



THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMA EXPOSURE ON TEEN DATING VIOLENCE INVOLVEMENT AND RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION

BRIANNA RAMIREZ

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

PROFESSOR GORDON CAPP

ABSTRACT

- This study determines the relationship between involvement of teen dating violence and (a) violence experienced in the home, (b) violence experienced in the community, (c) perceived quality of the romantic relationship
- Exposure to community violence was positively correlated with Teen Dating Violence (TDV) perpetration and victimization
- Reported quality of relationship was positively correlated with maternal warmth and negatively correlated with exposure to community violence.

26% of women and 15% of men first experience IPV before the age of 18.



INTRODUCTION & LITERATURE REVIEW

- Teen dating violence is defined by physical violence, sexual violence, psychological aggression, and stalking and it can happen both in person and electronically
- Teens involved in IPV are at higher risk of experiencing depression, anxiety, and engage in risky behaviors such as drugs and alcohol, exhibit antisocial behaviors, and suicidal thoughts.
- Teens involved in IPV during their adolescent years are at higher risk for being involved in IPV relationships as adults
- Young adults that have a history of childhood maltreatment and foster care are at a significant risk for TDV perpetration and victimization.
- Social learning theory hypothesizes children learn violence as form of conflict resolution based on the modeling of violence from parents and peers.
- Evidence suggests living in a neighborhood with higher levels of social disorder and substance use increases exposure to community violence, which was associated with increased rates of IPV
- Having "deviant peers" also has been identified as a strong risk factor for DV perpetration.
- Respondents who self-report violence perpetration are significantly more likely than their non-violent counterparts to report higher levels of problematic relationship dynamics such as jealousy, cheating, and verbal conflict.

1/3

of teenagers involved in abusive relationship have spoken out about the violence

3x

young women ages 16 to 24 are 3x more likely than the rest of the nation to be abused by a partner

1/2

of adolescents who experience rape or physical/sexual abuse will attempt suicide

PURPOSE AND HYPOTHESIS

Question: Which individual factors of exposure to violence in the home versus in the community more closely correlate with the involvement in a violent relationship, as either the perpetrator and/or the victim? Do those factors correlate with teen attitudes toward their dating partners and satisfaction in the relationship?

Hypothesis: The researcher predicts that higher rates of parental hostility is predicted to relate to higher likelihood of DV perpetration and victimization. Exposure to community violence is also predicted to have a positive correlation, with higher reports of community violence correlating to higher likelihood of DV perpetration and victimization. It is predicted that exposure to violence in the home will correlate more significantly to involvement in a violent relationship compared to exposure to community violence. The researcher also predicts that exposure to violence in the home may more closely relate to negative attitudes of relationship satisfaction.

METHODS

Research Design and Data Collection

- The current study is a secondary analysis of the data obtained from the Pathways to Desistance study, a longitudinal, multi-site study
- The original study was made up of serious juvenile offenders, ages 14-18, and followed them over a 7-year period after their involvement in court for felony level offenses.
- The current study uses data collected from self-report questionnaires, at the 48-month follow up (n=1,354).

Measures

- Intimate Partner Violence/ Domestic violence (Dependent variable)
 - IPV/DV was measured using the Domestic Violence Inventory and includes the use of Marker for Perpetration and Marker for Victimization
- Relationship Satisfaction/Quality of Romantic Relationship (Dependent Variable)
 - Relationship satisfaction was measured by the Quality of Romantic Relationship Inventory.
- Exposure to Community Violence (Independent variable)
 - Exposure to Community violence is based on the Exposure to Violence inventory.
- Exposure to Home Violence (Parental Warmth/Hostility; Independent Variable)
 - Exposure to Home Violence used the Quality of Parental Relationships Inventory to measure parental warmth and hostility

Demographic Variables (N=1354)

Demographics	n	%
Gender		
Female	173	12.8
Male	1042	77.0
Unknown/Unanswered	139	10.3
Ethnicity		
Black	561	41.4
White	274	20.2
Hispanic	454	33.5
Other	65	4.8
Age at Time of Interview		
18	149	11.0
19	236	17.4
20	367	27.1
21	362	26.7
22	99	7.3
23	2	.1
Unknown/Unanswered	139	10.3
Age		
	m	sd
	20.026	1.151
Social Capital: Closure and Integration (α=.73)		
	2.372	.615
Social Capital: Social Integration (α=.67)		
	2.048	.607
Social Capital: Perceived Opportunities for Work (α=.76)		
	3.631	.679

