



DATING VIOLENCE LITERATURE REVIEW

**Prepared for the Family Violence Prevention Fund and
Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships
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I. Literature Searches

The initial searches that were conducted for the dating violence literature review in 2006 used several combinations of terms to identify studies on dating violence in the Entrez Pub Med database for studies published between 2001 and 2006.

This document was updated in July-August, 2010. Searches for publications on dating violence were conducted in two databases: Pub Med and Academic Premier to identify studies published between 2007 and July, 2010. Study abstracts were reviewed and 85 articles were selected for in-depth review. Studies involving college age students/young adults were excluded due to the focus of the Start Strong initiative on middle school age youth.

In addition, publications that were relevant to “emerging core issues” as defined by the Start Strong initiative were identified by conducting additional literature searches on special topics and reviewing the references of the publications selected for the 2010 update. Emerging core issues that have been added as special topics as part of this update included: 1) bullying, peer violence, and sexual harassment; 2) influencers-parents, peers, and professionals; 3) community and crime; 4) schools/ academic performance; and 5) healthy relationships. Due to the limited amount of information on some of these emerging core issues in the dating violence literature, publications that pre-dated 2007 were also reviewed and included in this review.

The literature review is organized by topic with the studies in chronological order starting with the most recent study. More detailed information about study methodology, age of study participants, and full citations are provided for data that were added during the 2010 update. Please note that full citations of the referenced studies are only provided for the studies added during the update (publications from 2007 through 2010 plus the emerging core issues/special topics). Studies that involve middle school age students are highlighted in boldface due to the relevance to the Start Strong initiative.



II. Prevalence and Demographics

Dating Violence

A cross-sectional survey was administered to a small convenience sample of **middle school Latino youth** (149 boys and 167 girls), 11 to 13 years of age. Overall, 13.5% of youth reported being victims of physical dating violence within the past year; 14.4% of girls and 12.9% of boys disclosed physical dating violence victimization. (Yan FA, Howard DE, Beck KH, Shattuck T, Hallmark-Kerr M. *Psychosocial correlates of physical dating violence victimization among Latino early adolescents. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2010;25(5):808-831.*)

The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline conducted a national online survey on dating relationships with **tweens** (n=2192; **ages 11-14**). Nearly three-quarters (72%) of tweens said that dating begins at age 14 or younger while more than one in three 11-12 year olds said they have been in a relationship. Nearly half of tweens in relationships (47%) say they know friends who have been verbally abused by a boyfriend/girlfriend. **One in five** (20%) say they know friends who have been struck in anger (kicked, hit, slapped or punched) by a boyfriend or girlfriend. More than one-third (36%) know friends their age who have been pressured by a girlfriend/boyfriend to do things that they didn't want to. Two in five (41%) know friends who have been called names, put down, or insulted via cell phones, IM, and/or social networking sites. One in four (24%) of tweens say dating violence-physically hurting relationship partners-is a serious problem for people their age. (www.loveisnotabuse.com, *Tween/Teen Dating Relationships Survey 2008*; downloaded August 8, 2010.)

A cross-sectional survey, the Youth Violence Survey: Linkages Among Different Forms of Violence, was conducted with 7th, 9th, 11th, and 12th graders in a school district located in a high-risk community. The ethnicity of students in the study population was 44.5% Hispanic, 27.4% Non-Hispanic African American, 23.6% Non-Hispanic White and 4.5% other. **Among 7th graders** (398 boys and 419 girls), **35.2% of boys and 24.1% of girls reported physical dating violence victimization in the past 12 months**. Nearly one-quarter of 7th grade girls (24.9%) and 21.2% of 7th grade boys reported perpetrating physical violence in a dating relationship in the past 12 months. For the total study sample (7th, 9th, 11th, and 12th grades), boys were more likely to inflict injuries as a result of perpetrating dating violence compared to girls (2.7% boys compared to 1.2% of girls). Girls in the total study sample reported more forced sexual victimization than boys (8.2% of girls and 4.9% of boys); 1.8% of girls disclosed forced sexual perpetration compared to 4.7% of boys. (Swahn MH, Simon TR, Arias I & Bossarte RM. *Measuring sex differences in violence victimization and perpetration within date and same-sex peer relationships. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2008;23(8):1120-1138.*)

In a national telephone interview survey (2005 National Survey of Adolescents [NSA]) of 3,614 ethnically diverse youths, ages 12-17 years, the prevalence of serious dating violence (physical assault in which participant was badly injured or beaten up and/or threatened with a weapon, was sexually assaulted, and/or experienced drug/alcohol-facilitated rape) was 1.6% (2.7% of girls and 0.6% of boys) equating to approximately 400,000 adolescents in the U.S. population. (Wolitzky-Taylor KB, Ruggiero KJ, Danielson DK, Resnick HS, Hanson RF, Smith DW, Saunders BE, Kilpatrick DG. *Prevalence and correlates of dating violence in a national sample of adolescents. Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. 2008;47(7):755-762.*)



A cohort study followed 929 girls with annual follow-ups that started in kindergarten until age 12 and then a follow-up at age 15. The prevalence of dating violence victimization was measured at the age 15 follow-up and was limited to girls who reported they had dated someone in the past 6 months. Nearly **1 out of 10** (9.5%) of teenage girls disclosed physical dating violence victimization, 10% reported **sexual coercion** by a dating partner, and 25.3% disclosed psychological dating violence victimization. Questions about dating violence were adapted from the Revised Conflict Tactics Scale, the Sexual Experience Survey, and the Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory. (Hebert M, Lavoie F, Vitaro F, McDuff P & Tremblay RE. Association of child sexual abuse and dating victimization with mental health disorder in a sample of adolescent girls. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. 2008;21(2):181-189.)

