for race and age, adolescents who had experienced both forms of abuse were more likely to use laxatives, vomit, use diet pills, binge eat, and have suicidal thoughts or attempts.

KEYWORDS: *eating disorders; mental health; prevalence; rape; sequelae; suicide*

Ackard, Diann. M., Dianne Neumark-Sztainer, and Peter J. Hannan. "Dating Violence among a Nationally Representative Sample of Adolescent Girls and Boys: Associations with Behavioral and Mental Health." *Journal of Gender-Specific Medicine* 6, no. 3 (2003): 39–48.

Although some prevalence studies on teen dating violence use samples of hundreds of students, there are few large-scale prevalence studies that use representative samples. This study utilized a survey with a large nationally representative sample. The population-based sample consisted of 3,533 ninth- through twelfth-graders who completed the Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Boys and Girls. Overall, 17 percent of girls and 9 percent of boys reported adolescent dating violence. Adolescents from lower socioeconomic backgrounds were more likely than youth from more affluent backgrounds to report dating violence. Dating violence was associated with detriments to behavioral and mental health, including dieting, binge and purge behaviors, cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption, drug use, suicidal thoughts, depression, and poorer self-esteem for both genders. Approximately 50 percent of girls and boys reporting both physical and sexual dating violence reported staying in relationships out of fear of being physically hurt.

KEYWORDS: *gender parity; lower socioeconomic backgrounds; nationally representative sample; prevalence; representative sample; risk; socioeconomic status; substance abuse; survey; tobacco use*

Ackard, Diann M., Marla E. Eisenberg, and Dianne Neumark-Sztainer. “Long-Term Impact of Adolescent Dating Violence on the Behavioral and Psychological Health of Male and Female Youth.” *The Journal of Pediatrics* 151, no. 5 (November 2007): 476–81.

This two-phase project examined the long-term impact of adolescent dating violence on behavioral and psychological health. The study compared adolescents who reported such violence with others who did not, focusing on a number of health factors. The comparison groups were drawn from a diverse sample of adolescents who completed Project EAT (Eating among Teens). This project surveyed students in middle school and high school (average age, 14.9 years) in 1999, following up with the same students in 2004. Students answered questions about their lifestyle choices and overall feelings of well-being, including how often they ate with their family. A group of 23 male and 102 female adolescents reporting adolescent dating violence were compared with 671 male and 720 female adolescents reporting no such violence. Violence was associated with increased likelihood of a number of problematic health issues. Both sexes had greater risk of cigarette smoking and suicide attempts. Males had increased risk of binge eating and suicidal ideation, and females evidenced elevated risk of smoking marijuana and high depressive symptoms. The researchers concluded that adolescent dating violence is significantly associated with an overall high-risk profile for both sexes and that females, in particular, are at increased risk of long-term behavioral and psychological impairment.

KEYWORDS: *binge eating; consequences; depression; eating disorders; gender differences; long-term impact; longitudinal; psychological health; smoking; substance abuse; suicide*

Adelman, Madelaine, and Sang Hea Kil. “Dating Conflicts: Rethinking Dating Violence and Youth Conflict.” *Violence Against Women* 13, no. 12 (December 2007): 1296–1318.

This research examined the role of friends in conflicts and violence associated with heterosexual teen dating. The study explored the implication of friends as confidants and participants in teen dating/violence. The research investigated the ways in which friends influence who constitutes an acceptable date, as well as attitudes that tend to conserve or challenge gender stereotypes and sexual conformity that may fuel abuse. The study provides evidence that peer attitudes are critical influences on teen behaviors and attitudes.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; friendship; gender stereotypes; peers*

Adler-Baeder, Francesca, Jennifer L. Kerpelman, David G. Schramm, Brian Higginbotham, and Amber Paulk. “The Impact of Relationship Education on Adolescents of Diverse Backgrounds.” *Family Relations* 56, no. 3 (July 2007): 291–304 (accessed via Proquest).

This study examined the effectiveness of an adolescent-focused marriage education program, an adapted version of the curriculum entitled *Love U2: Increasing Your Relationship Smarts*. The evaluation studied the program’s use with an economically, geographically, and racially diverse sample of 340 high school students. The evaluators found that students improved in multiple dimensions of their relationship knowledge, including their ability to identify unhealthy relationship patterns. The program also increased the participants’ realistic beliefs about relationships and marriage, and decreased their use of verbally aggressive conflict tactics at post-

program compared to controls. These findings held across race, household income, and family structure type, with all participating students benefiting in similar ways.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; conflict management; curriculum; ethnicity; evaluation; high school; program; risk; suicide; urban areas*

Alleyne, Binta, Victoria H. Coleman-Cowger, Laurel Crown, Maya A. Gibbons and Linda Nicole Vines. “The Effects of Dating Violence, Substance Use and Risky Sexual Behavior Among a Diverse Sample of Illinois Youth.” *Journal of Adolescence* 34, no. 1 (February 2011): 11–18.

This study examined the relationship among dating violence, forced sexual intercourse, and four indicators of sexual risk taking. The indicators were age when first sexually active, number of sex partners within the last three months, alcohol/drug use, and condom use at most recent sexual encounter. The research used a sample of 1,124 ethnically diverse, sexually active adolescents in Illinois. The study also examined the role of gender in dating violence, and whether gender moderates the relation among dating violence, sexual violence, and sexual risk taking. The study found significant relationships among dating violence and forced sexual intercourse and age at sexual debut, number of sexual partners, and condom use across various ethnic groups. The research also showed that when controlling for gender, dating violence and forced sexual intercourse are related to the number of sexual partners and age at first intercourse regardless of ethnic group identification.

KEYWORDS: *diverse; diversity; ethnic groups; forced sexual intercourse; gender; rape; risk factors; risk taking; sexual violence*

Arriaga, Ximena B., and Vangie A. Foshee. “Adolescent Dating Violence: Do Adolescents Follow Their Friends’ or Their Parents’ Footsteps?” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 19, no. 2 (February 2004): 162–84.

This study examined two possible antecedents of adolescent dating violence—having friends in violent relationships and having parents who are violent toward one another. It sought to establish which, if either, is more strongly predictive of a young person’s dating violence perpetration and victimization. A group of 526 eighth- and ninth-grade students completed self-report questionnaires on two occasions over a six-month period. Consistent with hypotheses, interparental violence and friend dating violence each exhibited cross-sectional associations with a youth’s perpetration and victimization. However, only friend violence consistently predicted later dating violence. That is, this peer variable was more influential than the effects of witnessing interparental violence. In the author’s longitudinal analysis (one of the few studies that used a longitudinal design), friend violence statistically predicted later perpetration of dating violence for both males and females, but statistically predicted becoming the victim only for females.

KEYWORDS: *friendship; interparental violence; longitudinal analysis; parents; peer influence*

Bailey, Clarice Machette. *Teenage Intimate Partner Violence: An Exploratory Study*. Ph.D. diss., Portland State University, 2000 (accessed via Proquest).

This dissertation surveyed a sample of ninth- to twelfth-graders in Portland, Oregon, to explore their experiences with teenage partner violence. Five findings emerged from this exploratory study. First, 91 percent of the respondents were not involved in teenage partner violence. Second, there was no statistically significant difference between males and females as either victims or offenders. Instead, the statistics indicated reciprocity and mutuality. Third, teens identified as victims/abusers were more likely to come from families of origin where there had been partner abuse. However, living with one's biological parents seemed to reduce the likelihood of students demonstrating partner abuse. Fourth, race, previous partner abuse, parental risk behaviors, sexual involvement, and other teen risk behaviors were statistically significant predictors of teenage partner violence for this sample. Fifth, there was very little to no legal or school-based protection in the form of policy or practice for students who found themselves involved in teen partner violence. The study supports social learning theories and theories of the intergenerational transmission of violence.

KEYWORDS: *dissertation; legal protection; race; risk behaviors; risk factors; school-based protection*

Banyard, Victoria L., and Charlotte Cross. "Consequences of Teen Dating Violence: Understanding Intervening Variables in Ecological Context." *Violence Against Women* 14, no. 9 (September 2008): 998–1013.

This study examined the educational and mental-health problems associated with adolescent dating violence victimization. The research included attention to mediating and moderating factors in the link between victimization and negative consequences. As hypothesized, being a survivor of dating violence was associated with higher levels of depression and suicidal thoughts, as well as poorer educational outcomes and attitudes. Mental-health symptoms in part mediated the relationship between victimization and school outcomes. The use of alcohol and depression complicated the relationship between victimization and outcomes. In addition, gender and social support both affected the relationship between victimization and outcomes. Perceived social support as a moderator had more significant effects for girls.

KEYWORDS: *academic achievement; consequences; depression; emotionally disturbed adolescents; mental health; school outcomes; sex differences; suicidality*

Black, Beverly M., and Arlene N. Weisz. "Dating Violence: A Qualitative Analysis of Mexican-American Youths' Views." *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work* 13, no. 3 (2004): 69–90.

This study examined the findings of focus groups expressing the thoughts and attitudes of Mexican American youth about dating violence. The youth voiced concern about the prevalence of violence, and many reported on violent behaviors as common incidents in their own lives. The youth expressed the acceptance of recourse to violence in many situations, especially in retaliation for a peer's lack of respect or infidelity. Males indicated a willingness to intervene on

behalf of female friends who were victimized by violence. The males reported that they relied on friends for assistance when they were confronted with violence. Females victimized by relationship violence stated a preference for assistance from their brothers. The conclusion outlined implications for developing culturally sensitive prevention programming.

KEYWORDS: *focus groups; infidelity; Latinos; Mexican American; qualitative; respect*

Browning, Christopher R., Tama Leventhal, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn. "Sexual Initiation in Early Adolescence: The Nexus of Parental and Community Control." *American Sociological Review* 70, no. 5 (October 2005): 758–77.

Using a sample of urban youth, this study explored the link between neighborhood characteristics, in particular, "collective efficacy" and the timing of first intercourse for a sample of urban youth. Early sexual debut is a known risk factor for negative health behaviors, including teen dating violence. The goal of the research was to assess whether neighborhood characteristics modify the relationship between more proximal familial risk and protective factors and adolescent health behaviors. Analyses of multilevel and longitudinal data from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods indicated that parental monitoring is more strongly protective against early sexual initiation, particularly for girls, in neighborhoods with lower collective monitoring. Conversely, greater neighborhood collective efficacy or supervision capacity delays sexual onset only for adolescents who experience lower levels of parental monitoring. That is, parental and neighborhood controls interact, with one making up somewhat for deficits in the other.

KEYWORDS: *collective efficacy; neighborhood; parental monitoring; sexual onset; urban*

Cantrell, Lorrie, and Sarah Buel. "Changing Texas Law to Include Minors in Protective Order Legislation." November 13, 2008. http://www.abanet.org/domviol/pdfs/minors_in_protective_legislation.doc.

This article details the provisions of the Texas Family Code that, as of November 2008, posed barriers to the protection of minor victims of dating violence. Among these barriers are obstacles for minors attempting to obtain protective orders. The Texas Family Code currently differs from the pertinent laws of many other states, which allow teens to file for a protective order without parental consent or an adult to file on behalf of the teen. The article calls upon the Texas legislature to amend the Texas Family Code to allow minors to file for protective orders. Further, it advocates that school officials, judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement be educated on the dangers of teen dating violence and on what steps can be taken to ensure the victim is protected and the batterer is held accountable.

KEYWORDS: *family code; legal liability; parental requirement; protective order; state laws*

Capaldi, Deborah M., Hyoun K. Kim, and Joann Wu Shortt. "Observed Initiation and Reciprocity of Physical Aggression in Young, At-Risk Couples." *Journal of Family Violence* 22 (2007): 101–11. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1858633/>.

This study examined sex differences in the initiation and reciprocation of physical aggression over time, using observational data on couples' interactions during a problem-solving exercise. The data were from four time points spanning nine years from late adolescence through the mid-twenties. Analysis showed that from late adolescence through age 24 years, females were more likely than males to initiate physical aggression and that both sexes tended to reciprocate at similar rates. Observed mutual aggression appeared to be associated with the highest prevalence of injuries. The findings indicate the need to examine physical aggression among couples in context and to put more focus on the dyadic processes of aggressive interchanges between partners. The study also offers support for the use of observational data to examine the immediate context and development of physical aggression between partners across time. In addition, the findings of this study are highly informative for prevention programs, indicating the importance of considering both the male and the female partner's aggression in prevention and treatment programs.

KEYWORDS: *gender differences; initiation; injury; longitudinal; mutual aggression; observation; reciprocation; relationship dynamics*

Capaldi, Deborah M., Thomas J. Dishion, Mike Stoolmiller, and Karen Yoerger. "Aggression toward Female Partners by At-Risk Young Men: The Contribution of Male Adolescent Friendships." *Developmental Psychology* 37, no. 1 (January 2001): 61–73.

This study examined potential peer influences on dating aggression in a longitudinal investigation in which 17- to 18-year-old males in the Oregon Youth Study were observed talking with their best friends. The aim was to illuminate "deviancy training" as a risk factor for physical and psychological aggression toward a female partner. Deviancy training occurs when peers reinforce each other for delinquent or aggressive talk or behavior, and as a result, aggravate problem behavior. The researchers hypothesized that hostile talk about women during videotaped male friendship interactions indicates a process by which aggression toward women is reinforced within male peer networks. They predicted that both antisocial behavior and hostile talk would be associated with later aggression toward a female partner. They tested prospective developmental models from nine to 10 years of age through young adulthood. They found that antisocial behavior mediated the relation of deviant peer association in youth and later aggression toward a partner. Observed hostile and derogatory talk about women with male peers explained additional variance in boys' aggression toward dating partners at ages 20 to 23 years, even after accounting for prior levels of antisocial and delinquent behavior.

KEYWORDS: *adult partner violence; deviancy training; friendship; hostile talk; longitudinal; peers; risk factors*

Carlson, Christine N. “Invisible Victims: Holding the Educational System Liable for Teen Dating Violence at School.” *Harvard Women’s Law Journal* 26 (Spring 2003): 351–93. <http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/jlg/vol26/carlson.pdf>.

This article examines the legal liability that schools face for failing to address dating violence issues among their students. Public schools and school districts have a statutory duty to protect students and may be liable for failure to protect teens from dating abuse at school. After discussing the legal aspect of school liability, the article explores programs that will satisfy school districts’ legal obligations. These include: educating students, faculty, staff, and parents on the issue of dating violence; expanding sexual harassment policies to specifically include dating violence; encouraging community involvement with the school to raise awareness of dating violence; and seeking federal funding for grants under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Such measures would reduce schools’ potential liability.

KEYWORDS: *legal liability; school; vicarious liability*

Champion, Heather, Kristie L. Foley, Karen Sigmon-Smith, Erin L. Sutfin, and Robert H. DuRant. “Contextual Factors and Health Risk Behaviors Associated with Date Fighting Among High School Students.” *Women and Health* 47, no. 3 (2008): 1–22.

This study investigated both the role of community assets in protecting youth from dating violence and individual risk factors for date fighting. A survey of about 2,000 North Carolina high school students (about 60 percent white and 30 percent black) measured community risk and protective factors and individual health-risk behaviors, including dating violence perpetration and victimization. Neighborhood organization and the ability of the community to support its youth were found to be protective against dating violence. With respect to individual risk factors, the correlate factors were comparable for females and males, with a few exceptions. Females reported more perpetration of date fighting than males (8.8 percent to 4.0 percent), as well as greater levels of victimization (7.2 percent and 5.0 percent, respectively). In multivariate models, factors associated with perpetration for both sexes included riding with a drinking driver. Among females, cigarette use, drinking and driving, and being a minority were also associated with perpetration in the past 12 months, while among males tobacco use was a correlate of perpetration. For both sexes, factors associated with physical dating violence victimization included riding with a drinking driver. For females, marijuana use increased the odds of victimization. Males were less likely to be a victim of date fighting if they perceived their community to be “organized.” These findings reflect largely comparable individual risk factors across genders, and the need for further investigation of the protective role of community context.

KEYWORDS: *cigarette use; community; contextual factors; gender differences; health behavior; minority; secondary school students; substance use; tobacco*

Chase, Kenneth A., Dominique Treboux, and K. Daniel O’Leary. “Characteristics of High-Risk Adolescents’ Dating Violence.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 17, no. 1 (January 2002): 33–49.

This exploratory study was the first investigation into the predictors of dating violence among high-risk adolescents. The study compared dating-violent and non-dating-violent high-risk adolescents on several dating violence and delinquency variables. The study compared the teens across three domains: behavioral problems (violence and substance abuse), psychological adjustment (depression, stress, and internalizing and externalizing tendencies), and received parenting. Participants were 89 adolescents aged 14 to 18 years in a high school dropout prevention program. Participants completed a series of questionnaires probing the three domains. Analyses indicated that the dating-violent males reported higher levels of violence against past partners, more marijuana use in the preceding year, earlier onset of other drug use, and higher levels of externalization. Dating-violent females reported higher levels of internalization and less parental care as measured with the 26-item Parenting Style instrument. Three characteristics of parental care were associated with girls perpetrating physical dating violence, less parental involvement, parental behavioral control, and parental supervision. There was no correlation between parental care and male adolescents’ perpetration of dating violence. The findings showed significant differences between the comparison groups of teens.

KEYWORDS: *comparative analysis; delinquency; depression; high-risk; parenting; substance use; survey; dropout prevention*

Close, Sharron M. “Dating Violence Prevention in Middle School and High School Youth.” *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing* 18 (2005): 2–9.

This article presents a case report on teen dating abuse and reviews the literature on such abuse among middle school and high school youth. The review covers research on the prevalence and etiology of abuse, as well as risk factors and gender differences. It focuses, in particular, on the literature on prevention. The author discusses early interventions for the prevention of relationship abuse and calls for screening for risk factors and offering anticipatory guidance during each health maintenance visit.

KEYWORDS: *literature review; middle school; prevalence; prevention; risk factors*

Coker, Ann L., Robert E. McKeown, Maureen Sanderson, Keith E. Davis, Robert F. Valois, and E. Scott Huebner. “Severe Dating Violence and Quality of Life among South Carolina High School Students.” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 19 (2000): 220–27.

