

Physical and Sexual Violence Perpetration Against Female Dating/Sexual Partners: Relation to STI and Sexual Risk Behaviors among Adolescent Males

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Adolescents Girls and Young Adult Women are at Increased Risk for IPV/TDV

- Women aged 16 to 24 years experience the highest per capita rates of partner/dating violence
- 1 in 5 girls in high school has experienced physical and/or sexual partner/dating violence
- 1 in 10 (10%) girls report physical partner/dating violence in the past year
- Important to focus on adolescents and young populations because they are the group most affected – but also because prevention is likely key

Rennison et al., 2000- NIJ; Silverman et al., 2001; CDC, 2002

Partner violence and Sexual Risk for HIV/STI and Pregnancy: Findings from Women and Girls

Women and girls reporting IPV are significantly more likely to report:

- No and Inconsistent Condom and Contraceptive Use
- STI/HIV
- Unwanted/unplanned pregnancy,
- Rapid repeat pregnancies
- Abortions

Data from multiple studies with diverse populations over the past decade

Mechanisms explaining the link between partner violence and increased risk for STI/HIV among girls/women

Studies among women/girls:

- Female partners' fear of condom negotiation
- Male partners' control of many aspects related to sex
- Male partners' refusal or sabotage of protection
- Male partner sexual infidelity
- Male partner STD/HIV positive or unknown status

e.g. Miller, E., Decker, M.R., Reed, E., Raj, A., Hathaway, J. & Silverman 2007; Raj A, Santana MC, La Marche A, Amaro H, Cranston K, Silverman, 2006; Raj A, Silverman JG, Amaro H, 2004

Mechanisms explaining the link between partner violence and increased risk for STI/HIV among girls/women

Studies among men/boys:

- Adult males reporting partner violence perpetration are significantly more likely than non-perpetrators to be infected with STI/HIV, to report non-condom use, and to be engaging in sex trade as clients
- This relation has not been similarly investigated among adolescent boys who report perpetrating dating violence

Raj et al., 2008; Dunkle et al., 2006; Silverman, Decker, Kapur, & Raj, 2007; Decker, Miller, Kapur, Raj & Silverman, 2003

Methods: Sample and Recruitment

- Survey participants (N=275) were aged 14-20 years and recruited from teen clinics within urban health centers in the northeast.
- Surveys were administered via ACASI
- Analyses were limited to those who reported having had sex (n=134).

Methods: Analysis

- TDV perpetration (physical and sexual violence perpetration) was examined in relation to:
 - Boys' reports of STI
 - Cheating behaviors
 - Non-condom use during last sex

Results: Sample Characteristics

- Mean age = 17 (standard deviation = 1.8 years).
- 54% percent of boys reported their race/ethnicity as Black or African American, 9% reported to be White, and 3% reported Asian race/ethnicity
- 46% percent identified as Hispanic or Latino
- 80% of boys were born in the US (80%)
- 84% reported living with their parents or other family

Results: Prevalence of TDV Perpetration

Forms of Violence Perpetration	Prevalence (n=134)
Partner Violence Perpetration (Total; Report Sexual Violence or Physical Violence or Psychological Violence/Threats)	44.8 (60)
Sexual Violence (any; reporting at least one below)	41.8 (56)
Vaginal sex	36.5 (49)
Oral sex	14.9 (20)
Anal sex	4.5 (6)
Other sexual activity	12.7 (17)
Physical Violence (any; reporting at least one below)	12.7 (17)
Hit, slap, punch, kick, shove, or throw something at	10.5 (14)
Slam against a wall	6.7 (9)
Choke	7.5 (10)
Use a gun	7.5 (10)
Psychological Violence and Threats of Violence (report both)	10.5 (14)
Excessive jealousy, destroy property, call stupid or fat	28.4 (38)
Threaten to physically hurt or rape	11.2 (15)

Results

Variable	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)
History of STI	OR=3.3; 95%CI: 1.2-9.2
Cheating on partner (having sex with someone other than their partner when they were not supposed to)	OR =4.8; 95% CI: 2.0-11.4

Furthermore, males who reported TDV perpetration were more likely to report **no condom use** during last sex (32%) compared to those not reporting TDV (25%); however, this was only a trend and not statistically significant (likely due to small sample size)

Conclusions

- Our findings suggest that adolescent males who perpetrate TDV have greater sexual risk profiles, likely contributing to increased STI among female sexual partners.
- TDV prevention programs among males may need to also address sexual risk behaviors for STI/HIV.