In a cross-sectional survey of ethnically diverse students between 15-18 years old (the majority were in 11th or 12th grade; N=2363), 40% of females reported perpetrating physical aggression in dating relationships and 30% reported being victims of physical dating aggression. Twenty-four percent (24%) of males reporting perpetrating physical dating aggression. 31% of males reported physical dating aggression victimization. There was a very large association between a teen's reports of perpetration and victimization; when physical aggression occurred in a dating relationship, both partners were typically aggressive. Asian males and females reported the lowest rates of physical aggression dating aggression and victimization. In aggressive relationships, 26% of females and 22% of males reported that they had been injured by their partners; 33% of females and 22% of males reported that they injured their partners. The modified Conflict Tactics Scale was used to measure physical aggression. (O'Leary KD, Slep AM, Avery-Leaf S, Cascardi M. Gender differences in dating aggression among multiethnic high school students. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2008;42:473-479.)

Survey data from the Community Drug and Alcohol Survey was collected between the years 1996 to 2000 with a national sample of 20,807 white students in grades 10th through 12th who live in 120 predominantly rural communities. Approximately **1 out of 6** (15.8%) of adolescents reported having ever been hit, pushed, or threatened by a boyfriend or girlfriend. The odds of a female adolescent being hit, pushed or threatened by a dating partner was 3.5 times higher than a male adolescent. Students living in the South had significantly greater odds of experiencing dating violence victimization compared to students living in other regions. (Marquart BS, Nannini DK, Edwards RW, Stanley LR & Wayman JC. Prevalence of dating violence and victimization: regional and gender differences. *Adolescence*. 2007;168(42):645-657.)

Based on data from the national Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System of high school students (n=15,214), the prevalence of physical dating violence victimization in the past 12 months was nearly twice as high among **Black students compared to White students** (Black females: 13.95%; Black males: 13.5%; White females: 7.5%; White males: 6.5%). (Eaton DK, Davis KS, Barrios L, Brener ND & Noonan RK. Associations of dating violence victimization with lifetime participation, co-occurrence, and early initiation of risk behaviors among U.S. high school students. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 2007;22(5):585-602.)

In a longitudinal study with 522 **African American** females (aged 14-18 years), 28% of girls had experienced physical or verbal abuse by a boyfriend at baseline. After excluding girls who disclosed a history of dating violence at baseline from subsequent longitudinal analyses, the 1-year incidence of dating violence was 12% in the longitudinal analyses. Dating violence was assessed by asking adolescents whether a boyfriend had physically or verbally abused them. (Raiford JL, Wingood GM & DiClemente RJ. Prevalence, incidence, and predictors of dating violence: A longitudinal study of African American female adolescents. *Journal of Women's Health*. 2007;16(6):822-832.)



According to data from the national 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of U.S. high school students, **10.3% of female adolescents** experienced physical dating violence victimization in the past 12 months. Dating violence was measured with the following question: "During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?" (Howard DE, Wang MQ & Yan F. *Psychosocial factors associated with reports of physical dating violence among U.S. adolescent females. Adolescence. 2007; 42(166):311-324.*)

According to data from the 1997-2003 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (N=7,970 high school students), **being an immigrant was protective** against having ever experienced physical and/or sexual dating violence victimization except for those students reporting sexual intercourse. Stratified analyses revealed differences based on race/ethnicity and age: immigration status was protective for Hispanic immigrant girls and immigrant girls age 16 or older. Comparing general prevalence rates by race/ethnicity, Hispanic adolescents reported the lowest prevalence of physical dating violence in the past 12 months. (Silverman JG, Decker MR & Raj A. *Immigration-based disparities in adolescent girls' vulnerability to dating violence. Maternal and Child Health Journal. 2007;11:37-43.*)

Results from the 2003 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (9th through 12th grade) indicated that 8.9% of high school students (8.9% of males and 8.8% of females) experienced physical dating violence during the 12 months before the survey (MMWR, 2006).

In a cross-sectional survey of 367 **middle school** and 314 high school students (39% African American; 61% Caucasian), the prevalence of physical dating violence victimization was 37% and 62% of students reported emotional abuse in dating relationships. Emotional dating violence was measured with the Abusive Behavior Inventory by Shepard & Campbell; physical dating violence was measured with the Victimization in Dating Relationships scale by Foshee and colleagues. (Holt MK & Espelage DL, 2005)

Data from the 2001 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (9th through 12th grade) indicated that slightly less than **1 out of 5** sexually experienced US adolescent girls reported being physically hurt by a date in the past year. Approximately **1 out of 25** (3.7%) girls with no sexual experience reported physical dating violence in the past year (Silverman & Clements, 2004).