This cross-sectional study investigated the impact of dating violence and forced-sex victimization and perpetration on adolescent well-being. The study covered the prevalence of severe dating violence and lifetime forced-sex victimization and perpetration, the demographic and health behavior correlates of such dating violence, and associations between the violence and forced sex and well-being as assessed by health-related quality-of-life and life-satisfaction measures. The sample consisted of 5,414 ninth- through twelfth-grade students in public schools who responded to the 1997 self-administered South Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Nearly 12 percent of the teens self-reported severe dating violence victimization or perpetration, with higher rates for girls (14.4 percent) than boys (9.1 percent). The correlates of severe dating violence were race, aggressive behaviors, substance use, and sexual risk-taking. Among females, violence victimization, not perpetration, was associated with recent poor health quality of life and suicidality, but not with lower life-satisfaction scores. Among males, violence perpetration, not victimization, was strongly associated with poor health quality of life and suicide attempts, as well as lower scores for life satisfaction.

KEYWORDS: *impact; quality of life; rape; risk factors; sequelae; suicide*

Cornelius, Tara L., and Nicole Resseguie. "Primary and Secondary Prevention Programs For Dating Violence: A Review of The Literature." *Aggression and Violent Behavior* 12 (2007): 364–75. <http://www.ncdsv.org/images/Date%20violence%20prevention%20literature%20review.pdf>.

This comprehensive review examines the literature on primary and secondary prevention programs for dating violence, with an emphasis on methodological and theoretical issues. The authors identify pervasive limitations of the current research. Most notably, they note a relative lack of outcome research evaluating the effects of such programs on behavioral and attitude change. In addition, they criticize the studies reviewed for utilizing self-report measures that were unstandardized and created for the purpose of the study, inhibiting comparison between studies.

KEYWORDS: *evaluation; prevention; program*

Cyr, Mireille, Pierre McDuff, and John Wright. "Prevalence and Predictors of Dating Violence among Adolescent Female Victims of Child Sexual Abuse." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 21, no. 8 (2006): 1000–17.

This study investigated dating violence behaviors among adolescent survivors of child sexual abuse. The research estimated the prevalence of psychological and physical dating violence and the reciprocity of violence. In addition, it examined the influence on dating violence of certain child sexual-abuse characteristics, such as duration, violence, and penetration. Respondents included 126 females ages 13 to 17 years. More than 45 percent reported experiencing physical violence in their dating relationships. Psychological violence was reciprocal in more than 90 percent of the cases. Multiple regression analysis revealed a significant contribution of child sexual abuse characteristics above and beyond other known risk factors. The regression analyses revealed that the duration of the sexual abuse and violence or completed intercourse during the abuse could significantly contribute to dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *child sexual abuse; prevalence; reciprocity; risk factors; sexual abuse*

DeGannes, Asha Brown. *Evaluation of a Sexual Assault and Dating Violence Prevention Program for Middle School Students*. Ph.D. diss., Temple University, 2009 (accessed via Proquest).

This dissertation evaluated *Project Awareness*, a comprehensive educational program developed to provide students in middle school with the information and skills necessary to counter relationship violence. Sixty-six such students participated in the *Project Awareness* program and were administered pre- and post-program measures to examine differences in knowledge, attitudes, and behavior with respect to sexual assault and dating violence. Female participants in the program registered a greater impact than the male students. Females gained more knowledge about rape myths and also demonstrated a greater attitude change about sexual assault. The researcher concludes that programs about sexually related violence should be implemented in schools before high school, should be conducted in single-sex classes, and must be evaluated for effectiveness. Hitherto, evaluation of such programs has not been mandatory.

KEYWORDS: *attitude change; attitudes; effectiveness; evaluation; gender differences; middle school; prevention program; rape; rape myths; sexual assault*

Draucker, Claire Burke, and Donna Martsof. "The Role of Electronic Communication Technology in Adolescent Dating Violence." *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing* 23 (2010):133–42 (accessed via Proquest).

This qualitative study identifies ways in which technology is used in adolescent dating violence. It also presents examples of dating violence in which electronic aggression figured significantly. The dataset included the transcribed narratives of 56 young adults who had described their adolescent dating violence experiences for another ongoing study. The current research, using qualitative descriptive methods and content analysis, identified eight ways in which technology is used in dating violence. It found that technology was used for eight dating-related purposes: (1) establishing a relationship with a partner, (2) day-to-day communication (i.e., nonaggressive) with a partner, (3) arguing with a partner, (4) monitoring or controlling the activities or whereabouts of a partner, (5) perpetrating emotional or verbal aggression against a partner, (6) seeking help during a violent episode, (7) limiting a partner's access to oneself, and (8) reconnecting with a partner after a break-up or violent episode. The researchers concluded that electronic communication technology influences dating violence by redefining boundaries between dating partners.

KEYWORDS: *electronic communication; qualitative; technology*

Draucker, Claire Burke, Donna Martsof, Pamela Stephenson, Judy Risko, Terri Heckman, Denice Sheehan, Shannon Perkins, Kalisha Washington, Christina Cook, and Candace Ferguson. "Aggressive Events in Adolescent Dating Violence." *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 31, no. 9 (2010): 599–610.

This paper presents a typology of common aggressive events that occur in the context of adolescent dating violence. The typology is derived from transcripts of 42 interviews with young adults aged 18 to 21, who described dating violence they had experienced as adolescents aged

13–18. The research extracted from the transcripts 184 text units recounting aggressive or violent events with a dating partner. The cross-case analysis yielded eight types of aggressive events: (a) tumultuous, (b) explosive, (c) scuffling, (d) violating, (e) threatening, (f) controlling, (g) disparaging, and (h) rejecting, ignoring, or disrespecting. Such a typology, the authors argue, can provide a foundation for further research on teen dating violence from a situational perspective. The typology can also be used as a tool to promote communication about dating violence with victimized or at-risk youth.

KEYWORDS: *aggressive events; typology*

Eaton, Danice K., Kristen S. Davis, Lisa Barrios, Nancy D. Brenner, and Rita K. Noonan. “Associations of Dating Violence Victimization with Lifetime Participation, Co-Occurrence, and Early Initiation of Risk Behaviors among U.S. High School Students.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 22 (2007): 585–602.

This study examined the association of physical dating violence victimization with risk behaviors, the age of initiation of risk behavior, and co-occurrence of risk behaviors among U.S. ninth- to twelfth-grade students. The research used data from the 2003 national, cross-sectional Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Almost 9 percent of students reported being victims of dating violence. Victimization for both sexes was associated with alcohol use, marijuana use, and having ever had sexual intercourse. For females, elevated risk of physical dating violence victimization also was associated with early initiation of alcohol use, that is, the initiation of alcohol use before 13 years old. The odds of dating violence victimization increased with an increase in the number of risk behaviors and the number of lifetime sexual partners. The prevalence of physical dating violence victimization in the past 12 months was nearly twice as high among black students compared to white students (black females: 13.95 percent; black males: 13.5 percent; white females: 7.5 percent; white males: 6.5 percent). The authors argue that awareness of such patterns of risk behavior could serve as warning signs of elevated risk for victimization and could improve the identification of teens who could benefit from targeted, preventive interventions.

KEYWORDS: *alcohol use; risk behaviors; risk factors; prevention*

Elze, Diane E. “Against All Odds: The Dating Experiences of Adolescent Lesbian and Bisexual Women.” *Journal of Lesbian Studies* 6, no. 1 (2002): 17–29.

This study examined dating relationships, including the topic of violence, among 112 lesbian and bisexual women aged 13 to 18. The study, unusual in its focus on sexual-minority women of high school age, explored verbal and physical abuse in their dating relationships, dating stress, and psychosocial factors associated with dating. The research found that adolescent lesbian and bisexual women actively date, despite potential barriers. They also have relationship concerns requiring supportive interventions by youth-serving professionals.

KEYWORDS: *bisexual women; coming out; lesbians; sexual minorities*

Feiring, Candice, Esther Deblinger, Amy Hoch-Espada, and Tom Haworth. "Romantic Relationship Aggression and Attitudes in High School Students: The Role of Gender, Grade, and Attachment and Emotional Styles." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 31, no. 5 (October 2002): 373–85.

This study examined the use of aggressive behaviors in romantic relationships in 254 high school students, focusing on the endorsement of attitudes that foster such behaviors and the extent to which attachment and emotional styles are related to these behaviors and styles. As expected, girls were somewhat more likely to report being the perpetrator of physical aggression, and boys were somewhat more likely to endorse the acceptance of aggression and dysfunctional sexual attitudes. For girls, a less secure relationship with best friends was associated with dating aggression. For boys, the externalization of responsibility for harm to others was related to using physical aggression in romantic relationships, and lower levels of guilt and shame were related to the justification of sexual aggression.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; emotional styles; gender differences*

Florsheim, Paul, and David R. Moore. "Observing Differences between Healthy and Unhealthy Adolescent Romantic Relationships: Substance Abuse and Interpersonal Process." *Journal of Adolescence* 31, no. 6 (December 2008): 795–814.

This study used observational methods to differentiate between healthy and dysfunctional adolescent romantic relationships. Previous research relied largely on self-reports and interview data to assess the interpersonal-behavioral dynamics of adolescent couples. The current study collected observational as well as self-report data on two sets of couples: 18 high-risk couples in which one or both partners had a substance-use disorder and 12 low-risk in which neither partner had a history of psychopathology. The conflict interactions of the couples were coded using the structural analysis of social behavior observational coding scheme. The study found that self-reports of relational quality did not distinguish the two groups. However, the observational data indicated that, compared to couples with no psychopathology, couples in the substance-use-disorder group engaged in significantly more hostile and less warm behavior, as well as more complex communication involving a mix of hostility and warmth. The study highlights the value of observational data for understanding the clinically relevant dynamics of adolescent romantic relationships.

KEYWORDS: *observational data; relational quality; self-report; substance abuse*

Foshee, Vangie A., Karl E. Bauman, Ximena B. Arriaga, Russell W. Helms, et al. "An Evaluation of Safe Dates, an Adolescent Dating Prevention Program." *American Journal of Public Health* 88, no. 1 (1998): 45–49.

This evaluation is one of the largest attempts to date to assess a dating violence prevention program. The evaluation is also among the few that go beyond immediate effects on attitudes and knowledge to assess actual behavior. The study examined the effects of the Safe Dates program on the primary and secondary prevention of adolescent dating violence. The Safe Dates program included school and community activities aimed at changing attitudes about violence and gender

stereotyping, conflict management, and providing support for help-seeking when violence occurs. The assessment encompassed school- and community-based activities for 1,886 eighth- and ninth-graders in a rural county in North Carolina, where 14 schools were randomly assigned to treatment and control groups. Data collected at a one-month follow-up indicated that the Safe Dates program was effective in preventing perpetration of psychological, physical, and sexual abuse against dating partners, as well as in changing mediating variables such as attitudes about violence, gender stereotyping, conflict resolution, and awareness of community services for dating violence. Most program effects were explained by changes in dating violence norms, gender stereotyping, and awareness of services. In a subsample of adolescents reporting no dating violence at baseline (a primary prevention subsample), there was less initiation of psychological abuse in treatment than in control schools. In a subsample of adolescents reporting dating violence at baseline (a secondary prevention subsample), there was less perpetration of psychological abuse and sexual violence reported at follow-up in treatment than in control schools. The behavioral effects of the program faded at a one-year follow-up. However, the effects of the program on risk factors such as decreasing pro-violence norms, conflict-management skills, and awareness of community services were maintained over the year following the program.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; behavior change; community-based; evaluation; program; school-based*

Foshee, Vangie A., Karl E. Bauman, Susan T. Ennett, G. Fletcher Linder, Thad Benefield, and Chirayath Suchindran. "Assessing the Long-Term Effects of the Safe Dates Program and a Booster in Preventing and Reducing Adolescent Dating Violence Victimization and Perpetration." *American Journal of Public Health* 94, no. 4 (April 2004): 619–24.

This evaluation study was among the first to test the effects of an adolescent dating violence prevention program on actual behavior. The study determined the four-year post-intervention effects of the Safe Dates program on dating violence. The study also evaluated the effects of booster sessions. The booster sessions were given between the second- and third-year follow-up data collection to a randomly selected half of the adolescents who had received the Safe Dates program. The researchers gathered baseline data in 10 schools randomly allocated to a treatment condition. They collected follow-up data one month after the program and then yearly thereafter for four years. Findings indicated that, compared with controls, adolescents who received the Safe Dates program reported significantly less psychological, physical, and sexual dating violence perpetration and victimization four years after the program. The booster, however, did not improve the effectiveness of the program.

KEYWORDS: *behavior change; dating violence prevention program; effectiveness; evaluation; long-term effects*

Foshee, Vangie A., Karl E. Bauman, Fletcher Linder, Jennifer Rice, and Rose Wilcher. "Typologies of Adolescent Dating Violence: Identifying Typologies of Adolescent Dating Violence Perpetration." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 22, no. 5 (May 2007): 498–519.

Focusing on dating violence measurement, this article argues in favor of an alternative to the use of acts scales, the most common way of measuring partner violence. Acts scales have been criticized as too blunt as instrument to capture the complexities of partner violence. An alternative measurement approach is to use typologies of dating violence—typologies that consider various aspects of context. This study identified typologies of dating violence perpetration by adolescents by conducting in-depth interviews with 116 females and males previously identified as perpetrators by an acts scale. The subjects provided narrative descriptions of their acts of dating violence. In the process, both males and females recanted or described as nonviolent many acts identified as violent by the acts scale. From the narratives, the authors identified four types of female perpetration that were distinguished by motives, precipitating events, and the abuse history of the partners. One type of perpetration accounted for most acts by boys.

KEYWORDS: *acts scales; measurement; typology*

Foshee, Vangie Ann, Thad S. Benefield, Susan T. Ennett, Karl E. Bauman, and Chirayath Suchindran. "Longitudinal Predictors of Serious Physical and Sexual Dating Violence Victimization during Adolescence." *Preventive Medicine* 39, no. 5 (November 2004): 1007–16.

This study identified potentially modifiable risk factors for victimization from serious physical and sexual dating violence. The researchers annually assessed 1,291 eighth- and ninth-graders from a North Carolina county for five and four years, respectively. For males, predictors of the *onset* of victimization included low self-esteem, having been hit by an adult with the intention of harm, and having been in a physical fight with a peer. For males, those variables, plus alcohol use, white race, and having a friend who was a victim of dating violence predicted *chronic* victimization. For females, a predictor of the *onset* of victimization from serious physical dating violence was having been hit by an adult. That variable, plus living in a single-parent household, predicted *chronic* victimization from serious physical violence. Also for females, onset of sexual-violence victimization was predicted by being depressed and having a friend who was the victim of dating violence. Those variables, plus gender stereotyping, predicted chronic victimization from sexual dating violence. The findings identified risk factors and high-risk groups that warrant targeting in prevention and intervention programs.

KEYWORDS: *high-risk; predictors; risk factors; single-parent*

Foshee, Vangie A., Thad Benefield, Chirayath Suchindran, et al. “The Development of Four Types of Adolescent Dating Abuse and Selected Demographic Correlates.” *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 19, no. 3 (September 2009): 380–400.

This study investigated whether the demographic characteristics of sex, minority status, socioeconomic status, and family structure systematically explain variation in the trajectories of four types of dating abuse from ages 13 to 19—psychological, moderate physical, severe physical, and sexual dating abuse. Using multi-wave data from 973 adolescents, the study found that demographic differences were associated with different trajectories. At all ages, boys reported more severe physical and sexual dating abuse than girls, minorities reported more moderate and severe physical dating abuse than non-minority youth, teens in single-parent households reported more psychological and severe physical dating abuse, and parental education, a proxy for socioeconomic status, was negatively associated with psychological and moderate physical dating abuse perpetration.

KEYWORDS: *demographics; family structure; minority status; single-parent; socioeconomic status*

Foshee, Vangie A., Susan T Ennett, Karl E Bauman, Thad Benefield, and Chirayath Suchindran. “The Association between Family Violence and Adolescent Dating Violence Onset: Does it Vary by Race, Socioeconomic Status, and Family Structure?” *The Journal of Early Adolescence* 25, no. 3 (August 2005): 317–44.

This study investigated whether associations between family violence and teen dating abuse vary by subgroups defined by race, socioeconomic status, and family structure. The family violence variables considered were corporal punishment, violence against the child with the intention of harm, and witnessing violence between parents. The sample consisted of 1,218 early adolescents (56.6 percent female, 16.4 percent black) who completed two self-administered questionnaires over 18 months. The research identified numerous subgroup differences in family violence–dating abuse associations, the most consistent being across race. In most cases, exposure to family violence predicted dating violence by black teens but was not associated with such abuse by white teens.

KEYWORDS: *child maltreatment; family; punitive parenting; race; socioeconomic status*

Foshee, Vangie A., Katherine J. Karriker-Jaffe, Heather Luz McNaughton Reyes, Susan T. Ennett, Chirayath Suchindran, Karl E. Bauman, and Thad S. Benefield. “What Accounts for Demographic Differences in Trajectories of Adolescent Dating Violence? An Examination of Intrapersonal and Contextual Mediators.” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 42, no. 6 (2008): 596–604.

The study investigated intrapersonal and contextual factors that mediate associations between demographic variables (minority status, socioeconomic status, family structure, gender, and neighborhood disadvantage) and trajectories of moderate and severe physical dating violence perpetration from ages 13–19 years. The researchers analyzed multi-wave data from 959 adolescents, using mediation analysis in a multilevel framework. Two variables—gender and

disadvantage—did not prove to have a relationship to violence perpetration and were not further examined for mediating factors. At all ages, minority adolescents reported perpetrating significantly more moderate and severe physical dating violence than non-minority adolescents. Mediating variables for the minority–violence association included destructive communication skills, acceptance of dating abuse, gender stereotyping, and exposure to family violence. Parental education was significantly negatively associated with moderate physical dating violence. Acceptance of dating abuse, gender stereotyping, and exposure to family violence significantly mediated that association. At all ages, adolescents from single-parent households perpetrated significantly more severe physical dating violence than adolescents from two-parent households, but no variables mediated that association. Each of the identified mediating variables is amenable to change through interventions targeted at high-risk subgroups of adolescents identified by these demographic characteristics.

KEYWORDS: *communication skills; contextual factors; demographics; family violence; gender stereotyping; high-risk; minorities; single-parent; socioeconomic disadvantage*

Foshee, Vangie A., Heather Luz McNaughton Reyes, and Susan T. Ennett. “Examination of Sex and Race Differences in Longitudinal Predictors of the Initiation of Adolescent Dating Violence Perpetration.” *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma* 19, no. 5 (2010): 492–516.

