

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - ORPINAS ET AL. 2012

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The next portion of this presentation, we will examine psychological dating violence over time using a study conducted by Orpinas et al. In 2012 titled "Psychological Dating Violence Perpetration and Victimization-- Trajectories from Middle to High School." Psychological dating violence refers to nonphysical behaviors meant to control, intimidate, or dominate a partner, such as purposefully damaging personal belongings, limiting use of the phone, restricting activity with others, engaging in menacing behavior, deliberately provoking jealousy, and threatening to end a relationship.

Although psychological dating violence has been explored through cross-sectional designs, few studies have examined the behavior across time. Therefore, the current study sought to identify the trajectories of psychological dating violence victimization and psychological dating violence perpetration from 6th to 12th grade. This research also examined the association between the developmental course of psychological dating violence victimization and psychological dating violence perpetration, and investigated whether the trajectories of psychological dating violence victimization and perpetration are related to one another.

The data for the current study was obtained from nine schools in Georgia that were participating in the Healthy Teens Longitudinal Study. The students in these schools completed yearly surveys from grades 6 to 12, but only those who have reported dating answered the questions about dating violence. The final sample consisted of 550 English speaking systems with 202 boys and 270 girls.

To assess dating violence, the participants were first asked to indicate whether they had dated. For those who had dated, psychological dating violence victimization and psychological dating violence perpetration were measured by how often during the three months prior to the assessment that participants had been perpetrators or victims of threatening behaviors, monitoring behaviors, and emotional manipulation. Nonphysical aggression and victimization toward peers was measured with three subscales of the problem-behavior frequency scale. And three variables used to measure peer aggression were nonphysical aggression, relational aggression, and relational victimization.

From grades 6 to 12, approximately two-thirds of the boys reported dating, whereas approximately half the girls reported dating in grade 6 and three-fourths by grade 12. Across the sample, all the students reported more victimization than perpetration. Additionally, girls reported more perpetration and victimization in boys, and black students reported more perpetration and victimization than white and Latino students. On average, approximately 85% of the students who reported perpetration also reported victimization.

To measure psychological dating violence victimization and psychological dating violence perpetration, trajectories three-group models weigh the optimal solutions. In the first trajectory group, one-third of participants reported low levels of victimization and almost half reported low levels of perfection with slight increases over time. The same trajectory group showed increasing levels of victimization and perpetration from grade 6 to 12 with large increases over time. And the

third trajectory group-- one in six follow trajectories of high victimization, and 16.3% follow trajectory of high perpetration from grades 6 to 12. Both trajectories showed a slight increase in middle school and a slight decrease in high school.

Figure one illustrates the psychological dating violence victimization and perpetration trajectories. We can see from the illustration the trajectories for both psychological dating violence victimization and psychological dating violence perpetration were very similar. Generally speaking, the predicted trajectory were very similar to the observed trajectory for all three groups.

The joined trajectories examined the overlap of psychological dating violence, victimization, and perpetration, and found a very strong interrelationship between the developmental trajectories of psychological victimization and perpetration among the dating adolescence in the sample. The participants were classified into nine groups based on their joint probability of psychological dating violence victimization and psychological dating violence perpetration, but only four of the groups had a sample size over 5%.

These groups were identified as the low victimization, low perpetration group consisting of 35.6% of the sample. The increasing victimization, low perpetration group at 6.9% of the sample. The increasing victimization, increasing perpetration group at 39.8% of the sample, and the high victimization, high perpetration group, which consisted of 15.3% of the sample.

For all the groups, fear aggression was shown to decrease from grades 6 to 12. Nonphysical aggression toward peers increased from 6 to 8, especially in the high victimization, high perpetration group, and then decreased in high school. Relational aggression decreased in 6th to 12th grade for all groups with a high victimization, high perpetration having the highest decreasing rate. Relational victimization was also shown as decreasing in the middle school and later flattening in high school.

The results from the various trajectories suggest that adolescents follow through the same trajectories of psychological dating violence victimization and psychological dating violence perpetration. The low trajectory was consistently low across all time points. The increasing trajectory increased from grades 6 to 12, and the high trajectory was continually high with slight occasional fluctuation.

This study also found that there was a strong overlap of adolescents' psychological dating violence victimization and perpetrated trajectories, with 91% of the students found within the low victimization, low perpetration; increasing victimization, increasing perpetration; and the high victimization, high perpetration groups. The author's hypothesis that trajectory of the psychological dating violence victimization would be related to psychological fear of aggression was only partially confirmed, and the results from high victimization, high perpetration and the low victimization, low perpetration groups were consistent with the hypothesis. But the findings from the increasing victimization, increasing perpetration group did not support the original hypothesis.