According to data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (ages 12-21 years), almost **one-quarter of teens who reported exclusively same-sex romantic or sexual relationships** in the 18 months before the interview reported some type of partner violence victimization. Approximately **1 in 10** reported physical violence by a dating partner. Females were more likely to report victimization than males (Halpern et al., 2004).

Among a sample (n=444) of predominantly **African American** youth, ages 12-13 years old, who were participating in a randomized clinical trial on alcohol risk prevention, **7%** reported "recent dating violence" (Howard et al, 2003).

A survey of Latino youth in Washington DC (n=442) indicated that **9% of Latino** adolescents experienced physical dating violence victimization (Howard et al, 2005).

According to data from the 1999 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, nearly **1 out of 10 of boys** (Howard & Wang, 2003) and nearly **1 out of 10 girls** (Howard & Wang, 2003) experienced physical dating violence.



According to data from the 1999 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **girls'** ethnicity, specifically being African American (OR=2.32) or Hispanic (OR=1.32) increased the risk experiencing physical dating violence (Howard & Wang, 2003).

The overall rate of experiencing physical dating violence as **7.8% for Hawaiian teens** (boys 7.6%; girls 8.0%). **Native Hawaiian** students reported a higher rate (11.6%) than Caucasians (7.3%) and Asian-Pacific Islanders (6.5%). Students 16 years or older were nearly 3 times more likely to disclose physical dating violence based on data from the 1999 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Ramisetty-Mikler et al, 2006).

In a survey with a nationally representative sample (N=3533) of 9th-12th graders (Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Boys and Girls), **17% of girls and 9% of boys** reported physical and/or sexual dating violence victimization. Approximately one-half of the girls and boys who disclosed physical and/or sexual dating violence reported staying in relationships out of fear of physical harm (Ackard et al, 2003).

In a survey of a nationally representative sample of 9th-12th graders (n=3533), adolescents from **lower socioeconomic backgrounds** disclosed higher rates of dating violence than adolescents from higher socioeconomic backgrounds (Ackard et al, 2003).

Sexual Assault

In a nationally representative sample of 4023 youth, ages 12-17, the lifetime prevalence of **sexual assault was 8.2% and physical assault was 22.5%**. (Hanson et al, 2006).

According to data from the 2001 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 9th through 12th graders, **10.2% of females and 5.1% of males** have experienced forced sex in their lifetime (Howard & Wang, 2005).

According to data from a cross-sectional survey with an ethnically diverse sample of female adolescents between the ages of 14 and 23 years who presented for care at an urban adolescent health care facility, nearly **one-third (30%)** reported an unwanted sexual experience in the past year (Rickert et al, 2004).

Among 791 female adolescents <18 years old who were seeking services at a family planning clinic in Texas, **21%** disclosed a history of sexual assault victimization during interviews (Wu et al, 2003).

III. The Connection between Bullying, Peer Violence, Sexual Harassment, and Dating Violence

According to data from a randomized controlled trial with 1734 Canadian high school students, **students (male and female) who experienced sexual harassment victimization in the beginning of the 9th grade were more likely to report physical dating violence victimization 2.5 years later** (at the end of 11th grade). Boys who were sexually harassed were twice as likely (adjusted odds ratio = 2.02) to report physical dating violence victimization; girls who were sexually harassed were more than 3 times more likely (adjusted odds ratio = 3.73) to report physical dating violence victimization. Physical dating violence was measured with the Conflict in Adolescent Relationship Inventory; sexual harassment victimization was measured with the AAUW Sexual Harassment Survey. (Chiodo D, Wolfe DA, Crooks C, Hughes R & Jaffe P. *Impact of sexual harassment victimization by peers on subsequent adolescent victimization and adjustment: A longitudinal study. Journal of Adolescent Health. 2009;45:246-252.*)



This study is with a subsample (N=1279) of 9th grade Canadian students that were part of a larger randomized, controlled trial to evaluate a school-based prevention program, the 4th R. **Peer victimization and dating victimization were moderately correlated**; peer and dating relational aggression perpetration were also correlated. Girls who used high levels of dating aggression were at risk for increased delinquency when they also reported perpetrating high levels of peer aggression. Peer relational aggression perpetration and victimization were measured with a self-report assessment tool developed by Linder et al. (2002); relational aggression in dating relationships was measured with a scale from the Healthy Youth survey. (Ellis WE, Crooks V, Wolfe DA. *Relational aggression in peer and dating relationships: links to psychological and behavioral adjustment. Social Development. 2009;18(2):253-269*)

The following longitudinal data are from the Welfare, Children, and Families: A Three-City Study which involves a household-based, stratified random sample of children and care-givers in low income neighborhoods in Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio. In this study, **being involved with antisocial peers at ages 10-15 years and increasing that involvement through adolescence increased perpetration of dating violence in late adolescence for females, males, African-American females and Hispanic males**. Antisocial peers were defined as friends who had taken part in delinquent activities like stealing, doing drugs, drinking alcohol, and carrying a weapon. Dating violence perpetration was measured with the Conflict Tactics Scale. (Schnurr MP & Lohman BJ. *How much does school matter? An examination of adolescent dating violence perpetration. Journal of Youth and Adolescence. 2008;37:266-283.*)