Examining longitudinal predictors of dating-violence perpetration, this study determined how they varied by sex and race. Analyses focused on 1,666 adolescents—black and white males and females—who completed questionnaires in a fall and spring semester. A predictor of perpetration for all groups was the number of friends using dating violence. For girls but not boys, depression, marijuana use, and aggression against peers predicted perpetration. Anxiety predicted perpetration by white adolescents and anger predicted perpetration by black adolescents. Of all groups, black girls were the most likely to initiate dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *gender differences; race*

Fredland, Nina M. *Physical, Behavioral and Mental Health Outcomes of Young Adolescents Exposed to Community Violence, Home Violence and Peer Violence*. Ph.D. diss., The Johns Hopkins University, 2006 (accessed via Proquest).

This dissertation assessed exposure to three types of violence—community violence, violence at home, and peer violence—as a risk factor for negative health outcomes, including dating violence, in middle school youth. One form of peer violence among very young teens—sexual teasing/bullying—appears to be antecedent to more severe forms of relationship violence, including teen dating abuse. The study used focus groups and a survey with seventh-graders, 95 percent African American. Four themes related to violence emerged from the groups: respect versus disrespect; influence of friends on the dating dyad; the cost/benefit of sexual activity; and the use of violence as an acceptable way to solve conflicts. Content analysis showed the youth to be desensitized to violence, given its prevalence in their lives. The survey found that 58 percent of the students were exposed to violence at home, 49 percent to personal violence, 99 percent to community violence, and 45.3 percent and 30.7 percent were exposed to two or three forms of

violence, respectively. Violence at home and personal violence had significant direct effects on recourse to aggression, as did difficulty communicating feelings and lack of constructive ways to deal with frustration. The study concludes that prevention efforts should target very young teens and address the themes that emerge from their perspective.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; attitudes; bullying; dating norms; dissertation; exposure to violence; focus groups; outcomes; peer influence; prevention; qualitative; sexual bullying*

Freedner, Naomi, Lorraine H. Freed, Y. Wendy Yang, S. Bryn Austin. "Dating Violence Among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Adolescents: Results From a Community Survey." *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 31, no. 6 (2002): 469–74.

This study examined the prevalence of dating violence among adolescents of various sexual orientations—heterosexual, gay, lesbian, and bisexual. The researchers collected and analyzed self-report surveys from 521 adolescents at a youth rally of gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) youth. The surveys asked about dating violence, including types of abuse, threats of “outing,” and the sex of the abuser. Group differences were assessed through the use of multivariate logistic regression analyses. The analyses found that dating violence was prevalent in all sexual orientation groups, with few statistically significant differences. Compared with heterosexuals and controlling for age, bisexual males had greater odds of reporting abuse of various types, and bisexual females had greater odds of experiencing specifically sexual abuse. Controlling for age, lesbians had greater odds of being afraid about their safety compared with heterosexual females. Compared with gay males and lesbians, bisexuals were more likely to be threatened with outing, i.e., threats to reveal lesbian or gay identity to family, friends, ex-partners, or employers. Such differences notwithstanding, the prevalence of dating violence overall among gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth was similar to that of heterosexuals. The authors conclude that dating violence outreach and prevention efforts should be designed to targeted GLB adolescents, as well as heterosexuals.

KEYWORDS: *bisexual; gay; GLB; lesbian; outing; sexual orientation*

Fry, Deborah A., Leslie L. Davidson, Vaughn I. Rickert, and Harriet Lessel. *Partners and Peers: Sexual and Dating Violence among New York City Youth: A Research Report*. New York: New York City Alliance against Sexual Assault and Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention, Columbia University, 2008. http://www.svfreenyc.org/media/research/par_3_full.pdf.

Conducted in 2006 to 2007 in four public New York City high schools, this study surveyed approximately 1,300 youth ranging in age from 13 to 21. Key findings include the following:

- Sexual violence and dating violence are extremely common, with 16 percent experiencing sexual violence at some point in their lives. Among youth with a dating history, 56 percent experienced physical dating violence, including punching (11 percent).
- The violence experienced can be serious, with 8 percent reporting choking and 3 percent the use of a weapon.

- Physical dating violence is not one-sided, nor is it all males against females. Among dating youth, 33 percent, both males and females, reported perpetrating physical violence against their partners in the past year.
- Youth experience sexual violence from people they know.
- Many youth do not feel that being hit, shoved, or forced into sexual behavior is “abuse” or “violence.” Only 20 percent of victims identified their abuse as such.
- Youth tell their friends first, though about 40 percent never told anyone.
- Both victimization and perpetration of physical and sexual dating violence are linked with adverse health outcomes.
- Dating violence does not occur in a vacuum: It is associated with perpetrating other forms of youth violence. For boys, carrying a weapon within the last 30 days and/or gang membership in the past year were both risk factors. For girls, physical fighting in the past year was a risk factor.
- Experiencing nonpartner sexual violence puts youth are at an increased risk of being either a perpetrator or a victim of dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; gender differences; prevalence; risk factors; sequelae*

Gallopín, Colleen, and Laila Leigh. “Teen Perceptions of Dating Violence, Help-Seeking, and the Role of Schools.” Part of special issue, “Preventing Adolescent Dating Violence,” *The Prevention Researcher* 16, no. 1 (February 2009): 17–20.

This study reports on teens’ views of dating violence as expressed in four Break the Cycle focus groups. The groups involved 41 Washington, DC, youth aged 11 to 19. One group consisted of eight self-identified sexual-minority teens. The study found that teens in all groups considered dating violence a significant problem and far more widespread than adults believe. Participants accurately characterized different types of abuse. The majority knew victims and perpetrators personally and generally agreed that abusive behavior is never acceptable. The three heterosexual groups shared a double standard based on gender. Participants had differing opinions on causes of dating violence and on helping a friend in an abusive relationship. Participants voiced various concerns about seeking help from adults, and all agreed that schools were inadequate in responding to dating violence incidents.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; gay; help-seeking; sexual minority*

Gardner, Scott P. and Rila Boellaard. “Does Youth Relationship Education Continue to Work After a High School Class? A Longitudinal Study.” *Family Relations* 56, no. 5 (December 2007): 490–501 (accessed via Proquest).

This study evaluated Connections: Relationships and Marriage (Connections), a high school marriage-education curriculum designed to teach students how to develop healthy relationships and marriages. The study assessed the effectiveness of this curriculum up to four years post-intervention using a matched set of 72 high school students who were in either the Connections

group or a control group. In the nonrandomized, longitudinal study, the researchers found that most of the immediate impacts of the curriculum faded within four years after exposure to the curriculum. However, the Connections group showed a decrease in dating and relationship violence over a four-year time period, as well as an increase in self-esteem and in family cohesion. The study findings are based on the one-year and four-year follow-up questionnaires which had a low response rate (20 percent). Physical and verbal aggression were measured with the Conflict Tactics Scales. The researchers conclude that relationship-education programs like Connections can decrease such aggression and should be part of violence-prevention policy efforts.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; conflict resolution; curricula; education; effectiveness; evaluation; gender differences; longitudinal; marriage; prevention; risk factors; healthy relationships*

Giordano, Peggy C., Danielle A. Soto, Wendy D. Manning, and Monica A. Longmore. "The Characteristics of Romantic Relationships Associated with Teen Dating Violence." *Social Science Research* 39, no. 6 (2010): 863–74.

The study examined the specific relationship characteristics, qualities, and dynamics of adolescent romantic relationships and documented the degree to which such dynamics are linked to the perpetration of physical violence. The research relied on personal interviews with a sample of 956 adolescents about the nature of their relationships. The findings show that interviewees who self-reported violence perpetration were significantly more likely than non-violent dating respondents to report other negative relationship dynamics and behaviors, such as verbal conflict, jealousy, cheating, and lack of identity support. However, the study found no significant differences in levels of reported love, intimate self-disclosure, or perceived partner caring. Moreover, violent relationships exhibited, on average, longer duration, more frequent contact, sexual intimacy, and higher scores on the provision and receipt of instrumental support. Finally, violence perpetration was associated, particularly among male perpetrators, with the perception of lower power in the relationship compared with the power balance perceived by non-violent dating teens. These findings complicate traditional views of the dynamics within violent relationships, add to the understanding of risk factors, and may also shed light on why some adolescents remain in physically abusive relationships.

KEYWORDS: *gender; relationship dynamics; perpetration; power*

Glass, Nancy, Nina Fredland, Jacquelyn Campbell, Michael Yonas, et al. "Adolescent Dating Violence: Prevalence, Risk Factors, Health Outcomes, and Implications for Clinical Practice." *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing: JOGNN* 32, no. 2 (March 2003): 227–38.

Intended to help health-care professionals develop clinical interventions, this article reviews the literature on teen dating violence. The review discusses previous research findings on prevalence, risk factors associated with victimization and perpetration, and potential health outcomes. The review shows that demographically dating violence victimization and perpetration are more common among African Americans than among Caucasians and Hispanics. The review concludes by underscoring the need to design culturally and

developmentally competent dating violence prevention and intervention strategies in the clinical setting.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; Caucasians; Hispanics; review*

Gorman-Smith, Deborah, Patrick H. Tolan, Ashli J. Sheidow, and David B. Henry. "Partner Violence and Street Violence among Urban Adolescents: Do the Same Family Factors Relate?" *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 3 (2001): 273–95.

Using longitudinal data from 141 African American and Latino males aged 15 to 19 years, this study evaluated how participation in street violence as part of criminal/delinquent behavior relates to violence within dating or marital relationships. The study found that subjects were more likely to report the use of violence in relationships if they were also participating in violence as part of other criminal behavior. The research also assessed the relationship between family characteristics and participation in one or both types of violent behavior. More than half of the 141 subjects had not participated in either type of violence. Besides this nonviolent group, three others were apparent: a partner-violence-only group (14 percent), a street-violence-only group (12 percent), and a group participating in both (17 percent). Discriminate function analyses significantly differentiated the latter group from the nonviolent group, with the violent group having more poorly functioning families. These two groups were also differentiated from the partner-violence-only and street-violence-only groups. No significant background differences were found between partner-only versus street-only offenders, but youth who participated in both types of violence had poorer family functioning than youth who participated in only one type of violence. The study concluded with a discussion of implications for intervention and prevention.

KEYWORDS: *academic achievement; family; sociological factors; street; urban*

Halpern, Carolyn Tucker, Selene G. Oslak, Mary L. Young, Sandra L. Martin, and Lawrence L. Kupper. "Partner Violence among Adolescents in Opposite-Sex Romantic Relationships: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health." *American Journal of Public Health* 91, no. 10 (October 2001): 1679–1685.

Using a nationally representative sample of adolescents, this study examined the prevalence of psychological and minor physical-violence victimization and associations between such victimization and sociodemographic factors. The sample included 7,500 teens younger than 18 who reported exclusively opposite-sex romantic relationships in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. The measure of victimization used items from the Conflict Tactics Scale. Regression analyses assessed the associations between victimization patterns and sociodemographic characteristics, including sex, age, race, ethnicity, parental education, family structure, importance of religion, size of school, and grade-point average. The analysis found that psychological and minor physical-violence victimization is common: one-third of adolescents reported some type of victimization in the past 18 months, and 12 percent reported physical-violence victimization. Most sociodemographic characteristics were significantly associated with victimization. However, the specific patterns varied by sex. Among girls, grade point average was associated with dating violence victimization, The odds of physical or physical and psychological dating violence victimization decreased by a factor of 0.75 for every one-point

increase in grade point average. The odds of physical or physical and psychological dating violence victimization (versus no victimization) for a girl with a grade point of 4.0 (straight A's) was less than a third (0.31) of the odds of victimization with a grade point average of 1 (D's and F's). The unexplained sex-specificity of some associations underscored the need for longitudinal, theory-driven investigations of the developmental histories of both partners in couples.

KEYWORDS: *academic achievement; Conflict Tactics Scale; grade point average; heterosexuals; longitudinal; National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health; nationally representative sample; opposite-sex; prevalence*

Halpern, Carolyn Tucker, Mary L. Young, Martha W. Waller, Sandra L. Martin, and Lawrence L. Kupper. "Prevalence of Partner Violence in Same-Sex Romantic and Sexual Relationships in a National Sample of Adolescents." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 35 (2004): 124–31 (accessed via Proquest).

This study presents national prevalence estimates of psychological and physical intimate-partner violence between adolescents in same-sex relationships. It also assesses associations between sociodemographic characteristics and violence victimization. Analyses focused on 117 adolescents aged 12–21 years in same-sex couples from wave II of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Nearly one-quarter of the teens reported some type of partner violence victimization in the 18 months before the interview, with about 1 in 10 reporting physical victimization. Significant sex differences were found, with males less likely than females to report "any violence." Of six other sociodemographic characteristics examined, the importance of religion and school size mattered. Adolescents who held religion to be important to them and who attended larger schools were at lower risk of "any violence."

KEYWORDS: *homosexual; nationally representative sample; religion; same-sex*

Helms, Sarah W. *Assessment of Perceived Positive and Negative Outcomes in Risky Adolescent Dating and Peer Situations: A Descriptive Analysis of Risk and Benefit Perception*. Ph.D. diss., Virginia Commonwealth University, 2009.

This dissertation examined how adolescents perceive the potential costs and benefits associated with risky dating and peer situations, many of which may increase youths' risks for violence perpetration or victimization. These perceptions may significantly influence students' decisions to place themselves in such risky situations. The researcher conducted and qualitatively coded interviews with 82 predominantly African American adolescents living in an urban setting. The analysis identified 17 themes for risky dating situations and 13 for risky peer situations. The themes included potential positive and negative outcomes and contextual factors considered by youth, interpersonal and intrapersonal processes associated with dating and peer relationships (e.g., communication, emotion, respect, pressure), and more concrete costs and benefits for youth (e.g., gain or loss of financial or material goods, opportunities for fun things to do). The research elucidated motivational factors underlying decision-making processes, including types of decisional balances of costs and benefits. The research has implications for improving the ecological relevance and credibility of youth violence prevention programs. Currently, such programs tend to focus on changing beliefs, attitudes, and skill deficits, without sufficient

attention to motivational factors, the functions served by aggressive behaviors, costs and benefits associated with risky situations that may weigh into adolescents' decision-making processes.

KEYWORDS: *African American; cognitive processes; minority; peers; prevention; urban*

Herrman, Judith W. "There's a Fine Line...Adolescent Dating Violence and Prevention." *Pediatric Nursing* 35, no. 3 (May/June 2009): 164–71 (accessed via Proquest).

Written for an audience of pediatric nurses, this article summarizes general information about teen dating violence. Pediatric nurses may interface with teens before, during, and after violent episodes. Thus, the article provides a basic discussion of the definitions of dating violence and rape, data about the incidence and prevalence of such violence, risk factors, myths about dating violence, and the potential impact of youth dating violence. The author believes that a solid understanding of current research and youth perceptions will aid in framing interventions to reduce teen dating violence, and that pediatric nurses have an integral role in counseling teens and in preventing physical, sexual, and emotional abuse from a dating partner.

KEYWORDS: *counseling; definitions; education; impact; interventions; myths; nurses; prevalence; risk factors*

Hickman, Laura, J., Lisa H. Jaycox, and Jessica Aronoff. "Dating Violence among Adolescents: Prevalence, Gender Distribution, and Prevention Program Effectiveness." *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse* 5, no. 2 (2004): 123–42.

This literature review assesses the state of the research literature on teen dating violence, with attention to prevalence, gender distribution, the effectiveness of prevention programs, and challenges of evaluating programs. The authors remark on the lack of consensus among researchers on the prevalence and gender distribution of such teen violence, noting that two major sources of national data have yielded widely differing estimates. Studies of teen dating violence in urban areas tend to find high prevalence rates. Urban residents are likely to experience all types of violence at higher rates than suburban and rural residents. More boys have reported perpetrating sexual abuse than have girls (37 percent and 24 percent, respectively), but more girls reported perpetrating physical abuse of their partners than did boys (28 percent and 11 percent, respectively). Studies on the effectiveness of programs designed to prevent teen dating violence do not provide conclusive evidence about their efficacy. Tentative findings indicate that a higher percentage of female program participants adopt attitudes against dating violence than do boys. Another finding is that multi-session programming may have a positive impact on knowledge but not necessarily on attitudes, and that some significant changes due to program influence dissipated over time. The authors conclude with implications of the literature review for practice and policy.

KEYWORDS: *confidentiality; effectiveness; evaluation; gender differences; laws; literature review; non-systematic review; prevalence; prevention; sexual abuse; urban*

Hokoda, Audrey, Luciana Ramos-Lira, Patricia Celaya, Keleigh Vilhauer et al. "Reliability of Translated Measures Assessing Dating Violence among Mexican Adolescents." *Violence and Victims* 21, no. 1 (February 2006): 117–27.

Research on the dating abuse among Mexican teens is hindered by the lack of linguistically and culturally appropriate assessment tools. This study modified and translated the Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (CADRI) and the Attitudes towards Dating Violence Scales for Mexican adolescents. Tests on 307 adolescents aged 15 to 18 years from Monterrey and Mexicali, Mexico, showed that the translated CADRI subscales and Attitudes towards Dating Violence Scales had acceptable internal consistency and test-retest reliability coefficients. Thus the measures may be useful in assessing dating violence in Mexican teens.

KEYWORDS: *assessment tools; Mexicans; reliability; tests and scales*

Holt, Melissa K., and Dorothy L. Espelage. "Social Support as a Moderator between Dating Violence Victimization and Depression/Anxiety among African American and Caucasian Adolescents." *School Psychology Review* 34, no. 3 (2005): 309–29.

The study examined victimization in the dating relationships of 681 African American and Caucasian adolescents. Specifically, the researchers assessed perceived social support as a moderator in the association between anxiety/depression and two types of victimization: physical dating violence and emotional abuse in dating relationships. Participants provided self-reports of dating victimization, psychological functioning, and perceived familial and peer social support. The reports indicated victimization rates of 37 percent for physical dating violence and 62 percent for emotional abuse. Greater victimization, whether physical or emotional, was associated with more anxiety/depression. However, particularly for African American males, perceived social support moderated the association between victimization and psychological well-being.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; anxiety; depression; emotional abuse; peer support; peers; prevalence; social support; whitest*

Howard, Donna E., and Min Qi Wang. "Psychosocial Correlates of U.S. Adolescents Who Report a History of Forced Sexual Intercourse." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 36, no. 5 (May 2005): 372–79.

