



Pergamon

Child Abuse & Neglect 29 (2005) 1155–1172

Child Abuse
& Neglect

Victimization during childhood and revictimization in dating relationships in adolescent girls[☆]

Marie-Hélène Gagné^{a,*}, Francine Lavoie^a, Martine Hébert^b

^a *École de Psychologie, Bureau FAS-440, Université Laval, Québec, Que., Canada G1K 7P4*

^b *Department of Sexology, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Canada*

Received 17 June 2002; received in revised form 2 November 2004; accepted 19 November 2004

Abstract

Objective:: Various experiences with violence during childhood and adolescence (parental violence, exposure to marital violence, sexual abuse within and outside the family, sexual harassment at school, community violence, involvement with violent or victimized peers, and previous dating violence) are examined as potential risk factors for psychological, physical, and sexual revictimization in adolescent girls' dating relationships.

Method:: A group of 917 teenage girls (mean age = 16.3) were recruited in 5 high schools located in low to middle socioeconomic areas. Participants were in the 10th and 11th grades, and each completed a self-administered questionnaire. Analyses were performed on the 622 participants who reported having at least one dating partner in the last 12 months.

Results:: Prevalence rates for past victimization experiences varied from 13% to 43%. Regarding last-year dating victimization, prevalence rates varied from 25% to 37%, depending on the type of violence sustained. Results suggest that extrafamilial experiences with violence are stronger risk factors for recent dating victimization than intrafamilial experiences, especially being sexually harassed by male peers at school and being involved with violent or victimized peers during the year preceding the survey. However, it is important to differentiate between girls who are repeatedly victims of violence in a single, long-term relationship (repeat dating victimization), and girls who are revictimized by different partners (dating revictimization), the former sustaining more frequent physical and psychological violence than the latter.

[☆] This study is part of a larger research project funded by the Quebec Council for Social Research (CQRS, RS-3131). It has also been supported by the first author's postdoctoral fellowship (CQRS, BS-974), by the Research Unit on Children's Psychosocial Maladjustment, and by the VRIRIJ team.

* Corresponding author.

Conclusions:: Findings underline the importance of early prevention of adolescent dating violence. Prevention programs should especially address extrafamilial experiences with violence as important risk factors for victimization in dating relationships, and teach girls strategies to break up abusive relationships.

© 2005 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Revictimization; Dating violence; Child abuse; Marital violence; Community violence

Introduction

With data from multiple sources, Finkelhor and Dziuba-Leatherman (1994) clearly illustrate that young people are prone to many forms of victimization. Violence against children and adolescents is perpetrated by adults or peers, takes place in a variety of contexts, and can be psychological, physical, or sexual in nature. Moreover, youths are exposed to various levels of violence in their family and environment. This study examines the links between different forms of victimization/exposure to violence occurring through the development of adolescent girls. It aims to show how such experiences occurring from childhood to adolescence may lead to adolescent girls' *revictimization* that is "maltreatment on more than one occasion by different perpetrators" (Hamilton & Browne, 1998, p. 53) in later dating relationships.

In a representative sample of 13 and 16 years old from Quebec, Lavoie and Vézina (2002) report that the 1-year prevalence of girls' dating victimization ranged from 6% to 33%. Rates varied according to the age of participants and the form of violence sustained (psychological, physical, or sexual), and were calculated only among participants reporting at least one dating partner during the 12 months preceding the survey. With a large, nonrepresentative sample of American adolescents, Foshee (1996) revealed that more than one third of the girls had sustained physical and/or sexual violence since they started dating. Numerous American and Canadian studies using convenience samples drawn from the general population support the finding that dating victimization is highly prevalent among adolescents girls and can occur during the very first dating experiences (Bennett & Fineran, 1998; Fernet, Otis, & Pilote, 1998; Gagné & Lavoie, 1995; Gagné, Lavoie, & Hébert, 1994; Jezl, Molitor, & Wright, 1996; Malik, Sorenson, & Aneshensel, 1997; Patton & Mannison, 1995; Pelletier, Tourigny, Clément, & Lavoie, 1998; Poitras & Lavoie, 1995). Moreover, dating victimization has been linked to multiple potential consequences on victims' health and adaptation (see Lavoie, 2000, for a literature review), including dating revictimization. Indeed, a first dating victimization experience can act as a risk factor for subsequent similar experiences, with an increased probability of the victim being caught in a destructive life trajectory (Gidycz, Coble, Latham, & Layman, 1993; Gidycz, Hanson, & Layman, 1995; Himelein, 1995; Humphrey & White, 2000; Smith, White, & Holland, 2003).

Previous research has also shown that several forms of childhood victimization/exposure to violence appear to be important risk factors for subsequent victimization (Feldman, 1997; Grauerholz, 2000; Heise, 1998). Risk factors for adolescent girls dating victimization include parental physical abuse and exposure to violence between parents (Malik et al., 1997; O'Keefe, 1998; Sappington, Pharr, Tunstall, & Rickert, 1997), child sexual abuse (Collins, 1998; Messman-Moore & Long, 2003), and sexual harassment by male peers (Larkin & Popaleni, 1994; Reilly, Lott, Caldwell, & Deluca, 1992; Roscoe, Strouse, & Goodwin, 1994). For those girls, dating victimization is a form of *revictimization*, according to our definition. Exposure to community violence (Malik et al., 1997) and involvement with violent or victimized peers

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/10310862>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/10310862>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)