Cluster analysis was conducted with a sample of students (7th, 9th, 11th, and 12th grades; N=1653) in a high risk school district who reported that they were dating and disclosed perpetration of at least one form of physical violence or psychological abuse in a dating relationship in the past year. **Victimization and perpetration with same-sex peers and dating partners clustered together** among students who reported the highest levels of psychologically abusive or physically violent behavior. This was true for boys and girls. The authors noted that the results highlight the potential and importance of violence prevention efforts that address both dating and same-sex peer violence. Foshee's (1996) dating violence scales for dating perpetration and victimization of physical violence and psychological abuse were used to measure abuse in a dating relationship and adapted to measure same sex-peer psychological abuse and physical violence. (Bossarte RM, Simon TR & Swahn MH. *Clustering of adolescent dating violence, peer violence, and suicidal behavior. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2008;23(6):815-833.*)

Cross-sectional survey data from the 2004 Youth Violence Survey was analyzed to examine the associations between different forms of violence behavior among students in the 7th, 9th, 11th, and 12th grades who had dated in the past year (high-risk, urban school district; N=2888). Students who reported perpetrating physical dating violence were more than 12 times more likely (adjusted odds ratio = 12.12) to report physical dating violence victimization compared to students who did not disclose dating violence perpetration. **Students who reported that they had perpetrated physical dating violence were nearly five times more likely (adjusted odds ratio = 4.90; adjusted for sex, grade, and race/ethnicity) to report perpetrating physical peer violence**. The intersection between involvement in dating and peer violence was consistent for boys and girls. (Swahn MH, Simon TR, Hertz MF, Arias I, Bossarte RM, Ross JG, Gross LA, Iachan R, Hamburger ME. *Linking dating violence, peer violence, and suicidal behaviors among high-risk youth. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 2008;34(1):30-38.*)

In a cross-sectional study with 369 **middle school** and 315 high school youth, bully-victims (students who were both bullied and bullied others) reported significantly more physical dating violence victimization compared to three other bullying subtypes: uninvolved, victims and bullies; they also experienced more emotional abuse compared to uninvolved students and victims. Bully-victims also reported the highest rates of



sexual harassment victimization by peers compared to all other groups. Self-reported bullying behaviors were measured with the University of Illinois Bully Scale which was developed with middle school students; physical victimization in dating relationships was measured with the Victimization in Dating Relationships scale by Foshee. (*Espelage DL & Holt MK. Dating violence & sexual harassment across the bully-victim continuum among middle and high school students. Journal of Youth and Adolescence. 2007;36:799-811*)

Data from a survey of teenage girls in 11th and 12th grade (n=622) who had at least one dating partner in the last 12 months indicated that **extra-familial experiences with violence** were stronger risk factors for dating violence than intra-familial experiences, especially being **sexually harassed by male peers at school** and being involved with violent or victimized peers during the year preceding the survey (*Gagne MH, Lavoie F, Hebert M. Victimization during childhood and revictimization in dating relationships in adolescent girls. Child Abuse and Neglect. 2005;10:1155-1172*).

The following findings are from a longitudinal study with families that were randomly selected from the membership lists of a large HMO. The study sample for this analysis was 126 Mexican-American and 121 European American adolescents (mean age 17.8 years). **Boys'** perpetration of peer violence at baseline was positively correlated with physical dating at one-year follow-up. **Girls'** perpetration of sexual aggression at baseline was positively correlated with physical dating violence perpetration at 1-year follow-up. Physical peer violence was measured with a 9-item scale; sexual aggression was measured with a series of questions on unwanted genital touching and sexual intercourse; physical dating violence was measured with the Conflict Tactics Scale-2. (*Ozer EJ, Tschann, JM, Pasch LA & Flores E. Violence perpetration across peer and partner relationships: co-occurrence and longitudinal patterns among adolescents. Journal of Adolescent Health. 2004;34:64-71*)

For this case-control study, 196 adolescents who reported that they bullied their peers were identified out of a sample of 1758 Canadian, predominantly Caucasian (74% Caucasian; 13% Asian) students in the **5th to 8th grades (mean age=12.6 years)**. Bullies reported that they started dating earlier (by the end of their 10th year vs. 11 ½ for non-bullying peers) and participated in more advanced forms of dating independent of their pubertal development compared to peers who were not involved in any bullying. Bullies were more likely to engage in undesirable activities to keep boyfriends/girlfriends and perceived relationships as less equitable. Physical and psychological (social aggression) victimization and perpetration in dating relationships were reported more frequently by bullies compared to comparison adolescents. (*Connolly J, Pepier D, Craig W, & Taradash A. Dating experiences of bullies in early adolescence. Child Maltreatment. 2000;5(4):299-310*).

IV. Correlates/Risk Factors

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Use

A cross-sectional survey was administered to a small convenience sample of **middle school Latino youth** (149 boys and 167 girls), 11 to 13 years of age. In multivariate analyses, binge drinking was associated with more than a 10-fold increased risk of physical dating violence victimization in the past 12 months among girls. Alcohol use (at least one drink in the past year) was associated with physical dating violence victimization among boys. (*Yan FA, Howard DE, Beck KH, Shattuck T & Hallmark-Kerr M. Psychosocial correlates of physical dating violence victimization among Latino early adolescents. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2010;25(5):808-831*).