Based on the national 1999 Youth Risk behavior Survey, the study found associations for both high school boys and girls between forced sexual intercourse and emotional states (sad/hopeless feelings and considered suicide), fighting, physical dating violence, heavy cigarette use, and sexual risk behavior (unprotected sex, multiple partners, alcohol or drug use before sex). Important gender differences in the risk correlates emerged as well. Among females, having considered suicide, fighting, heavy cigarette smoking, and use of alcohol or drugs before sex were associated with forced sexual experiences. In contrast, among males, attempted suicide and gun carrying were important correlates. Ethnic males were also more likely than their white peers to have experienced forced sex.

KEYWORDS: *ethnicity; forced sex; gender; risk behavior; sexual intercourse*

Howard, Donna E., and Min Qi Wang. "Psychosocial Factors Associated with Adolescent Boys' Reports of Dating Violence." *Adolescence* 38, no. 151 (2003a): 519–33.

This study examined the prevalence of dating violence, as well as its association with psychosocial factors, in a nationally representative sample of ninth- through twelfth-grade U.S. boys. The 7,434 boys had completed the 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The dependent variable was physical dating violence; the independent variables were violence, suicide, substance use, and sexual risk behavior. In terms of prevalence, 9.13 percent of the boys reported physical dating violence. The likelihood was higher among boys who reported sad/hopeless feelings, had attempted suicide, reported fighting, had multiple sex partners, and reported nonuse of condoms. These findings suggest that physical dating violence is a more serious problem among teen boys than previously recognized. The researchers conclude that intervention programs should include a focus on boys as not only perpetrators but also recipients of dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *boys; sexual risk; substance; suicide*

Howard, Donna E., and Min Qi Wang. "Risk Profiles of Adolescent Girls Who Were Victims of Dating Violence." *Adolescence* 38, no. 149 (2003b): 1–14.

This study examined the prevalence of dating violence, as well as associated risk factors, in a sample of ninth- through twelfth-grade girls. The sample included 7,824 girls who completed the 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Nearly one in 10 reported dating violence. Twelfth-grade girls had the highest prevalence of dating violence. Girls who were victims of dating violence were more likely to be involved in other violent behaviors, to report extreme sadness and suicidal actions, to use illicit substances, and to engage in risky sexual behavior. Multivariate analysis revealed that dating violence was associated with sad/hopeless feelings, binge drinking, cocaine or inhalant use, multiple sex partners, nonuse of condoms, and ethnicity, specifically being black or Hispanic.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; black; girls; Hispanic; risk factors; risk profiles; sexual risk; victims*

Howard, Donna E., Min Qi Wang, and Fang Yan. "Prevalence and Psychosocial Correlates of Forced Sexual Intercourse among U.S. High School Adolescents." *Adolescence* 42 (2007a): 629–43.

This study updated prevalence estimates and reexamined the risk profile of adolescents who reported a history of forced sexual intercourse. The study used data from the national 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of U.S. high school students. Overall, 8.01 percent of high school adolescents reported a history of forced sexual intercourse. The lifetime prevalence for females, 10.3 percent, was roughly twice of that for males, 4.8 percent. The researchers found important gender differences in the risk profile associated with forced sexual intercourse.

KEYWORDS: *forced sex; rape; risk factors; risk profiles; victims; sex differences*

Howard, Donna E., Min Qi Wang, and F. Yan. "Psychosocial Factors Associated with Reports of Physical Dating Violence Among U.S. Adolescent Females." *Adolescence* 42, no. 166 (Summer 2007): 311–24. http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2248/is_166_42/ai_n21052946/?tag=content;coll.

This cross-sectional study examined the prevalence and correlates of physical dating violence but using data from the national 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of U.S. high school students. The study found that 10.3 percent of female adolescents experienced physical dating violence victimization in the past 12 months. Girls who reported fighting were more likely to be victims of such violence. In addition, girls who considered suicide were 1.5 times more likely, and girls who had unprotected sex were 1.7 time more likely, to report victimization. Other risk factors for physical dating violence victimization among girls included having sad/hopeless feelings.

KEYWORDS: *fighting; prevalence; risk factors; suicide;*

Howard, Donna E., Min Qi Wang, and F. Yan. "Psychosocial Factors Associated with Reports of Physical Dating Violence Victimization Among U.S. Adolescent Males." *Adolescence* 43, no. 171 (Fall 2008): 449 (accessed via Proquest).

This update of earlier work examined physical dating violence among adolescent males. The data, on 6,528 males, came from the national 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of U.S. high school students. In terms of prevalence, 10.0 percent of male adolescents reported experiencing physical dating violence, the dependent variable. The independent variables included four factors: violence, suicide, substance use, and sexual risk behavior. Boys who reported sad/hopeless feelings, physical fighting, gun carrying, recent sexual partners, and unprotected sexual intercourse were more likely to report physical dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *guns; prevalence; risk factors; sexual risk; suicide*

Howard, Donna E., Kenneth Beck, Melissa Hallmark Kerr, and Teresa Shattuck. "Psychosocial Correlates of Dating Violence Victimization among Latino Youth." *Adolescence* 40, no. 158 (Summer 2005): 319–31 (accessed via Proquest).

This study examined risk and protective factors associated with physical dating violence victimization. Data came from an anonymous, cross-sectional, self-reported survey administered to 446 Latino youths in suburban Washington, DC. About 9 percent of the Latino teens reported physical dating violence victimization. As in other studies, dating violence appeared to cluster with other risk behaviors. For the overall sample, carrying a gun, involvement in physical fights, and suicidal thoughts increased the odds of reporting dating violence. Some gender differences emerged. Among females, fighting was the sole risk behavior, and a stronger reported sense of self was protective. Among males, having considered suicide and gun carrying, but not physical fighting, were associated with dating violence. Spending time each week with a mentor was also positively associated with male dating violence victimization. Awareness of the clustering of risk factors and of gender differences needs to inform primary and secondary prevention activities.

KEYWORDS: *gender differences; Hispanic Americans; Latinos; risk factors; suburban*

Jaycox, Lisa H., Daniel McCaffrey, Beth Eiseman, Jessica Aronoff, Gene A. Shelley, Rebecca L. Collins, and Grant N. Marshall. "Impact of a School-Based Dating Violence Prevention Program Among Latino Teens: A Randomized Controlled Effectiveness Trial." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 39, no. 5 (2006): 694–704.

This evaluation assessed the effectiveness of a school-based dating abuse prevention program tailored to Latino students in inner-city public high schools. The three-class-session program, Break the Cycle's Ending Violence curriculum, focused on legal issues. Immediately after the program, students in intervention classrooms showed improved knowledge of dating violence, reduced tolerance of female-on-male aggression, and enhanced likelihood of seeking assistance. Six months later, improved knowledge and perceived helpfulness of an attorney were maintained. There were no differences in recent abusive/fearful dating experiences or violence victimization or perpetration.

KEYWORDS: *effectiveness; help-seeking proclivities; law; legal issues; prevention*

Josephson, Wendy L., and Jocelyn B. Proulx. "Violence in Young Adolescents' Relationships: A Path Model." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 23, no. 2 (February 1, 2008): 189–208.

The authors used a structural equation model based on social cognitive theory to predict relationship violence among 143 male and 147 female seventh- to ninth-graders. The variables examined were knowledge, self-efficacy, attitudes, and alternative conflict strategies. The research supported a direct causal effect for violence-tolerant attitudes and psychologically aggressive (escalation/blame) strategies on physical violence against dating partners and friends. Knowledge reduced violence-tolerant attitudes, thus reducing escalation/blame and physical violence. Knowledge and self-efficacy contributed to using reasoning-based strategies, but this reduced violence only in boys' friendships. Attitudes toward female dating violence affected physical violence, and attitudes toward male dating violence affected psychological aggression for both dating boys and girls.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; social cognitive theory; violence-tolerant attitudes*

Jouriles, Ernest N., Cora Platt, and Renee McDonald, "Violence in Adolescent Dating Relationships." *The Prevention Researcher* 16, no. 1 (2009): 3–7. http://www.tpronline.org/article.cfm/Violence_in_Adolescent_Dating_Relationships.

Beginning with a definition of dating and dating violence among adolescents, this article explores the factors that have an impact on such violence. It concludes with a review of two school-based prevention/intervention programs, Safe Dates and the Youth Relationships Project.

KEYWORDS: *definition; evaluation; prevention; program; risk factors; Safe Dates; Youth Relationship Project*

Jouriles, Ernest N., Edward Garrido, David Rosenfield, and Renee McDonald. "Experiences of Psychological and Physical Aggression in Adolescent Romantic Relationships: Links to Psychological Distress." *Child Abuse and Neglect* 33, no. 7 (July 2009): 451–60.

This study examined links between adolescents' experiences of psychological and physical relationship aggression and their psychological distress. The research used two methods of measuring relationship aggression, retrospective and cumulative. The sample consisted of 125 ninth- through twelfth-graders from three public schools. Both psychological and physical relationship aggression were positively correlated with symptoms of psychological distress among the teens. However, the findings suggest that, as with adult abused women, the experiences of psychological aggression may be more detrimental to mental health than experiences of physical aggression.

KEYWORDS: *effects; mental health; peers; risk-taking*

Karriker-Jaffe, Katherine J., Vangie Foshee, Susan T. Ennett, and Chirayath Suchindran. "Sex Differences in the Effects of Neighborhood Socioeconomic Disadvantage and Social Organization on Rural Adolescents' Aggression Trajectories." *American Journal of Community Psychology* 43, no. 3–4 (June 2009): 189–204 (accessed via Proquest).

This study investigated whether the effects of neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage on trajectories of aggression are buffered or mediated by neighborhood social organization. Focusing on rural adolescents, the study also examined sex differences in neighborhood effects. The multi-wave research on a sample of 5,118 youth found that girls growing up in disadvantaged rural neighborhoods engaged in aggressive behaviors earlier and more consistently throughout adolescence than their peers in more socioeconomically advantaged neighborhoods. For rural boys, the research did not find a consistent relationship between neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage and aggression.

KEYWORDS: *gender differences; rural; socioeconomic factors*

Kelly, Patricia J., An-Lin Cheng, Esther Peralez-Dieckmann, and Elisabeth Martinez. "Dating Violence and Girls in the Juvenile Justice System." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 24, no. 9 (September 2009): 1536–1551.

This cohort intervention study explored the prevalence of dating violence and behaviors associated with it among a population of girls in the juvenile justice system. The aim was to develop a risk profile for dating violence. A sample of 590 predominantly Hispanic girls (average age 15) from an urban juvenile justice system completed a questionnaire reporting on the occurrence of dating violence and assessing attitudes and self-efficacy about it. The strongest predictors of dating violence were (1) initial sexual experience at age 13 or younger, (2) unwilling nature of initial sexual experience, (3) drug use, and (4) low reported self-efficacy about preventing such violence. Poor school attendance was also associated with an increased risk of dating violence. The finding of a negative correlation between dating violence and school attendance was limited to bivariate analyses. The marked prevalence of dating violence and associated behaviors among the participants points to the importance of implementing primary

prevention programs to assist preteen girls in delaying initial sexual intercourse and in learning techniques to prevent dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *drugs; initial sexual experience; juvenile justice; risk factors; school attendance; school performance; urban*

Kerig, Patricia K. “Adolescent Dating Violence in Context: Introduction and Overview.” *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma* 19, no. 5 (2010): 465–68.

This article introduces Part One of a two-part special issue featuring new directions in research on teen dating violence. The articles in this special issue center on the theme of contextual factors that increase the risk of intimate-partner aggression in the teenage years. The contextual factors considered include exposure to violence in the media, ethnic diversity, gender dynamics, affective meaning, and psychiatric institutionalization. The contributors expand understanding of the contexts that increase the risk of adolescent dating aggression.

KEYWORDS: *ecological context; ethnicity; family violence; gender; institutionalization; media; risk factors*

Kervin, Denise, and Jennifer Obinna. “Youth Action Strategies in the Primary Prevention of Teen Dating Violence.” *Journal of Family Social Work* 13, no. 4 (2010): 362–74.

This article describes a school-based youth-led teen dating violence prevention project. Conducted in a rural Wisconsin community, the five-year project provided opportunities for students to plan presentations and activities; develop knowledge about unhealthy gender norms, a key cause of relationship violence, particularly for teenagers; and identify ways to influence their environment with respect to this issue. The project started as a multischool “drop-in” program with students from various high schools but eventually evolved into a youth action team at an alternative high school as a for-credit service learning class. Evaluation findings show the project to have promise in changing individual attitudes and beliefs, particularly unhealthy gender norms, while promoting bystander intervention.

KEYWORDS: *alternative high school; case study; gender norms; prevention; primary prevention; rural*

Kinsfogel, Kristen M., and John H. Grych. “Interparental Conflict and Adolescent Dating Relationships: Integrating Cognitive, Emotional, and Peer Influences.” *Journal of Family Psychology* 18, no. 3 (2004): 505–15. <http://academic.mu.edu/grychj/documents/kinsfogelgrych.pdf>.

This study examined the ways in which exposure to interparental conflict affected adolescent dating relationships in a sample of 391 adolescents aged 14 to 18 years. Boys exposed to greater parental discord were more likely to view aggression as justifiable in a romantic relationship, had more difficulty managing anger, and believed that aggressive behavior was more common in their peers’ dating relationships. Among boys, each of these variables in turn linked witnessing interparental conflict to higher levels of physical and verbal aggression toward their own

romantic partners. Among girls, interparental conflict was not correlated to aggressive behavior. The researchers trace this gender difference to the relationship-oriented socialization of girls versus the more individually focused socialization of boys: Girls who witness parental conflicts may be more sensitive to the potential harm conflict may cause to the relationship, whereas boys may focus more on the functionality of aggression for achieving dominance. Thus, boys who witness high levels of conflict may interpret aggression as a way to achieve their aims in a relationship, whereas girls may perceive aggression as something that is damaging to relationships. The research findings support the value of targeting cognitive and emotional processes in prevention programs designed to reduce dating violence. The study's results suggest as well that such programs will be strengthened by including a focus on peer influences.

KEYWORDS: *gender difference; interparental conflict; peer influences; peer relationships; risk factors*

Lavoie, Francine; Line Robitaille, Martine Hébert, Richard Tremblay et al. "History of Family Dysfunction and Perpetration of Dating Violence by Adolescent Boys: A Longitudinal Study." *The Journal of Adolescent Health: Official Publication of the Society for Adolescent Medicine* 30, no. 5 (May 2002): 375–83.

This longitudinal study of boys of low socioeconomic status examined whether there is a direct or a mediated association between involvement in dating violence and dysfunctional parental behavior patterns (harsh parenting practices, lax monitoring, and interparental conflict witnessed by the child) in later childhood. The research analyzed questionnaire data on 717 mid-adolescent boys collected at six time periods, beginning at age 10 and spanning eight years. Two variables proved to be independent contributors to perpetrated physical and psychological dating abuse at ages 16 and 17. Boys who perceived laxness of parental monitoring in late childhood and reported antisocial behavior at age 15, such as delinquency and substance abuse, were at risk of involvement in dating violence at age 16. Harsh parenting practices from ages 10 to 12 were also predictors of dating violence. The relationships between dating violence and both harsh parenting and antisocial behavior were direct.

KEYWORDS: *longitudinal; monitoring; parenting; socioeconomic status*

Leadbeater, Bonnie J., Elizabeth M. Banister, Wendy E. Ellis, and Rachel Yeung. "Victimization and Relational Aggression in Adolescent Romantic Relationships: The Influence of Parental and Peer Behaviors, and Individual Adjustment." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 37, no. 3 (March 2008): 359–72.

This study examined the effects and interaction of parental and peer influences on self-reported dating victimization and aggression. Peer influence has often been shown to be independent of, or greater than, that of parents. For example, high-quality friendships can weaken links between negative aspects of parenting and adjustment difficulties. With respect to dating adjustment, experiences with same-sex friends may also outweigh or moderate parental effects. Support of high-quality friendships can foster conflict resolution with dating partners, despite early family violence. Conversely, high-quality parental monitoring can limit the effects of aggression against peers on dating violence. The research used data from the "Healthy Youth Survey" questionnaire

given to 664 diverse youths between the ages of 12 and 19. Parental monitoring emerged as a protective factor in reducing both dating victimization and relational aggression. The findings also showed a significant transfer of aggression in peer relationships to relational aggression in dating relationships. Thus, parent and peer ecologies need to be considered in the design of dating violence prevention and treatment programs. The inclusion of healthy peers and the support of adult mentors in prevention programs can offer adolescents positive alternatives for relationships.

KEYWORDS: *curriculum; peers; prevention; relational aggression; risk factors*

Lichter, Erika L., and Laura A. McCloskey. "The Effects of Childhood Exposure to Marital Violence on Adolescent Gender-Role Beliefs and Dating Violence." *Psychology of Women Quarterly* 28, no. 4 (December 2004): 344–57.

This longitudinal study examined whether children exposed to marital violence in childhood are at heightened risk for engaging in dating violence as adolescents or young adults. The researchers interviewed 208 mother–child pairs from violent and nonviolent homes twice over a seven- to nine-year time span about exposure to marital violence. In follow-up interviews, respondents discussed adolescent gender-typed beliefs, the acceptance of dating violence, and experiences with dating violence. Results indicated that adolescents exposed to marital violence during childhood were more likely to justify the use of violence in dating relationships. Such justification and having traditional attitudes about male–female relationships were associated with greater dating violence perpetration regardless of exposure to marital violence. Adolescents' thinking about dating relationships was more important than exposure to marital violence in childhood. The authors conclude by discussing implications for social-cognitive and norm-based interventions.

KEYWORDS: *gender roles; interparental violence; interventions; longitudinal; sex roles*

Lormand, Donna. *Is Dating Violence Associated with Substance Use and Sexual Risk Behaviors Among Urban, Minority, Middle School Youth*. M.P.H. diss., University of Texas School of Public Health, 2009.

This dissertation examined the associations between dating violence and sexual risk and/or substance use among young adolescents. The study tested a number of hypotheses using a secondary data analysis from a STI, HIV, and pregnancy prevention intervention study for students in urban middle schools. At baseline, 21 percent of the youth reported experiencing physical dating violence victimization, 48.2 percent reported non-physical victimization, and 52.6 percent did not report any victimization. After adjusting for race/ethnicity, gender, and age ever having sex, alcohol use and illicit drug use were significantly associated with several forms of dating violence. The researcher concludes that dating violence is associated with early initiation of sexual behavior, as well as alcohol and drug use. She argues that interventions to prevent dating violence are needed middle school youth.

