

Revictimization After Adolescent Dating Violence in a Matched, National Sample of Youth

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?

Adolescent dating violence (ADV) is an important public health problem in North America. In the United States, approximately 10% of youth report experiencing physical dating violence each year. In addition, a number of longitudinal studies have found that ADV is associated with poor health and well-being for all genders. Prior research also suggests that ADV is a predictor of future adult intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization. However, this prior work controlled for a limited number of risk and protective factors, and so it is difficult to determine if ADV is involved in risk for future IPV victimization, or if this relationship is due to something else (e.g., child maltreatment). Thus, this study was designed to compare differences between individuals who experienced ADV and those who did not in terms of risk for adult IPV victimization. These groups were matched on multiple risk and protective factors, so that we can be more confident in assessing whether ADV victimization is a longitudinal risk factor for IPV.

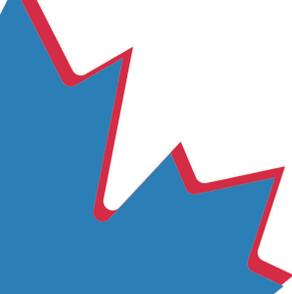
WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS DO?

The researchers used data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, which contained the reports of 2,161 US adolescents about whether they had experienced dating violence at 12 to 18-years-old. Dating violence experiences were measured by five items from the revised Conflict Tactics Scale (e.g., if a partner had ever pushed or shoved you). In addition, participants' experiences of physical intimate partner violence (IPV) in the past 12 months were measured by items from the revised Conflict Tactics Scale five and 12 years after the first assessment (e.g., if a partner had slapped, hit, or kicked you).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Individuals who experienced adolescent dating violence (ADV) were at a higher risk of experiencing physical intimate partner violence (IPV) 5 years later (and that individuals who experienced IPV victimization 5 years later were at higher risk for experiencing IPV 7 years after that), as compared to a well-matched comparison group.
- This finding indicates that ADV can be part of a cycle of partner violence from adolescence to young adulthood.
- Therefore, it is critical to intervene with adolescents experiencing dating violence to prevent potential later victimization in adulthood.





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WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS FIND?

The researchers found that both male and female participants who experienced adolescent dating violence were more likely to experience physical intimate partner violence victimization in young adulthood (about five years later), as compared to a matched comparison group of non-victims. Furthermore, those individuals who experienced intimate partner violence victimization five years later were also more likely to experience intimate partner violence seven years after that.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS RESEARCH?

This study underscores the importance of preventing ADV. It is crucial to identify and support adolescents who have experienced dating violence in order to help prevent later victimization. It is also very important to develop programs to educate adolescents about healthy sexual and dating relationships, to prevent dating violence from happening in the first place.

ABOUT THE RESEARCHERS:

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KEYWORDS

Adolescent dating violence, teen dating violence, re-victimization, intimate partner violence, physical violence victimization

FULL REFERENCE

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