A cross-sectional survey was conducted with all students in 7th (n=1491), 9th (n=1117) and 11/12th (n=1523) grades in a school district in a high risk community. Preteen alcohol use initiation before 13 years of age was significantly associated with physical dating violence perpetration and victimization in the past 12 months for boys and girls. The association between early alcohol use initiation and dating violence victimization (not perpetration) remained significant after adjusting for peer delinquency characteristics, parental monitoring, and other confounders in the analyses. (Swahn MH, Bossarte RM & Sullivent EE. *Age of alcohol use initiation, suicidal behavior, and peer and dating violence victimization and perpetration among high-risk, seventh-grade adolescents. Pediatrics. 2008;121:297-305.*)

These findings are from a cross-sectional study with a random sample of 9th to 12th grade public school students (n=2090; White: 61.1%; Black: 30.0%). In multivariate analyses, the following two risk behaviors were associated with girls perpetrating physical dating violence perpetration in the past 12 months: **cigarette use and drinking and driving**. Tobacco used was associated with dating violence perpetration by males. **Riding with a drinking driver** was associated with physical dating violence victimization for boys and girls. (Champion H, Foley KL, Sigmon-Smith K, Sutfin EL & DuRant RH. *Contextual factors and health risk behaviors associated with date fighting among high school students. Women & Health. 2008;47(3):1-22.*)

In this longitudinal study with 522 African American females (aged 14-18 years), girls who experienced physical or verbal dating violence by a boyfriend were 2.0 times more likely to report **using drugs** at one-year follow-up. Drug used was defined as having used at least one of the following six drugs in the past 30 days: tranquilizers, marijuana, amphetamines, LSD, cocaine, or crack. (Raiford JL, Wingood GM & DiClemente RJ. *Prevalence, incidence, and predictors of dating violence: a longitudinal study of African American female adolescents. Journal of Women's Health. 2007;16(6):822-832.*)

Based on data from the national, cross-sectional Youth Risk Behavioral Survey of high school students, the odds of physical dating violence victimization in the past 12 months was greater among female students who **initiated alcohol use at 13 or older** (odds ratio=2.16) or who **initiated alcohol use before 13 years old** (odds ratio=3.79) compared to students who never had a drink. (Eaton DK, Davis KS, Barrios L, Brener ND & Noonan RK. *Associations of dating violence victimization with lifetime participation, co-occurrence, and early initiation of risk behaviors among U.S. high school students. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2007;22(5):582-602.*)

According to data from the 2003 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, there was a strong dose-response relationship between the frequency of **binge-drinking among current drinkers** and the prevalence of physical dating violence victimization. The adjusted odds ratio of being a victim of physical dating violence in the past 12 months was 3.7 times greater among current drinkers who binge drank compared to nondrinker students and 1.9 times greater among current drinkers who did not binge drink compared to nondrinker students. Binge drinking was defined as drinking 5 or more drinks on an occasion during the past 30 days. (Miller JW, Naimi TS, Brewer RD & Jones SE. *Binge drinking and associated health risk behaviors among high school students. Pediatrics. 2007;119:76-85.*)

Early initiation of drinking (<12 years old) doubled the risk of being a victim of physical and/or sexual dating violence according to data from the 1999 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Ramisetty-Mikler et al, 2006).

According to data from the 2001 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 9th through 12th graders, **heavy cigarette use** was associated with a history of forced sexual intercourse among adolescent females (Howard & Wang, 2005).



In a survey of a nationally representative sample of 9th-12th graders (n=3533), **tobacco use** was associated with dating violence for both genders (Ackard et al, 2003).

Data from the 2003 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicated that **binge-drinking** rates were similar among boys and girls and that there was a strong dose-response relationship between binge drinking and girls and boys being a victim of dating violence. (Howard & Wang, 2003)

In a randomized clinical trial with 444 predominantly African American youth, **peer-drinking exposures** (but not personal alcohol use) was associated with dating victimization (Howard et al, 2003).

According to data from the 1999 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, girls who disclosed **binge drinking (OR=1.96) and cocaine or inhalant use (OR=1.53)** were more likely to experience physical dating violence (Howard & Wang, 2003).

In a survey of a nationally representative sample of 9th-12th graders (n=3533), **alcohol consumption and drug abuse** were associated with dating violence (Ackard et al, 2003).

In a cross-sectional survey with 105 high-risk youth (14-18 years old) attending a high school dropout prevention program, **frequency of marijuana use and onset of hard drug use (cocaine, amphetamines, hallucinogens, opioids, designer drugs etc.)** were associated with male adolescents perpetrating physical dating violence (Chase KA, Treboux D & O'leary K, 2002).