KEYWORDS: *middle school; minority; morbidity; urban*

Lowe, Laura A., Chris D. Jones, and Leon Banks. "Preventing Dating Violence in Public Schools: An Evaluation of an Interagency Collaborative Program for Youth." *Journal of School Violence* 6, no. 3 (2007): 69–87.

This evaluation assessed the effectiveness of a four-session program aimed at improving knowledge about dating, dating violence, and sexual behavior. Each of four collaborating community agencies provided one hour of curriculum for health classes for ninth-graders. The program appeared to have a positive impact in increasing dating skills and knowledge about abuse and in decreasing tolerance for dating aggression. The program was equally effective in increasing knowledge for girls and boys, whites and non-whites. Topics covered included, among others, definitions of sexual assault, assertiveness skills, personal boundaries, victims' rights, sexual harassment laws, abuse of power in relationships, consent and coercion in dating/sexual behavior, and risky sexual behavior.

KEYWORDS: *evaluation; forced sex; prevention; program; sexual assault*

Manganello, Jennifer. "Teens, Dating Violence and Media Effects: A Conceptual Model and Agenda for Future Research." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, New Orleans Sheraton, New Orleans, LA, May 27, 2004. http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p112940_index.html.

This conference paper incorporates an examination of media effects into dating violence research. It discusses theoretical perspectives related to dating violence and media effects, proposes a conceptual model for evaluating media as a risk factor, and provides suggestions for future research.

KEYWORDS: *media; risk factors*

Manganello, Jennifer A. "Teens, Dating Violence and Media Use: A Review of the Literature and Conceptual Model for Future Research." *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse* 9, no. 1 (January 1, 2008): 3–18.

This article focuses on aspects of the media that might be associated with risk for teen dating violence, such as time spent using media and effects of media content. After providing an overview of the prevalence and nature of teen dating violence, the article describes the potential for assessing media use as a risk factor for either perpetration or victimization. Media use, including time spent, types of media used, and content, has the potential to influence attitudes toward teen dating violence and provide role models for abusive behaviors in intimate relationships. Studies have found that teens report getting information about relationships from the media. The author proposes a conceptual model that links aspects of teen media use: selection of media, interaction with media, application of media to teens' lives, and application of media to their identities.

KEYWORDS: *media; prevention; risk factors; television*

Marcy, Helene M., and Monica Martinez. "Helping with Domestic Violence: Legal Barriers to Serving Teens in Illinois." Chicago, Center for Impact Research, November 2000. <http://www.impactresearch.org/documents/legalissuesreport.pdf>.

Drawing on interviews with 110 service providers and focus groups with students, this study isolated a variety of Illinois laws and regulations that served as barriers to the availability of services to teen victims of domestic violence. Reviewing laws in other states, the researchers found that on some issues Illinois laws were more helpful to minors, while on several key issues they were in need of change. The laws in question limit the availability of transitional shelters for teens, as well as orders of protection and access to health services without parental consent. In the case of shelters, an inadequate number are licensed for minors, the available shelters have time limits, and access requires parental consent. With respect to orders of protection, whether civil or criminal, service providers report that for teens they are difficult to obtain. Although Illinois law explicitly gives minors the same right to obtain an order of protection as any adult, in practice judges require a minor to have an adult seek an order of protection on the minor's behalf. Regarding health services, Illinois compares favorably with other states in giving minors similar powers of consent for general health services. However, Illinois gives considerably less power to consent for mental health counseling. Illinois law stipulates that a minor can seek mental health counseling for up to five 45-minute sessions, at which point parental consent is required. Providers report that this law severely limits their ability to provide meaningful services to teens, many of whom are not yet ready to let their parent know of their predicament. The article concludes with recommendations of legal changes to remedy these deficiencies in Illinois law.

KEYWORDS: *consent; counseling; emancipation; law; orders of protection; shelters*

Marquart, Beverly S., Dawn K. Nannini, R. W. Edwards, L. R. Stanley, and J. C. Wayman. "Prevalence of Dating Violence and Victimization: Regional and Gender Difference." *Adolescence* 42, no. 168 (Winter 2007): 645–57 (accessed via Proquest).

This study examined the prevalence of dating violence victimization in a national sample of 20,274 adolescents in 120 predominantly rural communities. Using logistic regression, the study also assessed patterns of reported victimization by gender and region. The analyses were based on adolescents who reported violence victimization using survey data from the Community Drug and Alcohol Survey. About 16 percent of adolescents reported being a victim of dating violence. Females reported a higher prevalence of victimization than males. The odds of a female adolescent being hit, pushed, or threatened by a dating partner was 3.5 times higher than a male adolescent. As a region, southern U.S. states showed the greatest rates of teen dating violence. The study found rates in the South of 43.8 percent, followed by the West at 27.5 percent, the Midwest at 25.7 percent, and the East at 22.8 percent. The authors attribute this higher prevalence in the South to the more traditional views of men and women residing there and to the possibly greater tolerance for violence—the "culture of violence"—that has long been argued to characterize the southern U.S. states. Like some other studies, this national study also indicates that dating violence is more common in rural areas, reflecting beliefs about male and female roles, as well as isolation, the lack of structured activities, and the common practice of "driving around" with alcohol.

KEYWORDS: *cultural values; culture of violence; gender differences; national study; regional; regional values; rural; South*

McCloskey, Laura Ann, and Erika L. Lichter. "Contribution of Marital Violence to Adolescent Aggression Across Different Relationships." Special Issue on Children and Domestic Violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 18, no. 4 (April 2003): 390–412.

This study examined whether teenage/adolescent youth raised in maritally violent homes display heightened physical aggression in several relationship contexts—opposite-sex dating, parents, and same-sex peer relationships. The study assessed psychological constructs, depression, and empathy, as links between early exposure to violence and aggression in youth. This research included youth who, as children (age six to 12), witnessed their fathers abuse their mothers. The researchers interviewed children at three time points: between six and 12 years of age, between 14 and 15, and between 15 and 16. At each point, mothers and children were interviewed separately and simultaneously. The data indicated that children from violent homes are at risk for becoming aggressive adolescents in some relationship domains. In addition, the evidence supports a mediating role of depression in the relationship between exposure to marital violence and adolescent aggression toward peers.

KEYWORDS: *battered women; child abuse; delinquency; depression; emotional abuse; empathy; family cycle of violence; longitudinal; neglect*

Meyer, Heather, and Nan Stein. "Relationship Violence Prevention Education in Schools: What's Working, What's Getting in the Way, and What Are Some Future Directions." *American Journal of Health Education* 35, no. 4 (July/August 2004): 198–204 (accessed via Proquest).

This article describes five K–12 school-based adolescent dating violence prevention curricula/programs that have undergone some form of evaluation or peer review. The programs are Safe Dates, Southside Teens about Respect, Building Relationships in Greater Harmony Together, Teen Dating Violence Program, and the London Secondary Intervention Project on Violence in Intimate Relationships. The study examines and compares the length, depth, goals and objectives, reported outcomes, and evaluation procedures of each program. The study also discusses key issues and shortcomings in the programs. The programs were generally found to be not very effective at preventing relationship violence in the short term, and less effective in the long term. The research suggests the need for greater program depth and length, as well as a systematic, longitudinal process for collecting and analyzing data.

KEYWORDS: *curriculum; evaluation; prevention; programs; school-based*

Miller, Elizabeth, Michele R. Decker, Anita Raj, Elizabeth Reed et al. "Intimate Partner Violence and Health Care-Seeking Patterns Among Female Users of Urban Adolescent Clinics." *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 14, no. 6 (November 2010): 910–17. <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/731443>.

This study surveyed 448 female clients ages 14 to 20 seeking care in five urban adolescent clinics. One goal was to assess the prevalence of intimate-partner violence and associations with patterns of seeking health care among such patients. Another goal was to examine the screening for, and disclosure patterns of, intimate-partner violence within these clinics. A self-administered, anonymous, computerized survey inquired about reasons for seeking care and history of intimate-partner violence, screening by, and disclosure to, the providers. Two in five (40 percent) female urban adolescent clinic patients had experienced intimate-partner violence, with 32 percent reporting physical and 21 percent reporting sexual victimization. Among victims of intimate-partner violence, 45 percent reported abuse in their current or most recent relationship. The prevalence of intimate-partner violence was equally high among those visiting clinics for reproductive health concerns as among those seeking care for other reasons. Intimate-partner victimization was associated with both poor current health status and having foregone care in the past year. A minority (30 percent) reported ever being screened for intimate-partner violence in a clinical setting. Intimate-partner violence victimization is pervasive among female adolescent clinic attendees regardless of visit type, yet screening for it by providers appears low. Intimate-partner violence screening and interventions tailored for female patients of adolescent clinics are needed.

KEYWORDS: *clinic; disclosure; health care; screening; urban*

Miller, Elizabeth, Michele R. Decker, Elizabeth Reed, Anita Raj et al. "Male Partner Pregnancy-Promoting Behaviors and Adolescent Partner Violence: Findings from a Qualitative Study with Adolescent Females." *Ambulatory Pediatrics* 7, no. 5 (September 2007): 360–67.

This paper examines birth-control and impregnation experiences among adolescent females with a history of intimate-partner violence. The paper reports on females who described explicit pregnancy-promoting behaviors of abusive male partners. The behaviors included messages and actions that led females to believe their partner was actively trying to impregnate them, e.g., through birth-control sabotage. The researchers conducted semi-structured interviews about violence and sexual experiences with 53 sexually active adolescent females aged 15 to 20 years with a known history of partner violence. The interviewees included significant minority representation, with 21 percent African American and 38 percent Latina respondents. More than half (58 percent) of the interviewees had experienced pregnancy. A key finding was that 26 percent reported that their abusive male partners were actively trying to get them pregnant. The researchers subjected the interviews of this subset of 14 to extra content analysis, with attention to pregnancy and contraceptive use. The females' stories revealed that abusive male partners desiring pregnancy manipulated condom use, sabotaged birth-control use, and made explicit statements about wanting pregnancy. The researchers argue that pregnancy-promoting behaviors of male abusive partners may be one mechanism underlying associations between adolescent pregnancy and partner violence. They also suggest that exploring pregnancy intentions and

behaviors of partners of adolescents may help to identify violence victims. In addition, they call for examining the frequency of birth-control sabotage and explicit attempts to cause pregnancy in adolescent intimate partner violence at the population level.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; birth control; birth-control sabotage; Hispanic Americans; Latinas; pregnancy; qualitative*

Miller, Jody, and Norman White. "Gender and Adolescent Relationship Violence: A Contextual Examination." *Criminology* 41 (2003): 1207–1248 (accessed via Proquest).

One of the few studies that focus on a high-risk population, this study weighs in on the debate about the role of gender in adolescent dating violence. Research has documented quite high rates of female-to-male violence, prompting this debate. Drawing from a broader qualitative study of violence in the lives of African American youths from a disadvantaged urban community, the authors provide a contextual description of the nature, circumstances, and meanings of adolescent dating violence. Their research shows that the meanings and consequences of dating violence differ markedly for females and males. For both, the meanings and consequences reflect gender inequalities.

KEYWORDS: *African American; contextual factors; feminism; gender; gender inequality; high-risk population; situational context; urban*

Miller, Shari, Deborah Gorman-Smith, Terri Sullivan et al. "Parent and Peer Predictors of Physical Dating Violence Perpetration in Early Adolescence: Tests of Moderation and Gender Differences." *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology* 38, no. 4 (July 2009): 538–50.

This study examined parenting and peer predictors of physical dating violence perpetration during early adolescence and tested moderation among these predictors and gender. Participants were 2,824 ethnically diverse sixth-grade students with a recent boyfriend/girlfriend who was part of a multisite, longitudinal investigation of the development and prevention of violence among middle school students. Those students who reported having a boyfriend/girlfriend reported significantly more drug use and delinquent activity and were more likely to be male. Twenty-nine percent of youth with a boyfriend/girlfriend reported perpetrating physical aggression against their boyfriend/girlfriend. Parenting and peer variables were significant predictors of physical dating violence. However, gender moderated the association between parenting practices and physical dating violence, with parental monitoring inversely linked to dating violence for boys and parent support for nonaggression inversely linked to dating violence for girls. Parent support for aggression also moderated the association between peer deviancy and reported perpetration. Finally, gender moderated the interaction between peer deviancy and parent support for nonaggressive solutions.

Muñoz-Rivas, Marina J., Jose Luis Graña, K. Daniel O’Leary, and M. Pilar González.
“Aggression in Adolescent Dating Relationships: Prevalence, Justification, and Health
Consequences.” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 40, no. 4 (April 2007): 298–304.

This research, using a representative sample of Spanish adolescents, assessed the prevalence of verbally and physically aggressive behaviors in dating relationships, as well as the behaviors’ health consequences. Cross-sectional self-report data were obtained with the Modified Conflict Tactics Scale from 2,416 adolescents and young adults of both sexes between ages 16 and 20. The results showed that a significantly higher percentage of women engaged in verbal aggression (95.3 percent versus 92.8 percent), whereas the males engaged in more severe physical aggression (4.6 percent versus 2.0 percent) and produced worse consequences for their female partners’ health (especially slight cuts/slight bruises, broken nose, black eye, broken bone, and injury requiring medical treatment/hospitalization). Justification for aggression also revealed differential results. Whereas women said they attacked their partners while under the influence of emotional states of intense anger (22.4 percent versus 13.9 percent), the males said they did so in response to aggression received (13.0 percent versus 6.6 percent). The analysis of the group differences as a function of age showed that verbal aggression was very high and was not different across the age-groups. In contrast, physical aggression decreased significantly across the age-groups, but health consequences became more severe with age (e.g., broken nose, black eye, broken bone, went from 1 percent at 16 years to 4.5 percent at 20 years of age).

KEYWORDS: *gender differences; health consequences; severity of injury*

Ocampo, Beverly Weidmer; Gene A. Shelley, and Lisa H. Jaycox. “Latino Teens Talk About Help Seeking and Help Giving in Relation to Dating Violence.” *Violence Against Women* 13, no. 2 (February 2007): 172–89.

Part of a special issue on Latinos and intimate-partner violence, this study explored attitudes about help-seeking and help-giving related to dating violence among Latino ninth-graders. Surveys and focus groups were conducted in two waves across two academic years with predominantly Latino (80 percent) students in the Los Angeles, California area. A total of six focus groups were conducted with ninth-grade students; three of the focus groups were with students who received the Break the Cycle Ending Violence curriculum, and three focus groups were with students who did not receive the intervention. Findings from the survey of 1,655 boys and girls (average age 14.53 years) indicated that teens saw informal sources of help as more helpful in a dating abuse situation than professional sources of help. The teens would be more likely to seek support from parents, siblings, other relatives, or friends than from a doctor, other health professional, or school nurse. Focus group data indicated that students would seek help from friends first. With regard to seeking help from family members, students said they would talk to their mothers (not their fathers). Focus group feedback also indicated that students did not trust or feel close to adults in professional roles and that they would not seek help from a teacher if they were experiencing dating violence. Adolescents were reluctant to intervene in dating violence situations. In any case, the quality of help that teens could provide was questionable.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; help-seeking; helping behavior; Hispanic American*

O’Keefe, Maura. *Teen Dating Violence: A Review of Risk Factors and Prevention Efforts*. Harrisburg, PA: VAWnet, a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence/Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, April 2005. http://new.vawnet.org/category/Documents.php?docid=409&category_id=695.

This article provides a critical review of the research literature on teen dating violence, specifically, the prevalence of abuse, gender parity in abuse, risks factors for perpetrators and victims, and the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs. Key risk factors consistently found in the literature as correlates of dating violence perpetration include the following: holding norms tolerant of the use of violence in dating relationships; having friends in violent relationships; exposure to violence in the family of origin and community violence; alcohol and drug use; and having a history of aggression. The one factor that has been consistently associated with being the victim of dating violence, particularly for males, is inflicting dating violence. In discussing the role of gender, the article notes the common finding of mutual aggression, while cautioning against the conclusion that violence is gender neutral.

The article reports that a number of school-based programs that focus on reducing teen dating violence and promoting healthy, respectful relationships show promising results. The majority of these programs have focused on increasing students’ awareness and knowledge about dating violence, changing attitudes and norms that condone violence, and building conflict-resolution and communication skills. Given that many of these prevention programs have only been short-term interventions, the results demonstrate a potential to affect public health. Particularly encouraging is a program demonstrating long-term behavioral change. This change suggests the possible value of establishing programs in every school and community.

KEYWORDS: *literature review; mutual aggression; prevalence; prevention; programs; risk factors*

O’Leary, K. Daniel, Amy M. Smith Slep, Sarah Avery-Leaf, and Michele Cascardi. “Gender Differences in Dating Aggression among Multiethnic High School Students.” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 42 (2008): 473–79.

This cross-sectional survey assessed the prevalence of physical dating aggression and victimization among high school students and the prevalence of mutual aggression. In addition, the study examined whether aggression differs across ethnic groups and relationship type and the likelihood of injury and breakup in victims. Participants included 2,363 students between 15 and 18 years old from seven multiethnic high schools. About 30 percent of males and females reported being the recipients of physical aggression by their partners. More females reported engaging in physical aggression (40 percent) than reported being victims (30 percent). Fewer males reported inflicting physical abuse (24 percent) than reported being victims (31 percent). For females, exclusive engagement in perpetration was reported at higher rates than exclusive victimization and vice versa for males. There was a very large association between a teen’s reports of perpetration and victimization; if physical aggression occurred, typically both partners were aggressive. Dating aggression was less prevalent among male Asian students than in other ethnic groups. Engaged males and females reported the highest rates of physical aggression. In aggressive relationships, 26 percent of females and 22 percent of males reported that they had

been injured by their partners; 33 percent of females and 22 percent of males reported that they injured their partners. More than 25 percent of males and females who reported victimization reported injury. The modified Conflict Tactics Scale was used to measure physical aggression. The authors concluded that intervention programs should occur before high school and should address the physical aggression of both males and females.

KEYWORDS: *Asians; cross-sectional; ethnicity; gender differences; gender parity; injury; sequelae; survey*

Pacifici, Caesar, Mike Stoolmiller, and Carol Nelson. "Evaluating a Prevention Program for Teenagers on Sexual Coercion: A Differential Effectiveness Approach." *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 69, no. 3 (June 2001): 552–59.