RESULTS

Spearman's Correlation

- Maternal warmth and the quality of romantic relationships showed a statistically significant, positive but weak correlation (r(244) = .222, p=.000)
- Exposure to violence within the community and the quality of romantic relationships yielded a statistically significant, weak, negative correlation (r (761) = -.083, p=.022)

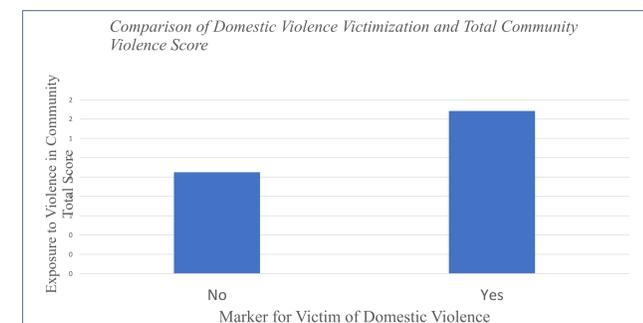
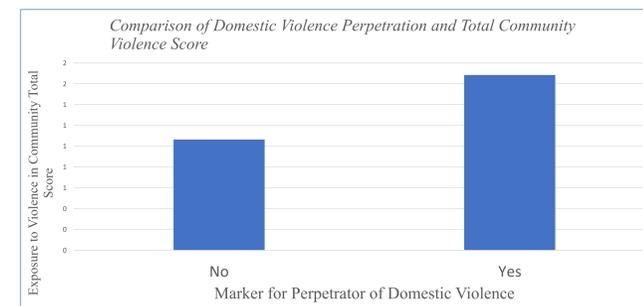
Table 3. Correlations of Parental Warmth and Hostility, Exposure to Community Violence, and Relationship Quality

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Mother Warmth	-					
2. Mother Hostility	-.246**	-				
3. Father Warmth	.558**	-.095	-			
4. Father Hostility	-.146*	.510**	-.001	-		
5. Exp to Violence	-.038	.221**	.038	.226**	-	
6. Relationship Quality	.222**	-.123	.002	-.055	-.083*	-

*p<.05, **p<.01

Mann-Whitney U Tests

- Those who reported no involvement in domestic violence perpetration (Mean rank= 418.81) had lower scores of exposure to violence than those who reported involvement in DV perpetration (Mean rank= 501.26, U= 123936.500, p < .001)
- Participants who reported no involvement in domestic violence victimization (Mean rank= 418.68) had lower scores of exposure to violence than those who reported involvement in DV victimization (Mean rank=4.99.58, U=123655.500, p < .001).



DISCUSSION

Implications

- Results did not indicate a relationship between exposure to violence in the home (parental warmth or hostility) and involvement in DV relationships as predicted. There is the possibility that parental warmth and hostility did not play as significant a role in TDV involvement for the participants as expected. This should be further researched.
- Exposure to community violence had the only significant relationship between teen DV perpetration and victimization. This could be attributed to teen's having "deviant peers" and the normalization of violence within the community they live in. The more exposure to violent events may make a teen less sensitive to perpetrating or being the victim of violent acts.
- Exposure to community violence indicated a negative relationship with reported quality of relationship and satisfaction. This may be attributed to increased experiences of violence leading to possible dissatisfaction with self and personal relationships.
- Maternal warmth also indicated a weak positive correlation with reported quality of relationship and satisfaction. This result was unexpected, but does pose the question of parental, gender-related roles and their effects on children's dating attitudes. There is some evidence that suggests maternal IPV perpetration can increase child's risk for future involvement in IPV relationship. This needs further research

Limitations

- One of the studies prominent limitations is the sample size and its generalizability. This study used a sample of convicted juvenile offenders, with a majority of the sample being males. Teens involved in juvenile court are more likely to have history of violence and trauma compared to the general population. There is evidence to support that gender differences may play a role in both experience and reporting of domestic violence within romantic relationships.
- The variable measures and definitions of violence within the home could also be redefined to include more specific experiences violent experiences within the home. The original study does not directly measure child maltreatment, nor does it consider the presence of violence between parental figures.

Recommendations

- More research needs to be done to study different traumas and their effects on teenage behaviors and involvement in violence. While there is understanding of how a child experiencing or witnessing violence within the home can increase the likelihood of behavioral and mental health issues, there are other types of traumas that can affect a child's development.
- Community violence such as gun violence, assaults, gang activity, police presence and brutality, school lock downs, etc., should be explored to understand their influence a child's development and attitude towards others and the world around them.

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