Community and Crime

These findings are from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (grades 7-12) which had follow-up interviews 18 months after the baseline interview and then follow-up interviews in early adulthood. **Violent crime exposure** (seeing someone shot or stabbed) was positively associated with adolescent physical dating violence victimization. Among adolescent dating violence victims, those who witnessed violent crime were more like than those who did not to continue involvement in violent relationships into early adulthood (32% overall 6-year continuation prevalence.) (*Spriggs AL, Halpern CT, & Martin SL. Continuity of adolescent and early adult partner violence victimization: association with witnessing violent crime in adolescence. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. 2009;63:741-748.*)

These findings are from a cross-sectional study with a random sample of 9th to 12th grade public school students (n=2090; White: 61.1%; Black: 30.0%). In multivariate analyses, youth's perception of **greater neighborhood organization was a protective factor** for physical dating violence perpetration in the past 12 months for both boys and girls. Neighborhood organization was measured with a 4-item scale that assessed crime and drug peddling, fights, empty and abandoned buildings and graffiti. (*Champion H, Foley KL, Sigmon-Smith K, Sutfin EL & DuRant RH. Contextual factors and health risk behaviors associated with date fighting among high school students. Women's Health. 2008;47(3):1-22.*)

In a cross-sectional survey with 719 high school students, exposure to weapons and violent injury in the community (witnessing or knowing someone who injured or was injured by a knife, gun, or physical fight [and needed medical attention]) were associated with physical dating violence perpetration for boys and girls. (*Malik S, Sorenson S & Aneshensel CS. Community and dating violence among adolescents: perpetration and victimization. Journal of Adolescent Health. 1997;21:291-302.*)



Fighting and Gun Carrying

A cross-sectional survey was administered to a small convenience sample of **middle school Latino youth** (149 boys and 167 girls), 11 to 13 years of age. In multivariate analyses, carrying a gun or another weapon was associated with physical dating violence victimization among boys. (Yan FA, Howard DE, Beck KH, Shattuck T, Hallmark-Kerr M. *Psychosocial correlates of physical dating violence victimization among Latino early adolescents. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2010;25(5):808-831.*)

According to data from the 2005 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **boys** who reported gun carrying (odds ratio=1.80) were more likely to report physical dating violence victimization. (Howard DE, Wang MQ & Yan F. *Psychosocial factors associated with reports of physical dating violence victimization among U.S. adolescent males. Adolescence. 2008;43(171):449-460.*)

According to data from the 2005 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **girls** who reported fighting (odds ratio=2.17) were more likely to be victims of physical dating violence. Howard DE, Wang MQ & Yan F. *(Psychosocial factors associated with reports of physical dating violence among U.S. adolescent females. Adolescence. 2007;42(166):311-324.)*

According to data from a survey of Latino youth in Washington DC (n=442), fighting was associated with increased risk of physical dating violence victimization among **females** (Howard et al, 2005).

According to data from a survey of Latino youth in Washington DC (n=442), gun carrying among males was associated with increased risk of physical dating violence victimization among males. Spending time each week with a mentor was also associated with an increased risk of being a victim of dating violence among Latino youth (Howard et al, 2005).

Longitudinal data from annual surveys with 8th and 9th graders in North Carolina (n=1,291) indicated that having been in a physical fight with a peer predicted onset of serious physical dating violence victimization for males (Foshee et al, 2004).

According to data from the 1999 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **boys** who reported fighting (OR=1.81) were more likely to be victims of physical dating violence (Howard & Wang, 2003).

Lifetime Exposure to Violence

In a cross-sectional survey with 136,549 students in the 6th, 9th, and 12th grades who responded to the 2007 Minnesota Survey, each type of childhood exposure to violence (physical abuse by household adult, sexual abuse by family member, sex abuse by non-family member, and witnessing physical abuse by a family member on another family member) was associated with an increased risk of adolescent interpersonal violence perpetration including dating violence (threats of harm, physically or sexually hurting someone they are going out with) for boys and girls (Duke NN, Pettingell SL, McMorris BJ & Borowsky IW. *Adolescent violence perpetration: associations with multiple types of adverse childhood experiences. Pediatrics. 2010;125:e77-e786.*)

In a cohort study with 929 girls that begin in kindergarten and did annual follow-ups until the age of 12 and again at age 15, nearly half (46.7%) of the teenage girls who disclosed a history of **childhood sexual abuse** also reported experiencing at least one form of dating violence victimization (physical, sexual, or psychological) compared to a quarter (25.2%) of girls without a history of sexual abuse. Questions about dating violence



were adapted from the Revised Conflict Tactics Scale, the Sexual Experience Survey, and the Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory. (Hebert M, Lavoie F, Vitaro F, McDuff P & Tremblay RE. Association of child sexual abuse and dating victimization with mental health disorder in a sample of adolescent girls. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. 2008;21(2):181-189.)

The risk of experiencing physical dating violence was three-fold higher for Hawaiian teens who disclosed prior **sexual abuse** based on data from the 1999 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Ramisetty-Mikler et al, 2006).

Multivariate analyses of data from a survey of 980 adolescents, 11 to 19 years old, indicated that a **history of childhood victimization and gender** were the most statistically significant factors in explaining the variance of perpetrating teen dating violence (Banyard et al, 2006).

Among female survivors of **childhood sexual abuse**, 13 to 17 years of age, nearly half (45%) had experienced some sort of physical dating violence (Cyr et al, 2006).