This study evaluated a coeducational program for teenagers on preventing sexual coercion in dating situations. High school health education classes were randomly assigned to either a treatment or a control condition. Students (aged 15.8 on average) examined individual and social attitudes underlying coercive sexual behavior and learned communication skills aimed at preventing or coping with unwanted sexual advances. Instruction was enhanced by video and an interactive video virtual date. The study used sexual attitude scales to assess outcomes in a sample of 458 high school students. Findings, based on a latent variable model of differential effectiveness, showed that students in the treatment group with initial coercive attitude scores at or above the mean benefited significantly more than students with the same range of scores in the control group.

KEYWORDS: *control group; experimental; prevention; sexual coercion*

Petersen, Rebecca D., and Avelardo Valdez. "Intimate Partner Violence among Hispanic Females." *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice* 2, no. 1/2 (2004): 67–89.

This study examined intimate-partner violence among Hispanics, particularly Mexican American adolescent females. Using the Hispanic Stress Inventory, the study assessed the prevalence and nature of abuse. In addition, noting that the Hispanic minority is understudied in the literature on partner abuse, the study focused on the etiology of such abuse and its challenges for criminal justice responses, including responses in the juvenile justice system.

KEYWORDS: *criminal justice; Hispanic Americans; juvenile justice; Latinos; teenagers; women*

Raiford, Jerris L., Gina M. Wingood, Ralph J. DiClemente. "Prevalence, Incidence, and Predictors of Dating Violence; A Longitudinal Study of African American Female Adolescents." *Journal of Women's Health* 16, no. 6 (2007): 822–32.

This longitudinal study of a one-year period examined the prevalence and predictors of dating violence in an African American sample using the theory of gender and power. Participants were 522 African American females 14–18 years of age. Dating violence was assessed by asking the girls whether they had ever experienced verbal or physical abuse perpetrated by a boyfriend. At

baseline, 28 percent of the girls reported a history of dating violence victimization. To calculate the one-year incidence of dating violence, the girls reporting a history of victimization at baseline were excluded from subsequent longitudinal analyses. In longitudinal analyses, the one-year incidence of dating violence was 12 percent. Regression analyses identified four factors at baseline that were predictive of dating violence. This four-factor model correctly classified 87.6 percent of adolescents according to whether or not they experienced dating violence during the one-year follow-up. Controlling for public financial assistance, relative to adolescents not experiencing dating violence, those who did experience it were twice as likely to report less understanding of healthy relationships. Relationship knowledge was assessed with an eight-item scale developed to measure attitudes about healthy and unhealthy relationships. The victims were also more likely to report using drugs, and 1.9 times more likely to have viewed X-rated movies. Girls who experienced physical or verbal dating violence by a boyfriend were 2.0 times more likely to report using drugs at one-year follow-up. Drug use was defined as having used at least one of the following six drugs in the past 30 days: tranquilizers, marijuana, amphetamines, LSD, cocaine, or crack. The authors suggest that clinicians use awareness of these risk factors to screen youth in their secondary prevention efforts.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; drugs; healthy relationships; longitudinal; prevention; risk factors; X-rated movies*

Ramisetty-Mikler, Suhasini, Deborah Goebert, Stephanie Nishimura, and Raul Caetano. "Dating Violence Victimization: Associated Drinking and Sexual Risk Behaviors of Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Caucasian High School Students in Hawaii." *The Journal of School Health* 76, no. 8 (October 2006): 423–29.

The study addressed risk factors for teen dating violence victimization among ethnic minority groups in the multiethnic state of Hawaii, specifically Asian/Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians, as well as Caucasians. Using the 1999 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the study analyzed data on 559 male and 683 female high school students from the three populations. The study examined gender and ethnic differences in physical dating violence victimization and whether drinking (early initiation, binge drinking), unsafe sexual behaviors (early initiation, multiple partners, use of alcohol and drugs with sex, history of sexual abuse), and suicidality constitute risk for victimization. The overall rate of experiencing physical violence was 7.8 percent, with both sexes reporting similar rates (boys 7.6 percent, girls 8.0 percent). Native Hawaiian students reported a higher rate (11.6 percent) than Caucasians (7.3 percent) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (6.5 percent). The research found significant bivariate associations between victimization and many of the risk factors. Regression analyses indicated that students 16 years or older had nearly three times the risk of victimization. The risk was eightfold if youth were sexually active by age 13. The risk was threefold for those who reported prior sexual abuse. Early initiation of drinking (under age 12) and suicidality doubled the risk of being a victim. The researchers argue that screening adolescents for associated risk factors such as drinking, early sex, and depression is crucial to identify teen victimization, a risk factor for adult partner violence.

KEYWORDS: *alcohol; Asian Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders; drinking; early initiation; Hawaiians; prior sexual abuse; risk behaviors; risk factors; sex differences; substance use; suicidality; survey*

Reyes, Heath Luz McNaughton. *Adolescent Alcohol Use and Dating Violence Perpetration: Three Studies Examining Concurrent and Longitudinal Relations Across Grades 8 Through 12*. Ph.D. diss., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2009 (accessed via Proquest).

This dissertation addresses the relationship between alcohol use and adolescent dating violence. Consisting of three studies, the researchers used data from a longitudinal study spanning grades 8 through 12. Each of the three studies deployed a different theoretical lens to guide an empirical investigation of the relations between alcohol use and physical dating-violence perpetration.

Study one (n=2272) examined several different theoretical models of the linkages between alcohol use and dating violence perpetration over time. The study tested the models using autoregressive latent-curve models. The research adjusted for the effects of common predictors, reducing the correlation of the trajectories of alcohol use and dating violence. That is, the research examined the extent to which baseline measures of several risk factors (family conflict, peer aggression, social bonding, and emotional distress) that are common to both alcohol use and dating violence accounted for linkages between the two behaviors over time. Despite adjustment, concurrent associations between the two behaviors persisted across nearly all grades. There was no evidence of prospective relations from alcohol use to dating violence or vice versa.

Study two (n=2311) examined the role of heavy alcohol use in the developmental process of desistance from dating-violence perpetration. The study used growth models to test the hypotheses that both early and continuing alcohol use would hinder desistance from dating violence during late adolescence. Contrary to expectations, the effects of early alcohol use on dating violence diminished over time.

Study three (n=2311) examined the hypothesis that increased exposure to violence would strengthen the relationship between heavy alcohol use and dating violence. The study used growth models to examine the joint effects of alcohol use and exposure to family, peer, and neighborhood violence on levels of dating violence across grades 8 through 12. Across all grades, the relationship between alcohol use and dating violence was stronger for teens exposed to higher levels of family conflict and friend dating violence.

The researcher argues that prevention programs targeting risk factors common to both dating violence and alcohol use may reduce involvement in both behaviors. Also, programs that seek to reduce alcohol-related dating violence should target younger teens and those exposed to family conflict or friend dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *alcohol; dissertation; family conflict; friend dating violence; neighborhood; peer; prevention programs; propensity toward deviance; risk factors*

Rickert, Vaughn I., Constance M. Wiemann, Roger D. Vaughan, and Jacquelyn W. White. "Rates and Risk Factors for Sexual Violence among an Ethnically Diverse Sample of Adolescents." *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* 158, no. 12 (December 2004): 1132–1140.

This study examined the occurrence of rape/attempted rape and verbal sexual coercion in an ethnically diverse adolescent population. It also evaluated whether unique risk factors exist for victims of either type of unwanted sexual experience. The researchers administered a cross-sectional survey in an urban adolescent health-care facility to 689 female patients aged 14 to 23. Asked about the past year's dates, about 30 percent of the participants reported having an unwanted sexual experience. A number of factors increased the risk of rape/attempted rape: past physical aggression by the dating partner; date-specific behaviors, including going to the perpetrator's house to be alone and a decreased level of romantic involvement; lower levels of self-reported ethnic identity, and past sexual victimization as an adolescent. Past sexual victimization as an adolescent was associated with more than a fourfold risk of rape/attempted rape. An important finding was that alcohol use by the victim or perpetrator was unrelated to an increased risk of rape/attempted rape. The risk of verbal sexual coercion was increased by past verbal aggression from the dating partner; date-specific behaviors, including a greater number of past dates and decreased romantic involvement; going to the perpetrator's house; past sexual victimization; pressures to use alcohol; the victim's abstention from drinking alcohol during the date; and wider age discrepancy between victim and perpetrator. The researchers concluded that victims of unwanted sexual experience have a distinct risk profile.

KEYWORDS: *age disparity; alcohol; lifetime exposure to abuse; rape; risk profile; sexual coercion*

Roberts, Timothy A., Jonathan D. Klein, and Susan Fisher. "Longitudinal Effect of Intimate Partner Abuse on High-Risk Behavior among Adolescents." *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 157, no. 9 (2003): 875–81.

This study is among a limited number of longitudinal studies on correlates of abuse in the literature on dating violence. Using a nationally representative sample, the study examined the temporal associations of various risk behaviors among heterosexual adolescents and their participation in dating abuse. Drawing on the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health dataset for information on 4,443 adolescents, the study assessed the longitudinal effect of dating abuse on risk behavior. The abuse measure determined whether the subject had been insulted in public, sworn at, threatened with violence, pushed or shoved, or was targeted by a thrown object. The outcome measures were changes between 1995 (wave I) and 1996 (wave II) on each of five risk behaviors: illicit substance use, antisocial behavior, violent behavior, suicidal behavior, and depression. The research found, after adjusting for sociodemographic and several other factors, that abuse between waves I and II was associated for both sexes with higher rates of all five risk behaviors. More severe abuse further heightened depression for both males and females and heightened the other risk behaviors for females.

KEYWORDS: *consequences; longitudinal; nationally representative; risk behaviors*

Roberts, Timothy A., Peggy Auinger, and Jonathan D. Klein. "Predictors of Partner Abuse in a Nationally Representative Sample of Adolescents Involved in Heterosexual Dating Relationships." *Violence and Victims* 21, no. 1 (February 2006): 81–90 (accessed via Proquest).

Using a nationally representative sample, this study examined the characteristics of abusive heterosexual adolescent dating relationships. The researchers conclude that relationship characteristics play an important role in the development of such abusive relationships. Drawing on the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health dataset, the study analyzed 4,441 heterosexual relationships using logistic regression models. The research assessed the following relationship characteristics for their possible associations with verbal and physical victimization: sexual intercourse or pregnancy with the relationship partner, characterization of the relationship as a "special romantic relationship," duration of the relationship, age at relationship initiation, and age disparity between partners. Results revealed that for both sexes involvement in a sexual or "special romantic" relationship was associated with greater likelihood of being abused. For both sexes, increased length of time in the relationship was associated with verbal abuse. For males, involvement in a pregnancy was associated with being verbally and physically abused.

KEYWORDS: *age difference; duration; nationally representative sample; predictors; pregnancy; relationship characteristics; secondary data analysis; surveys; verbal abuse*

Salazar, Laura F., and Sarah L. Cook. "Preliminary Findings from an Outcome Evaluation of an Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Program for Adjudicated, African American, Adolescent Males." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* 4, no. 4 (October 1, 2006): 368–85.

This evaluation assessed the effectiveness of a five-session intimate-partner violence-prevention program for adjudicated African American male adolescents. The research used an experimental design to assess post-test changes in knowledge of intimate-partner violence and patriarchal attitudes, as well as to test for the moderating effects of witnessing interparental violence and of perpetrating intimate-partner violence. Results indicated higher levels of knowledge and reduced patriarchal attitudes among the intervention group as compared with the control group. Committing violence was not a significant moderator of the intervention's effectiveness. Witnessing simulated interparental violence yielded lowered patriarchal attitudes compared with adolescents in the control group, but only for those who witnessed high levels of parental male-to-female violence.

KEYWORDS: *behavioral change; evaluation; experimental; inner-city; longitudinal; minority*

Saperstein, Pamela. "Teen Dating Violence: Eliminating Statutory Barriers to Civil Protection Orders." *Family Law Quarterly* 39, no. 1 (Spring 2005): 181–96 (accessed via HeinOnline.org.).

This article explores the three most significant statutory barriers to civil protection orders for teen victims of relationship violence—the fact that teens are minors; the fact that dating teen couples are not married, parents, or cohabiting; and the fact that parental consent is needed for

various legal and other actions. Domestic violence, as originally written, typically posed barriers that precluded or limited a teen's ability to gain a civil protection order—the age requirement, the relationship requirement, and the parental-consent requirement. The article concludes with model statutory language for civil protective orders without parental consent. The article covers a model definition of teen dating violence, which provides comprehensive coverage to victims, and urges states to adopt its language.

KEYWORDS: *law; law reforms; legal status; protection orders; statutory barriers*

Schad, Megan M., David E. Szewo, Jill Antonishak, Amanda Hare, and Joseph P. Allen. "The Broader Context of Relational Aggression in Adolescent Romantic Relationships: Predictions from Peer Pressure and Links to Psychosocial Functioning." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 37, no. 3 (March 2008): 346–58.

This longitudinal study examined relational aggression in adolescent romantic relationships. Specifically, it investigated the ways such aggression emerges from prior experiences of peer pressure and is linked to concurrent difficulties in psychosocial functioning. Relational aggression has been broadly defined as any attempt to harm another person by manipulating or damaging their social relationships. Unlike more overt forms of aggression, such as physical or verbal aggression, relational aggression aims to harm others by covert, indirect, and often circuitous means. The study obtained data from 97 adolescents and their best friends at age 15 and from adolescents and their romantic partners at age 18. The study found that the experience of peer pressure during early adolescence increases the risk for later involvement in a relationally aggressive romantic relationship. The study also found associations between romantic relational aggression and victimization and internalizing and externalizing behaviors during late adolescence, thus extending knowledge about links of relational aggression in romantic relationships to broader patterns of psychosocial functioning.

KEYWORDS: *alcohol; depression; peers; relational aggression*

Schnurr, Melissa P. *Precursors to Adolescents' Dating Violence Perpetration and Healthy Romantic Relationships*. Ph.D. diss., Iowa State University, 2009 (accessed via Proquest).

This dissertation consists of two papers. The first paper assessed how risk factors—adolescent, family, school, and neighborhood—relate to the perpetration of teen dating violence and whether perceived neighborhood collective efficacy reduces or exacerbates the relationship. The research used regression analysis on three waves of data on 765 youth aged 16 to 20 at wave three from the *Welfare, Children, and Families: A Three-City Study*. For the total sample, significant early risk factors for perpetration in late adolescence included substance use, low parental monitoring, academic difficulties, and involvement with antisocial peers. For males, females, and black males and females, prior involvement with antisocial peers heightened the likelihood of such perpetration. For males, black males, and Hispanic females, early drug and alcohol use increased perpetration. Risk factors also included low parental monitoring for females, depressive symptoms for males, externalizing behaviors for black females, and mother's experiences with domestic violence for Hispanic females. Finally, for Hispanic males, perceived neighborhood

collective efficacy buffered the relationship between early academic difficulties and later dating violence perpetration. The study concluded with a discussion of implications for interventions.

The second paper used the same data source for 535 youth to explore how protective factors in teens' familial and neighborhood surroundings promote and mediate healthy romantic relationships. The research found no direct link between neighborhood risk factors and the development of such relationships. However, the study identified two family micro-system protective factors. Even when neighborhood risk factors were considered, being monitored by parents and living in a structured home environment significantly contributed to adolescents' healthy development of romantic relationships. The paper concludes with a discussion of implications for romantic relationship education.

KEYWORDS: *black; Hispanic; monitoring; neighborhood; peers; race; risk factors*

Sears, Heather A., E. Sandra Byers, and E. Lisa Price. "The Co-Occurrence of Adolescent Boys' and Girls' Use of Psychologically, Physically, and Sexually Abusive Behaviours in Their Dating Relationships." *Journal of Adolescence* 30, no. 3 (June 2007): 487–504 (accessed via Proquest).

This study examined the risk factors for adolescent boys' and girls' self-reported use of psychologically, physically, and sexually abusive behaviors in their dating relationships. The participants consisted of 324 boys and 309 girls in grades seven, nine, or eleven who completed surveys at school. Descriptive analyses showed that 19 percent of boys and 26 percent of girls reported having used two or more forms of dating violence. One-third of students in grade seven had already used at least one form of such behavior. Correlation analyses indicated that attitudes toward and experiences with violence predicted the use of multiple forms of dating violence among both boys and girls. After controlling for general abusiveness, boys' use of sexually abusive behavior and girls' use of psychologically abusive behavior appeared to be linked to an enactment of social scripts associated with their respective gender roles.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; gender roles; risk factors; social scripts*

Sears, Heather A., E. Sandra Byers, and John J. Whelan. "If It Hurts You, Then It Is Not a Joke": Adolescents' Ideas About Girls' and Boys' Use and Experience of Abusive Behavior in Dating Relationships." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 21 no. 9 (September 2006): 1191–1207.

This study examined teens' ideas about abuse in heterosexual dating relationships, as well as their perpetration and experience of it. The researchers believe that it is important to understand how teens themselves define abuse in order to devise effective interventions. The study used data from 26 focus groups with Canadian high school students. The research found a number of issues relating to teens' thinking about dating violence. The teens in general expressed difficulty distinguishing abuse from "just kidding around" or demonstrating caring. The teens considered behaviors as abusive only within certain contexts. In cases of revenge, retaliation, or to "save face," teens disclosed that hitting and other acts of abuse were justified actions. The research also found significant differences between boys and girls in the definitions of dating violence. Girls

perceived violence as a means to exert control or to dominate, while boys linked violent acts with being provoked or “forced” into violent episodes. Girls viewed their own violent behaviors as “joking around,” while boys were “serious” when they inflicted pain and violence. Boys perceived a double standard, pointing out that girls were able to “get away” with the minor offenses for which boys would be punished. In addition, boys defined abuse by its intent, i.e., whether it was intended to cause pain as opposed to being “an accident” or if “there is anger behind it.” In contrast, girls judged an episode as violent by its effect, i.e., based on whether it resulted in “uneasiness, physical or emotional hurt, or fear.” The differences in boys’ and girls’ perceptions were partly related to real differences in the nature of violence perpetrated by boys and girls. Girls most often inflict minor physical and psychological abuse on a partner; boys are more likely to commit severe physical and sexual abuse.

KEYWORDS: *adolescent psychology; focus group; gender differences; gender roles*

Silverman, Jay G., Michele R. Decker, and Anita Raj. “Immigration-Based Disparities in Adolescent Girls’ Vulnerability to Dating Violence.” *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 11, no. 1 (January 2007): 37–44 (accessed via Proquest).

