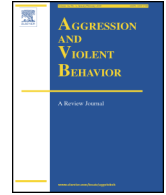




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Aggression and Violent Behavior



Measurement of adolescent dating violence: A comprehensive review (Part 1, behaviors)☆



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 4 June 2015
 Received in revised form 3 January 2016
 Accepted 5 February 2016
 Available online 08 March 2016

Keywords:

Adolescent dating violence
 Measurement
 Systematic review

ABSTRACT

Measurement of adolescent dating violence has substantial implications for our understanding of prevalence, correlates and outcomes; thus, the selection of a measure for a given research study is an important task. Currently, however, no comprehensive compendium presents adolescent dating violence measures with evidence of reliability and validity, or discusses strengths and limitations of these measures. Such a document would aid researchers in the selection of appropriate measures, and would also identify gaps in the literature, as well as directions for future research. Thus, this two-part comprehensive review presents adolescent dating violence measures that have been the focus of psychometric testing. Part 1 of this review presents behavior measures (i.e. measures that assess victimization and perpetration), while Part 2 presents attitude measures. We also review empirical literature that uses identified measures. In Part 2, we conclude by discussing the implications of this review for adolescent dating violence measurement.

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Abbreviations: ADV, Adolescent dating violence; CDC, Centers for Disease Control; CTS2, Revised Conflict Tactics Scale; M-CTS, Modified Conflict Tactics Scale; CTS, Conflict Tactics Scale; EFA, Exploratory factor analysis; CFA, Confirmatory factor analysis; CADRI, Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory; CADRI-S, Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory, Short Form; CPS, Child protective services; RVI, Relationship Violence Interview; VIFFA, Violence faite aux Filles dans les Fréquentations à l'Adolescence; APAS, Adolescent Partner Aggression Scale; WSB, Warning Sign Behavior; TREAD, Tendency to Resist or End Abusive Dynamics; ICC, Intra-class correlation coefficient; RFDE, Recent Fearful Dating Experiences.

☆ Where readers can find Part 2 of this review, in order to make the references to Part 2 clear throughout the paper.

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1. Introduction

Since the first studies documenting violence in adolescent dating relationships (Burcky, Reuterma, & Kopsky, 1988; Henton, Cate, Koval, Lloyd, & Christopher, 1983; Mercer, 1988; Roscoe & Callahan, 1985; Roscoe & Kelsey, 1986), a growing literature has emerged (Foshee & Reyes, 2011), focused on understanding the prevalence, correlates and outcomes of this aggression (e.g. Bandyopadhyay, Deokar, & Omar, 2010; Foshee & Matthew, 2007; Hickman, Jaycox, & Aronoff, 2004; Vagi et al., 2013). Nationally, approximately 10% of adolescents report being hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year (CDC, 2014), and approximately 30% report the receipt of psychologically aggressive behaviors in their lifetime (Halpern, Oslak, Young, Martin, & Kupper, 2001), with a smaller percentage reporting forced sexual activity (Wolitzky-Taylor et al., 2008). Studies have also shown that adolescent dating violence (ADV) is often mutual, with individuals both using and receiving aggression within a romantic relationship (e.g. Giordano, Soto, Manning, & Longmore, 2010; Gray & Foshee, 1997; Miller et al., 2013; Orpinas, Hsieh, Song, Holland, & Nahapetyan, 2013).

Other work has demonstrated that risk and protective factors for dating violence span the social ecology (Foshee & Reyes, 2011; Knoble, Capaldi, Shortt, & Kim, 2012; Offenhauer & Buchalter, 2011; Sherer, 2009), and that dating violence victimization is longitudinally associated with multiple adverse health outcomes (Exner-Cortens, Eckenrode, & Rothman, 2013; Ackard, Eisenberg, & Neumark-Sztainer, 2007; Brown et al., 2009; Roberts, Klein, & Fisher, 2003; Teitelman, Ratcliffe, Dichter, & Sullivan, 2008). While much of the early dating violence research occurred in the United States and Canada, newer research uses data from diverse regions, including Australia (Brown et al., 2009), Israel (Sherer & Sherer, 2008), Italy (Connolly et al., 2010), Mexico (Antônio & Hokoda, 2009), New Zealand (Jackson, Cram, & Seymour, 2000), South Africa (Boafo, 2011), Spain (Fernández-Fuertes & Fuertes, 2010) and Thailand (Pradubmook-Sherer, 2009).