Adolescent sibling violence was predictive of college dating violence. Males reported experiencing more sibling violence than females, but females reported more dating violence both as victims and perpetrators (Noland et al, 2004).

Longitudinal data from annual surveys with 8th and 9th graders in North Carolina (n=1291) indicated that **having been hit by an adult with an intention of harm** predicted onset of serious physical dating violence victimization for males and females (Foshee et al, 2004).

According to data from a cross-sectional survey with an ethnically diverse sample of female adolescents between the ages of 14 and 23 years who presented for care at an urban adolescent health care facility, **past sexual victimization as an adolescent** was associated with more than a 4-fold (OR=4.70) risk of rape/attempted rape (Rickert et al, 2004).

According to data from a survey of undergraduate college students (352 males; 296 females), **parental violence** was a strong predictor of dating violence perpetration; male perpetration was related to mother's violence whereas female perpetration was related to father's violence (Kaura & Allen, 2004).

Media Exposure

In this longitudinal study with 522 African American females (aged 14-18 years), girls who experienced physical or verbal dating violence victimization by a boyfriend were 1.9 times more likely to report having **viewed X-rated movies** compared to girls who had not viewed x-rated movies. (Raiford JL, Wingood GM & DiClemente RJ. Prevalence, incidence, and predictors of dating violence: A longitudinal study of African American female adolescents. *Journal of Women's Health*. 2007;16(6):822-832.)

A longitudinal study (6-7 months follow-up) with a random sample of 2228 youth demonstrated significant correlations between the frequency of **watching wrestling** on television during the previous 2 weeks and perpetrating "date fighting." The correlation between watching wrestling on television and date-fight perpetration was stronger among females than among males. The frequency of watching wrestling was highest among students reporting date fighting when either the victim or the perpetrator had been using alcohol or drugs (Durant et al, 2006).



Mental Health

Cross-sectional survey data from the 2004 Youth Violence Survey was analyzed to examine the associations between dating violence, peer violence, and suicide among students in the 7th, 9th, 11th, and 12th grades who had dated in the past year (high-risk, urban school district; N=2888). Involvement in any physical violence victimization or perpetration in dating relationships or with peers increased the **odds of attempting suicide** compared to students who did not report peer or dating violence. The intersection between involvement in dating and peer violence was consistent for boys and girls. (Swahn MH, Simon TR, Hertz MF, Arias I, Bossarte RM, Gross LA, Iachan R, Hamburger ME. *Linking dating violence, peer violence, and suicide behaviors among high-risk youth. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 2008;34(1):30-38.*)

In a national telephone interview survey (2005 National Survey of Adolescents; N=3,614) of ethnically diverse youths, ages 12-17 years, **symptoms of PTSD** were associated with an increased risk of serious dating violence victimization (physical assault in which participant was badly injured or beaten up and/or threatened with a weapon, sexual assault, and/or drug/alcohol-facilitated rape) for both genders after adjusting for demographic variables, other traumatic stressors, and stressful events. Having experienced a previous or recent stress life event was also associated with an increased risk of having been a victim of serious dating violence for boys and girls. Stressful life events included parental divorce or separation. (Wolitzky-Taylor KB, Ruggiero KJ, Danielson DK, Resnick HS, Hanson RF, Smith DW, Saunders BE, Kilpatrick DG. *Prevalence and correlates of dating violence in a national sample of adolescents. Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. 2008;47(7):755-762.*)

According to data from the 2005 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **boys** who reported **sad/hopeless feelings** were nearly two and half times more likely (OR=2.42) to experience physical dating violence victimization. (Howard DE, Wang MQ & Yan F. *Psychosocial factors associated with reports of physical dating violence victimization among U.S. adolescent males. Adolescence. 2008;43(171):449-460.*)

Based on cross-sectional survey data from the national 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of U.S. high school students, **girls** who considered suicide were 1.5 times more likely to report physical dating violence victimization. Other risk factors for physical dating violence victimization among girls included having **sad/hopeless feelings** (odds ratio=1.42) and considering suicide (odds ratio=1.55). Dating violence was measured with the following question: "During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?" (Howard DE, Wang MQ & Yan F. *Psychosocial factors associated with reports of physical dating violence among U.S. adolescent females. Adolescence. 2007; 42(166):311-324.*)

Interview data from two waves of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health with a stratified sample of 80 U.S. high schools and 52 **middle schools** was analyzed to evaluate whether depressive symptomatology was predictive of subsequent IPV among adolescents and young women at 5-year follow-up. Young females with **symptoms of depression** were 1.86 times more likely to experience subsequent moderate to severe abuse in a relationship (Lehrer et al, 2006).

The risk of experiencing physical dating violence was 2-fold higher for Hawaiian high school students who **disclosed suicidality** based on data from the 1999 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Ramisetty-Mikler et al, 2006).

In a cross-sectional study with 421 primarily middle class, high school students (67.1% Hispanic; 17.4% non-Hispanic, 9% Black), adolescents who reported more negative interactions in romantic relationships reported **higher levels of depression**. The Network of Relationship Inventory was used to measure the following



negative relationship qualities: conflict, criticism, exclusion, dominance, and pressure. The connection between negative relationship qualities and depression was stronger for White than Hispanic adolescents. (La Greca AM & Harrison HM, 2005).