This study addressed dating violence among immigrant adolescents. It sought to clarify immigration-based effects, in particular, reduced vulnerability to violence in some cases. Using a large representative sample of adolescent girls, the study assessed differences in the experience of physical and sexual dating violence based on immigrant status and language spoken at home. The researchers analyzed data on 7,970 girls from the 1997–2003 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Surveys. They performed regression analyses on both the full sample and a sexually active sub-sample. To isolate immigration-based effects, they conducted separate analyses within age and racial/ethnic groups. The study found that being an immigrant was protective against dating violence, but not among those reporting sexual intercourse. Further analyses revealed differences in vulnerability based on age and race/ethnicity. Only immigrant girls age 16 or older and Hispanic immigrant girls reported reduced risk for dating violence compared to their non-immigrants peers. Immigrant status for Asian, black, or white teens did not reduce vulnerability. The researchers conclude that the social context of immigration may offer some protection to girls, but that the effects are not uniform across age, sexual experience, or race and ethnicity.

KEYWORDS: *Asian; blacks; Hispanics; immigrants; vulnerability; whites*

Silverman, Jay G., Anita Raj, and Karen Clements. “Dating Violence and Associated Sexual Risk and Pregnancy Among Adolescent Girls in the United States.” *Pediatrics* 114, no. 2 (August 2004): 220–25. <http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/114/2/e220>.

This study assessed the annual prevalence of physical dating violence victimization in a representative sample of sexually experienced ninth- through twelfth-grade girls attending U.S. public and private high schools. The study also examined sexual risk behaviors and pregnancy in this population. About 6,860 female students participating in the 2001 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey completed measures of physical dating violence during the previous year, as well as assessments of health-risk behaviors. The researchers estimated the annual rates of physical dating violence for the approximately 3,080 sexually experienced and for the remaining

group of inexperienced girls. Multiple logistic regression models were constructed to assess whether physical dating violence in the previous year was associated with sexual health risks and pregnancy, after controlling for effects of potentially confounding demographic features and risk behaviors. The findings showed that about one in 10 (9.8 percent) adolescent girls reported being intentionally physically hurt by a dating partner during the previous 12 months. The rate of previous-year dating violence victimization was significantly higher among sexually experienced U.S. adolescent girls: slightly less than one in five (17.7 percent) reported being intentionally physically hurt by a date in the previous year, while approximately one in 25 girls (3.7 percent) who reported no sexual experience reported such violence. Dating violence among sexually experienced adolescent girls was related to increased risks for both sexual risk behaviors (e.g., recent multiple sexual partners) and pregnancy. The researchers concluded that dating violence should be integrated into sexual-health and pregnancy-prevention programs, and greater efforts to identify victimized girls are needed among those providing care related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

KEYWORDS: *prevalence; risk behaviors; sexual risk; state-level representative data*

Silverman, Jay G., Anita Raj, Lorelei A. Mucci, and Jeanne E. Hathaway. "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 286, no. 5 (August 1, 2001): 572–79.

This study assessed the lifetime prevalence of physical and sexual violence from dating partners among adolescent girls. The study also assessed whether such violence is independently associated with specific health risks, including substance use, unhealthy weight-control behaviors, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality. The study used survey data on female ninth- through twelfth-grade students who participated in the 1997 and 1999 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (with 1,977 and 2,186 participants, respectively). About one in five female students (20.2 percent in 1997 and 18.0 percent in 1999) reported being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. After controlling for the effects of potentially confounding demographics and risk behaviors, data from both surveys indicate that physical and sexual dating violence against adolescent girls is associated with increased risk of substance use (e.g., cocaine use), unhealthy weight-control behaviors (e.g., use of laxatives and/or vomiting), sexual risk behaviors (e.g., first intercourse before 15 years of age), pregnancy, and suicidality (e.g., attempted suicide). The study concluded that dating violence is extremely prevalent among this population, and that adolescent girls who report a history of experiencing dating violence are more likely to exhibit other serious health risk behaviors.

KEYWORDS: *pregnancy; rape; risk factors; suicide; substance use; unhealthy weight control; weight loss*

Smith, Alisa, Kristin Winokur, and Joseph Palenski. "What Is Dating Violence? An Exploratory Study of Hispanic Adolescent Definitions." *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice* 3, no. 1/2 (2005): 1–21.

This study explored the definitions of dating violence among Hispanic adolescents as a possible reason for its underreporting in that population. The researchers expected that some adolescents might define only the most severe violence as "dating violence" and therefore underreport violent incidents. They examined Hispanic adolescent definitions of dating violence along with factors that might be related to the construction of these definitions. These factors included: general acceptance of dating violence, peer support of dating violence, acculturation, victimization experience, and sex. The last three factors—acculturation, victimization experience, and sex—were found to significantly affect how severe violence needed to be to count as "violence" among these adolescents.

KEYWORDS: *acculturation; definitions; Hispanic Americans; Latinos*

Smith, Marcella. *How Age of First Dating Experience, Number of Dating Partners, and Length of Relationship Relates to Dating Violence Victimization*. PhD. diss., The University of Texas at Arlington, 2010.

The dissertation examined the relationships between one dependent variable, namely, dating violence victimization among African American middle school youths, and three independent variables: (1) age of first dating experience; (2) number of dating partners; and (3) length of dating relationships. A review of the literature indicated conflicting results concerning the associations among these variables. The analysis indicated that age of first dating experience and length of relationship were not significantly related to dating violence victimization. However, the number of dating partners was found to be significantly related to dating violence victimization for girls. The researcher calls for further research with diverse samples of youth, in order to guide social work practice and social-educational policy.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; dissertation*

Smith, Darcy M., and Donnelly, Joseph. "Adolescent Dating Violence: A Multi-Systemic Approach of Enhancing Awareness in Educators, Parents, and Society." *Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community* 27, no. 1 (2001): 53–64.

This article reports on research findings about adolescent dating violence. Writing in 2001, the authors note that "until recently" mental-health professionals and society in general have been reluctant to acknowledge that adolescents are the fastest-growing population at risk for relationship violence. As prevalence figures of such violence, they cite one in eight for high school students and one in five for college students. They also report on murder, citing a 1993 figure of 600 teenage girls murdered by their partners. According to FBI reports prior to that date, 20 percent of all female homicide victims were between the ages of 15 and 24 and one out of every three female homicides was committed by the victim's husband or boyfriend. The article explores the elements that distinguish adolescent dating violence from domestic violence. In addition, regarding adolescent dating violence, they discuss its three forms, the cycles of

abuse involved, and the reasons for its occurrence. Finally, they discuss useful intervention and prevention methods and propose social policies to counter teen dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *intervention; murder; prevalence; prevention; risk factors*

Smith, Paige Hall, Jacquelyn W. White, and Lindsay J. Holland. "A Longitudinal Perspective on Dating Violence Among Adolescent and College-Age Women." *American Journal of Public Health* 93, no. 7 (July 2003): 1104–1109. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1447917/>.

This longitudinal study examined the carryover of patterns of physical and sexual assault in adolescent dating relationships to future relationships. A sample of 1,569 university women from two classes completed five surveys during their four years in college. The data showed that women who were physically victimized as adolescents were at greater risk for revictimization during their freshman year (with relative risk of 2.96). Each subsequent year, women who had experienced violence remained at greater risk for revictimization than those who had not. In addition, the risk for covictimization was significant, with victimization of one type (i.e., either physical or sexual) elevating the risk of victimization of the other type. The patterns of revictimization and covictimization persisted throughout the college years. Adolescent victimization was a better predictor of college victimization than was childhood victimization. Unless young women also experienced dating violence during adolescence, those who experienced childhood victimization were not at increased risk for dating violence in college.

KEYWORDS: *carryover into adulthood; covictimization; longitudinal; revictimization; risk factors*

Spriggs, Aubrey L. *Concentrated Disadvantage and Intimate Partner Violence*. Ph.D. diss., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2009.

This dissertation explores the relationship between contextual socioeconomic disadvantage and partner-violence outcomes in both adolescence and adulthood. It is structured as two related papers. The first paper assessed the relationship between school disadvantage and adolescent dating violence victimization using data on 10,620 boys and girls from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Controlling for individual and school sociodemographic characteristics, the research found that school disadvantage moderates the association between family disadvantage and girls' victimization. However, school disadvantage is unrelated to boys' victimization. The results suggest that contextual disadvantage can be a contributor to adolescent dating violence. The second paper assessed the ecological relationship between disadvantage and intimate-partner homicide rates in 100 North Carolina counties. The analysis found county disadvantage but not rurality to be positively related to male-victim intimate-partner homicide. The two studies show that contextual disadvantage may have direct or moderating effects on partner-violence outcomes, depending on the victim's gender, the age of study participants, the severity of outcome studied, and the level of data utilized.

KEYWORDS: *concentrated disadvantage; contextual disadvantage; homicide; school disadvantage; socioeconomic disadvantage*

Spriggs, Aubrey, Carolyn T. Halpern, and Sandra L. Martin. "Continuity of Adolescent and Early Adult Partner Violence Victimization: Association with Witnessing Violent Crime in Adolescence." *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 63, no. 9 (September 2009): 741–48. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2727565/>.

This study examined the relationship between physical dating violence victimization and exposure to violent crime (seeing someone shot or stabbed). The study used data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (grades 7 through 12) which had follow-up interviews 18 months after the baseline interview and further follow-up interviews in early adulthood. The study's analysis showed that exposure to violent crime increased the risk of physical dating violence victimization in adolescence. The study also showed that, among adolescent victims of dating violence, those who witnessed violent crime had high rates of victimization continuation into early adulthood. The study found a six-year continuation prevalence of 32 percent. The positive associations between exposure to violent crime and prevalence and continuation of dating violence victimization were similar across gender and race/ethnicity and age.

KEYWORDS: *longitudinal; victimization continuation; violence exposure*

Taylor, Bruce, Nan Stein, and Frances Burden. "The Effects of Gender Violence/Harassment Prevention Programming in Middle Schools: A Randomized Experimental Evaluation." *Violence and Victims* 25, no. 2 (2010): 202–23.

This longitudinal randomized controlled trial study examined the effectiveness of school-based primary prevention programming to address gender violence/harassment (GV/H), including dating violence, among students in the sixth and seventh grades. In the study, two five-lesson curricula were created and randomly assigned to 123 treatment and control classrooms in three suburban school districts bordering Cleveland, Ohio. One treatment was an *interaction-based* curriculum focused on the setting and communication of boundaries in relationships, the determination of wanted and unwanted behaviors, and the role of the bystander as intervener. The second treatment was a *law and justice* curriculum focused on laws, definitions, information, and data about penalties for sexual assault and sexual harassment. The control group did not receive either treatment. The study examined which curricula components were most effective in reducing GV/H for this age-group and whether the curricula would reduce perpetration and violence, have no effect, or lead to negative effects such as an increase in violence. Through student surveys, the study team examined the prevalence of GV/H in the participating schools and assessed whether the GV/H prevention curricula reduced the probability of self-reported GV/H perpetration and victimization, had no effect, or led to negative effects (e.g., increases in violence). In addition, the study explored the impact of the prevention curricula on student self-reports of attitudes, knowledge, and behavioral intentions as they related to GV/H and sexual harassment.

Students in the law and justice curricula, compared to the control group, had significantly increased awareness of their abusive behaviors, improved attitudes toward gender violence/sexual harassment and personal space, and greater knowledge. Students in the

interaction curricula experienced many self-reported positive outcomes, including not only increased awareness of abusive behaviors and improved attitudes toward personal space but also lower rates of gender violence victimization six months after their treatment. Neither curriculum affected the self-reported experience of being a perpetrator or victim of sexual harassment, student interventions as a bystander, or behavioral intentions to reduce/avoid violence. On some measures, the intervention seemed to increase self-reported dating violence perpetration (but not self-reported dating violence victimization). The researchers suggest that the finding on perpetration reflect increased reporting because of increased awareness.

KEYWORDS: *control; curricula; longitudinal; middle school; prevention; primary prevention; randomized control trial; randomized experiment*

Ulloa, Emilio C., Lisa H. Jaycox, and Grant N. Marshall. "Acculturation, Gender Stereotypes, and Attitudes about Dating Violence among Latino Youth." *Violence and Victims* 19, no. 3 (June 2004): 273–87.

This study examined the relationship between attitudes and knowledge about dating violence among 678 urban Latino youth and four personal variables (sex, acculturation, belief in gender stereotypes, recent dating experiences). The participants completed self-administered surveys at school. Compared to girls, boys held more proviolence attitudes about dating violence and reported less knowledge about such violence and its consequences. Teens that were less acculturated (more traditional), who endorsed gender stereotypes, and who reported recent fearful dating experiences reported less knowledge about abuse. They also were less likely to endorse nonviolent attitudes. Multivariate analyses revealed that all four personal variables predicted dating violence knowledge. By contrast, attitudes were predicted by endorsement of gender stereotypes only, or gender stereotypes and sex. The authors conclude with a discussion of the implications for dating violence interventions and future directions for research.

KEYWORDS: *acculturation; attitudes; Hispanic American; Latino; school-based survey; sex role; survey*

Vezina, Johanne, and Martine Hebert. "Risk Factors for Victimization in Romantic Relationships of Young Women: A Review of Empirical Studies and Implications for Prevention." *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse: A Review Journal* 8, no. 1 (January 2007): 33–66.

This literature review addresses risk factors for the victimization of adolescent girls and young-adult women in romantic relationships. Risk factors can be grouped into four categories: sociodemographic factors, individual factors (personal and interpersonal), environmental factors (family, peer group, and community), and contextual factors linked to the abusive romantic relationship. Correlate factors include living in a broken family, being less involved in religious activities, and living in a rural area. Depressive symptoms and suicidal behaviors are also related to dating violence, as is believing that violence is tolerable and justified. Further risk factors include conduct disorders, substance use, and risky sexual practices. In addition, prior victimization experiences, such as family violence and child sexual abuse, are associated with dating abuse, as are inadequate parenting and having delinquent friends. As for the dynamics of

romantic relationships that involve violence, limited data indicate that mutual violence and differences in power between the partners increases the risk for violence.

KEYWORDS: *attitudes; literature review; peers; religion; risk factors; rural*

Weisz, Arlene N., and Beverly M. Black. "Help-Seeking and Help-Giving for Teen Dating Violence" [Part of special issue, "Preventing Adolescent Dating Violence"]. *The Prevention Researcher* 16, no. 1 (February 2009): 12–16.

Part of a special issue on preventing teen dating violence, this article draws upon numerous research projects conducted by the authors on such violence. It reviews the findings of these projects on how teens seek help for dating violence and how teens provide help to their friends in violent dating relationships. Analysis indicated that females are more likely than males to seek help with dating violence victimization; culture or age can influence youths' help-seeking intentions; the presence of a witness to an incident of dating violence significantly influences a teen's willingness to talk to someone; many adolescents do not know how to define abuse and often do not recognize their own victimization; adolescents need help in defining which situations merit peer intervention and in determining whether it is safe to intervene; and nurturing is the most usual response of informal helpers to high school students who disclose dating violence. The study concludes with strategies for adults who work with youth.

KEYWORDS: *definition; help-giving; help-seeking; helping behavior; peers; prevention*

Weisz, Arlene N., and Beverly M. Black. *Programs to Reduce Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Assault: Perspectives on What Works*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.

This book provides an in-depth examination of exemplary programs whose aim is to prevent teen dating violence and sexual assault in the United States. The book is based on interviews with practitioners from 52 prevention programs in more than 20 states. To obtain the sample of programs, the authors solicited 80 statewide coalitions for nominations of exemplary prevention programs. The authors examine the programs' theories, goals, recruitment, curriculum, diversity, use of peer leadership, community involvement, evaluation, benefits, and challenges. Each of the 16 chapters summarizes the empirical research and the interviewees' views on the chapter topic. The chapter on content, for example, details the programs' presentations. The evaluation chapter describes the limitations of evaluation studies done on the programs. The authors fault many such evaluations for examining only improvements in knowledge and attitudes rather than behavior change.

Despite a dearth of evidence-based practice in empirically supported programs, the authors draw some conclusions about "best practice." They recommend multisession programs, combining single- and mixed-sex sessions, avoiding the assignment of blame, sensitivity to cultural and sexual-diversity experiential exercises and role-playing, allowing adolescents to direct the discussion, and involving teachers and parents.

KEYWORDS: *best practice; evaluation; prevention; programs*

Wekerle, Christine, and David A. Wolfe. "Dating Violence in Mid-Adolescence: Theory, Significance, and Emerging Prevention Initiatives." *Clinical Psychology Review* 19, no. 4 (1999): 435–56.

This review begins with consideration of the theoretical and empirical work on adolescent dating and dating violence, including findings on the scope of the problem, developmental processes, and theoretical formulations. The review then examines six relationship violence-prevention programs delivered to youth—five school-based programs and one that operates in the community. The programs target both general high school populations and selected subsets, i.e., youths with histories of maltreatment or problems with peer aggression. The programs are designed to instill specific skills and views that counter the use of violent and abusive behavior toward intimate partners. The review found positive changes in violence-related attitudes and knowledge, as well as decreases in the level of self-reported perpetration of dating violence. Evidence of improvement was less consistent with respect to self-reported victimization. The researchers caution about generalizing their review's findings, because of limited follow-up. They call for improving assessment methods for prevention programs, noting their importance, given the fact that dating violence in adolescence carries over into future relationships.

KEYWORDS: *community-based; evaluation; maltreatment; prevalence; prevention; programs; school-based*

Wekerle, Christine, Eman Leung, Anne-Marie Wall, Harriet MacMillan, Michael Boyle, Nico Trocme, and Randall Waechter. "The Contribution of Childhood Emotional Abuse to Teen Dating Violence among Child Protective Services-Involved Youth." Part of the special section, "The Long-Term Consequences of Childhood Emotional Maltreatment On Development: (Mal)Adaptation in Adolescence and Young Adulthood." *Child Abuse and Neglect* 33, no. 1 (January 2009): 45–58.