1.1. Measurement of adolescent dating violence

This past work has contributed to an understanding of the epidemiology of ADV and demonstrated that dating violence is a global public health problem; however, a question that has received less attention in the dating violence literature is how dating violence is measured, and what implications measurement might have for knowledge about prevalence, correlates and outcomes. Sound measurement is imperative to the accurate understanding of complex interpersonal relationships. In the early stages of ADV research, where the goal was to provide an initial scope of the problem, researchers typically used measures that were not developed for or psychometrically tested in adolescent populations. Now thirty years into work on dating violence, it is important to evaluate the state of ADV measurement, in order to assess gaps in the field and provide directions for future research (Wekerle & Tanaka, 2010).

Recently, Smith et al. (2015) presented an overview of 48 behavioral ADV measures used for research and evaluation, including common

modifications made to these measures. While this is an important first step in understanding the state of measurement, in order to compare and contrast measures further, and understand their performance in different populations of adolescents, it is necessary to understand their psychometric properties. However, past review articles that discuss ADV behavior measures (Capaldi, Knoble, Shortt, & Kim, 2012; Hays & Emelianchik, 2009; Protivnak & McRoberts, 2011), prior measurement compendiums (Dahlberg, Toal, Swahn, & Behrens, 2005; Thompson, Basile, Hertz, & Sitterle, 2006) and the Smith et al. (2015) study do not present detailed information on the psychometric properties of these measures (i.e. at most, internal consistency reliability). Since it is possible that many of the previously identified scales have no or poor evidence of reliability and validity (as is the case with many adult measures of intimate partner violence; Hays & Emelianchik, 2009), understanding which measures have psychometric evidence in adolescent samples, and the quality of this evidence, is an important next step for the field. Additionally, although one recently published paper does provide some psychometric information on five ADV measures (Caselman, Dubriwny, & Curzon, 2014), no search or selection criteria were provided for how these measures (and articles assessing those measures) were obtained, with the authors only stating that the included measures were “some of the most commonly used self-report measures for adolescent dating violence” (p. 33). Thus, the Caselman et al. (2014) paper does not provide a systematic overview of ADV measurement, precluding an assessment of the state of the field. Finally, no prior paper has provided a systematic review of measures that assess ADV attitudes, or the psychometric properties of these attitude measures. Because attitudes are a common target of dating violence prevention programs (Cornelius & Resseguie, 2007; Wekerle & Wolfe, 1999), and because dating violence attitudes are associated with dating violence behaviors (O’Keefe, 1997; Price et al., 1999), it is important to specifically consider the reliability and validity of attitude measures separately from behavioral measures of ADV. Given these limitations in prior work, the present paper specifically and systematically reviews measures of ADV attitudes and behaviors that have been the subject of psychometric evaluation, and discusses strengths and limitations of these measures based on this information.

1.2. Current study

Knowledge on the full scope of ADV measures with evidence of reliability and validity would help researchers choose better measures, as well as provide critical information on research gaps. Thus, this two-part paper offers a comprehensive review of ADV measures, in order to provide a compendium of measures with evidence of reliability and validity. The Measures section of the present paper (Part 1) summarizes information on behavior measures (i.e. measures that assess victimization and perpetration), while Part 2 summarizes information on attitude measures. To supplement this assessment, this review also provides prevalence estimates obtained in empirical articles using these measures over the past 10 years (see the Empirical work section).

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