This study assessed the predictive value of one form of maltreatment—childhood emotional abuse—for understanding adolescent post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptomatology and dating violence. The researchers examined PTSD symptomatology as an explanatory bridge in the link between emotional abuse and teen dating violence. Participants in the study were a random sample of 402 child protective services (CPS) youth from the active caseload of a large urban catchment area. The youth—mid-adolescents across types of CPS status—participated as part of a larger longitudinal study on adolescent health behaviors. The CPS youth reported on lifetime maltreatment experiences, PTSD symptomatology, and past-year dating experiences, using published scales. Among the 85 percent of CPS youth who had begun dating, dating violence was common, affecting more than half of females and nearly half of males. Emotional abuse emerged among both males and females as a significant predictor of both PTSD symptomatology and dating violence. However, a gendered pattern was also evident. The researchers concluded that CPS youth are a high-priority group for dating violence and PTSD-related intervention and that all CPS children should be evaluated for past emotional abuse incurred, with awareness of its potential for a long-term, unique impact, impairing relationship development.

KEYWORDS: *child abuse; child welfare; family of origin; maltreatment; post-traumatic stress disorder*

Whitaker Daniel J., Shannon Morrison, Christine Lindquist, Stephanie R. Hawkins, Joyce A. O’Neil, Angela M. Nesius, Anita Mathew, and Le’Roy Reese. “A Critical Review of Interventions for the Primary Prevention of Perpetration of Partner Violence.” *Aggression and Violent Behavior* 11, no. 2 (2006): 151–66.

This article presents a systematic review of 11 studies that aimed to determine the effectiveness of programs for the primary prevention of partner violence. The studies included focused on the prevention of dating violence among adolescents, with interventions delivered by teachers or community-based professionals, in schools (10 studies) or community agencies (one study). The interventions described in the review took place between 1990 and 2003, targeted students of middle or high school age, and were universal interventions (i.e., were not targeted to an at-risk group or individuals known to have already perpetrated partner violence). The interventions included a variety of instructional approaches: structured curricula with didactic presentations, discussion groups, and other educational activities (11 studies); a theater production, poster contest, community-based activities, and service provider training (one study); and site visits, fundraising, and community awareness (one study). The interventions tended to be brief, with only two using interventions totaling more than five hours in duration.

Although a majority of evaluation studies were randomized trials, study quality was generally rated as poor because of relatively short follow-up periods, high attrition rates, and poor measurement. Outcomes measured included: knowledge of the prevalence, causes, and consequences of partner violence, available resources, and sexual assault; pro- or anti-violence attitudes (11 studies); and behavioral measures related to partner violence perpetration (four studies). Nine of 11 studies reported at least one positive intervention effect, though generally in knowledge and/or attitude. The researchers report that of the four studies reporting behavioral outcomes, two found positive intervention effects and employed rigorous designs. Those two studies had the most comprehensive interventions, using both individual-level curricula and other community-based interventions. Both also employed rigorous designs. Conclusions about the overall efficacy of dating violence interventions are premature.

KEYWORDS: *evaluation; prevention; primary prevention; randomized; systematic review*

White, Jacquelyn W., and Paige Hall Smith. “Covariation in the Use of Physical and Sexual Intimate Partner Aggression among Adolescent and College-Age Men: A Longitudinal Analysis.” *Violence Against Women* 15, no. 1 (January 2009): 24–43.

This longitudinal study of male perpetration of physical dating aggression examined several aspects: the timing from high school through four years of college; aggressive dating behaviors as a function of childhood sexual abuse, of parental physical punishment, and of witnessing domestic violence; and the co-occurrence of sexual and physical partner violence over time. Physical and sexual dating violence was common, with 49 percent of the men reporting at least one incident of physical or sexual aggression, and 10.9 percent reporting both. Overall, the percentage of men committing partner violence changed over time; however, the frequency had

two peaks, one in adolescence and one in the second year of college. Men with a history of childhood victimization showed a sharper increase in partner violence in that second year. Witnessing domestic violence and experiencing parental physical punishment, but not childhood sexual abuse, increased the likelihood of physical dating aggression in adolescence.

KEYWORDS: *child maltreatment; family; longitudinal; sequelae; sexual abuse*

White, Jacquelyn W, and Paige Hall Smith. "Sexual Assault Perpetration and Reperpetration: From Adolescence to Young Adulthood." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 31, no. 2 (April 2004): 182–202.

This five-year longitudinal study examined the possible carryover of men's sexually coercive behavior from adolescence through four years of college, as well as the relationship between such behavior and childhood victimization experiences. The study sample was three incoming freshman college classes of males (ages 18 to 20), the majority from middle-class backgrounds. The young men responded to several surveys over the course of the study. A key finding was that men who were physically punished, sexually abused, or who witnessed domestic violence in childhood were at increased risk for sexual perpetration in high school. The study also found that men who perpetrated in high school were at greater risk for sexual perpetration in college. After controlling for perpetration in high school, those who were abused in childhood were not at greater risk for college perpetration. The findings have a number of implications for research and practice. The findings can help with the identification of high-risk populations and with efforts to direct more targeted interventions toward them. The high-risk group for pre-college perpetration included those who witnessed or experienced abuse as a child, and the high-risk group for later violence included young men who perpetrated violence in adolescence, regardless of childhood abuse experiences.

KEYWORDS: *carryover into adulthood; longitudinal; risk factors*

Williams, Jessica Roberts. *Relational Aggression and Dating Violence among Young Urban Adolescents*. Ph.D. diss., Johns Hopkins University, 2008 (accessed via Proquest).

Focusing on urban adolescents, this dissertation examined the relationship between relational aggression and (1) dating violence and (2) adverse psychosocial and physical health symptoms. Relationally aggressive behaviors are subtle or covert forms of aggression and bullying, such as spreading malicious gossip, shunning the victim, and taunting with the intent to harm the victim's relationships with others. Participants in the study were 194 predominantly African American seventh graders, 59 percent female. The research used data collected as part of a larger, quasi-experimental dating violence prevention program and employed a cross-sectional, predictive correlational design. Participants completed anonymous self-report surveys describing individual experience with violence and aggression, including relational aggression, relational victimization, and various types of violence—personal, family, community, and dating. The participants also reported on adverse symptoms, including psychosocial effects (i.e., internalizing behaviors, externalizing behaviors, and attention problems) and physical health problems (i.e., colds/flu, headaches, and stomachaches). The study found that relational aggression and dating violence were very prevalent in this sample. Females reported higher rates of dating violence

perpetration than males (45.8 percent of females, 32.8 percent of males), and males reported more victimization (24.0 percent of females, 37.3 percent of males). For the perpetration of relational aggression, significant gender differences were not found (16.5 percent of females, 17.1 percent of males). However, males reported more relational victimization (12.8 percent of females, 26.3 percent of males). Relational aggression and relational victimization were predictors of emotional dating violence perpetration among females, after controlling for exposure to personal, family, and community violence. The same association did not hold for perpetration among males or for victimization among males or females. Perpetrators of relational aggression reported higher levels of internalizing and externalizing behaviors compared with non-perpetrators, both male and female. Male perpetrators also reported more physical health symptoms. Victims of relational aggression also reported higher levels of adverse health symptoms, mental and physical, with females reporting fewer than males. The dissertation concludes that relational aggression and dating violence are significant problems among urban youth, warranting intervention strategies.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; aggressiveness; behavioral psychology; bullying; nursing; public health; relational aggression; urban*

Williams, Jessica R., Reem M. Ghandour, and Joan E. Kub. "Female Perpetration of Violence in Heterosexual Intimate Relationships: Adolescence through Adulthood." *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse: A Review Journal* 9, no. 4 (October 2008): 227–49.

This literature review describes the prevalence of female-perpetrated violence in heterosexual intimate relationships, examining three female study populations—adolescents, college students, and adults. The review covers studies published between 1996 and 2006, a period in which researchers began to extend their focus to females as perpetrators rather than just victims. In all three study populations, emotional violence appeared to be the most prevalent, followed by physical and then sexual violence. However, the wide range of prevalence rates within each population made it difficult to determine the developmental trajectory of female-perpetrated intimate-partner violence.

KEYWORDS: *emotional abuse; gender differences; gender issues; male sexual-abuse victims; male victims*

Wingood, Gina M., Ralph J. DiClemente, Donna Hubbard McCree, Kathy Harrington, and Susan L. Davies. "Dating Violence and the Sexual Health of Black Adolescent Females." *Pediatrics* 107, no. 5 (May 2001). <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/107/5/e72>.

Using a survey and interviews, this study examined the association between having a history of dating violence and sexual health behaviors in a sample of 522 black adolescent females. Dating violence, defined as ever having a physically abusive boyfriend, was reported by 18.4 percent of the adolescents. Those with a history of dating violence exhibited a spectrum of unhealthy sexual behaviors, attitudes, beliefs, and norms. The teens were, in the previous six months, 2.8 times more likely to have a sexually transmitted disease, 2.8 times more likely to have nonmonogamous male partners, and half as likely to use condoms consistently. In addition, the

same teens were significantly more likely to fear negotiating condom use, to fear talking with their partner about pregnancy prevention, to have a higher perceived risk of acquiring a sexually transmitted disease, to perceive less control over their sexuality, to have peer norms unsupportive of using condoms, and to have norms unsupportive of having a healthy relationship. The researchers conclude that improving the teens' sexual health would depend on reducing dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *African Americans; blacks; consequences of dating violence; pregnancy; sequelae*

Wolf, Kimberly A., and Vangie A. Foshee. "Family Violence, Anger Expression Styles, and Adolescent Dating Violence." *Journal of Family Violence* 18, no. 6 (December 1, 2003): 309–16 (accessed via Proquest).

This paper explores how partner violence is transferred across generations. In particular, it examines how style of anger expression (constructive, destructive direct, destructive indirect) mediates the relationship between exposure to family violence and teen dating violence perpetration. Data came from self-administered questionnaires filled out by 1,965 eighth- and ninth-graders in 1994 in a rural county in North Carolina. The results varied by type of exposure to family violence—witnessing or experiencing—and by gender. For females, destructive direct and destructive indirect styles of anger expression mediated the relationship between experiencing family violence and perpetrating dating violence. For males, this relationship was mediated primarily by a destructive direct style of anger expression. The association between witnessing family violence and perpetration of dating violence for females was mediated only by a destructive direct style of anger expression. Witnessing family violence was not associated with perpetration of dating violence for males and therefore could not be mediated. This study suggests that adolescents exposed to family violence learn styles of anger expression that put them at risk of being perpetrators of dating violence.

KEYWORDS: *anger; exposure to family violence; family violence; gender differences; rural*

Wolfe, David A., Claire Crooks, Peter Jaffe, Debbie Chiodo, et al. "A School-Based Program to Prevent Adolescent Dating Violence: A Cluster Randomized Trial." *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 163, no 8 (August 2009): 692–99. <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/163/8/692>.

This study evaluated a universal interactive curriculum for ninth-graders that integrates dating violence prevention with core lessons on healthy relationships, sexual health, and substance use. In a cluster randomized trial involving 1,722 students, the evaluation sought to determine whether the curriculum reduces physical dating violence. The 21-lesson school-based curriculum, developed by the researchers/evaluators and designed to be taught in health and physical education courses, is called "The Fourth R," with the "R" denoting relationships. The curriculum is premised on the idea that relationships, like the other "R's," reading, writing and arithmetic, should be taught as part of the core curriculum in middle school. "The Fourth R" was implemented with a general population of ninth-grade public-school students in Ontario, Canada. Teachers in 10 treatment schools delivered the curriculum during 28 hours and received

additional training in the dynamics of dating violence and healthy relationships. The curriculum emphasized relationship skills to promote safer decision making with peers and dating partners. Ten control schools targeted similar objectives without training or materials. At 2.5 years follow-up at the end of eleventh grade, the prevalence of physical dating violence perpetration was higher in controls than in intervention students (9.8 percent versus 7.4 percent). In the intervention group, 3 percent of boys reported physical dating violence perpetration compared with 7 percent of boys in the control group. However, the intervention had no effect on perpetration by girls. Physical dating violence was measured with the Adolescent Dating Relationship Inventory. Boys who received the curriculum were also more likely to use condoms than boys in the control group. The cost of the program averaged \$16 (Canadian) per student. The study concluded that the teaching of youths about healthy relationships as part of their required health curriculum reduced physical dating violence and increased condom use 2.5 years later at a low per-student cost.

KEYWORDS: *condom use; control group; curriculum; healthy relationships; middle school; prevention; random assignment*

Wolfe, David A., Christine Wekerle, Katreena Scott, Anna-Lee Straatman, Carolyn Grasley, and Deborah Reitzel-Jaffe. "Dating Violence Prevention with At-Risk Youth: A Controlled Outcome Evaluation." *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 71 no. 2 (2003): 279–91.

This evaluation of a prevention program is among the few that go beyond immediate effects on attitudes and knowledge to assess actual behavior. The study evaluated the Youth Relationships Project (YRP), a community-based after-school intervention to help at-risk teens develop healthy, nonabusive relationships with dating partners. Participants were 158 14- to 16-year-olds with a history of child maltreatment. The research design was a controlled study with random assignment of participants to either a preventive intervention group or a no-treatment control group. The participants completed measures of dating abuse and victimization, emotional distress, and healthy relationship skills at bimonthly intervals when dating. Intervention consisted of 18 two-hour educational sessions led by trained male and female facilitators. The sessions focused on healthy and abusive relationships, conflict-resolution and communication skills, altering gender-based role expectations, and social-action activities. Analysis showed that intervention was effective over time in reducing incidents of physical and emotional abuse and symptoms of emotional distress: Participants in the intervention group reported a significant reduction in perpetration of physical abuse against a dating partner compared to the participants in the control group. Also, compared to participants in the control group, those in the intervention group reported a significant reduction in physical abuse and emotional abuse victimization and threatening behavior against a dating partner. The participants in the intervention group reported a significant decrease in over time of interpersonal hostility and trauma symptoms compared with the participants in the control group. A limitation of the study was the reliance of self-report for measures of emotional distress and abusive behavior.

KEYWORDS: *at-risk youth; behavior change; control group evaluation; intervention; prevention; program; random assignment*

Wolfe, David A., Christine Wekerle, Katreena Scott, Anna-Lee Straatman, and Carolyn Grasley. "Predicting Abuse in Adolescent Dating Relationships Over 1 Year: The Role of Child Maltreatment and Trauma." *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* 113, no. 3 (August 2004): 406–15.

Over the course of a year, this research tested three mediators of the relationship between childhood maltreatment and perpetration of dating violence during midadolescence. The mediators studied were trauma-related symptoms, attitudes justifying dating violence, and empathy and self-efficacy in dating relationships. The test of the mediators used a sample of 1,317 students from 10 high schools. Trauma-related symptoms proved to be significant cross-time predictors for dating violence for both boys and girls. Neither attitudes nor empathy and self-efficacy predicted dating violence over time, although they were correlated with such behavior at distinct time points. The research suggests that child maltreatment is a distal risk factor for adolescent dating violence, with trauma-related symptoms acting as a significant mediator of this relationship. The research also indicates the importance of deploying a longitudinal methodology that separates correlates from predictors.

KEYWORDS: *correlates; longitudinal; maltreatment; mediators; predictors; risk factors; trauma*

Wolitzky-Taylor, Kate B., Kenneth J. Ruggiero, Carla Kmett Danielson, Heidi S. Resnick et al. "Prevalence and Correlates of Dating Violence in a National Sample of Adolescents." *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* 47, no. 7 (July 2008): 755–62.

Using telephone interviews, this research assessed serious forms of dating violence in a nationally representative sample of 3,614 adolescents aged 12 to 17. The questions addressed included the lifetime prevalence of such violence, risk and protective factors associated with it, and mental-health correlates or effects. The forms of violence examined included sexual assault, physical assault, and/or substance-facilitated rape perpetrated by a male or female dating partner. The prevalence of dating violence was 1.6 percent (2.7 percent of girls, 0.6 percent of boys), which would equate to about 400,000 adolescents in the U.S. population. The risk factors included older age, female sex, experience of other potentially traumatic events, and exposure to recent life stressors. In addition, after controlling for key demographic and other variables, dating violence was significantly associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and a major depressive episode. The authors conclude that serious dating violence is a significant public-health problem in adolescent populations that should be addressed through early detection, prevention, and intervention.

KEYWORDS: *anxiety; correlates; depression; mental health; national sample; post-traumatic stress; prevalence; risk factors; serious dating violence*

Yan, Fang A., Donna E. Howard, Kenneth H. Beck, Teresa Shattuck, and Melissa Hallmark-Kerr. "Psychosocial Correlates of Physical Dating Violence Victimization among Latino Early Adolescents." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 25, no. 5 (May 2010): 808–31.

This study examined the association between dating violence victimization and psychosocial risk and protective factors among Latino early adolescents. The researchers administered a cross-sectional survey to a convenience sample of 322 Latino youth aged 11 to 13 in suburban Washington, D.C. Regression analysis revealed the associations between physical dating violence and independent variables, including general violence, substance use, emotional well-being, prosocial behaviors, and parenting. Overall, 13.5 percent of the Latino teens reported being a victim of physical dating violence within the past year. The prevalence for girls was 14.4 percent and for boys, 12.9 percent. Among girls, binge drinking was the sole risk behavior linked to dating violence. In multivariate analyses, binge drinking among girls was associated with more than a tenfold increased risk of physical dating violence victimization in the past 12 months. Among boys, gun carrying and having considered suicide, as well as alcohol consumption (at least one drink in the past year) were associated with physical dating violence victimization. Based on the study, the researchers conclude that physical dating violence affects a small but significant proportion of Latino early adolescents and is associated with other risk behaviors. They recommend healthy dating relationship programs for middle school youth with some tailoring to reflect gender differences in risk profiles.

KEYWORDS: *alcohol; binge drinking; guns; Hispanic Americans; Latinos, middle school; qualitative; risk factors; suburban; suicidality; survey*

Zurbriggen, Eileen L., Robyn L. Gobin, and Jennifer J. Freyd. "Childhood Emotional Abuse Predicts Late Adolescent Sexual Aggression Perpetration and Victimization." *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma* 19, no. 2 (March 2010): 204–23.

This study examined childhood emotional abuse as a predictor of sexual aggression perpetration and victimization in late adolescence. The analysis controlled for childhood physical and sexual abuse. For females, childhood emotional abuse was the strongest predictor of adolescent sexual perpetration. For males, such abuse was the strongest predictor of adolescent sexual victimization. For females, emotional abuse was a marginally reliable predictor of adolescent sexual victimization in women. The results confirm the importance of childhood emotional abuse as a risk factor for sexual abuse during adolescence.

KEYWORDS: *child abuse; emotional abuse; gender differences; long-term health effects; sequelae; sex offenders*