According to data from a survey of Latino youth in Washington DC (n=442), girls who disclosed a **stronger sense of self** were less likely to report physical dating violence victimization (Howard et al, 2005).

According to data from a survey of Latino youth in Washington DC (n=442), boys who had **considered suicide** experienced higher rates of physical dating violence victimization (Howard et al, 2005).

Data from a one-year longitudinal study with a sample of male and female students from 10 high schools (n=1317) indicated that trauma-related symptoms were significant predictors of dating violence for boys and girls (Wolfe et al, 2004).

According to data from the 1999 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **girls** with sad/hopeless feelings were more than two times more likely (OR=2.13) to experience physical dating violence (Howard & Wang, 2003).

According to data from the 1999 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, boys who felt **sad/hopeless** (OR=1.68) and boys who had **attempted suicide** (OR=2.22) were more likely to be victims of physical dating violence (Howard & Wang, 2003).

In a survey of a nationally representative sample of 9th-12th graders (n=3533), **depression, suicidal thoughts, and poor self-esteem** were associated with dating violence (Ackard et al, 2003).

Middle School Years/Developmental Phase

In a cross-sectional study of Caucasian middle school youth (7th and 8th grade; N=100), older adolescents (mean age=17.6 years; N=97), and college youth (n=95), as age increased, adolescents appeared increasingly sensitivity to the unique implications of relational aggression in a dating relationship. **Middle school age students perceived the least harm associated with relational aggression in dating relationships compared to older youth.** Relational aggression, which focused on defamatory gossip and peer exclusion, was measured with the Relational Aggression Questionnaire. (Goldstein SE & Tisak MS. *Adolescents' outcome expectancies about relational aggression within acquaintanceships, friendships, and dating relationships. Journal of Adolescence. 2004;27:283-302.*)

Sexual Behaviors

Initial sexual experience at age 13 or earlier and unwillingness of initial sexual experience were the strongest predictors of dating violence in a cohort intervention study with 590, predominantly Hispanic adolescent girls (average age 15) in the juvenile justice system. (Kelly, Cheng, Peralez-Dieckmann & Martinez E. *Dating violence and girls in the juvenile justice system. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2009;24(9):1536-1551.*)



In a cross-sectional survey with 196 Canadian girls (ages 12-18) in the care of child protective services, **the age of first sexual relationship, number of sex partners, and having been pregnant** were related to having experienced severe physical dating victimization. Having been pregnant increased the odds of severe physical abuse by a dating partner more than threefold (3.60). Dating violence was measured with the Conflict Tactics Scale and severe physical violence as defined as “My dating partner kicked, bit or hit me” and “My partner punched or hit me with something that could hurt.” (Manseau H, Fernet M, Hebert M, Collin-Vezina D & Blais M. *Risk factors for dating violence among teenage girls under child protective services. International Journal of Social Welfare. 2008;17:236-242*).

According to data from the 2005 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **high school age boys** who had **unprotected sexual intercourse** (odds ratio=1.81) were more likely to report physical dating violence victimization (Howard DE, Wang MQ & Yan F. *Psychosocial factors associated with reports of physical dating violence victimization among U.S. adolescent males. Adolescence. 2008;43(171):449-460*.)

According to data from the 1997-2003 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, girls who reported **having ever had sexual intercourse** were significantly more likely to have experienced physical and/or sexual dating violence victimization compared with girls who reported not having had sex. (Silverman JG, Decker MR & Raj A. *Immigration-based disparities in adolescent girls' vulnerability to dating violence. 2007;11:37-43*).

In a qualitative study with predominantly white adolescent males (ages 17-21 years old), **non-use of condoms** was more common in steady, often abusive relationships although boys reported sexual infidelity, particularly being involved in “trains”[1-2 girls having sex with several boys in one location] and multiple sex partners. (Raj A, Miller E, Decker MR, Rothman EF & Silverman JG. *Contexts of condom use and non-condom use among young adolescent male perpetrators of dating violence. AIDS Care. 2007;19(8):970-973*.)

Based on data from the national 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of U.S. high school students, girls who had **unprotected sex** were 1.7 times more likely to report physical dating violence victimization and girls with recent sexual partners were more than two times (odds ratio=2.10) times likely to be physically hurt by a dating partner. Dating violence was measured with the following question: “During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?” (Howard DE, Wang MQ & Yan F. *Psychosocial factors associated with reports of physical dating violence among U.S. adolescent females. Adolescence. 2007; 42(166):311-324*.)

The risk of experiencing physical dating violence was 8-fold higher for Hawaiian high school students who were **sexually active by age 13** based on data from the 1999 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey (Ramisetty-Mikler et al, 2006).

In a study with a nationally representative sample of adolescents (ages 12 to 21 years old;N=6548) who participated in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, physical and/or emotional dating violence victimization was more likely to occur in romantic relationships that included **sexual intercourse**: 37% of respondents in romantic relationships who had sexual intercourse reported at least one form of physical or verbal victimization compared to 19% of youth in relationships with no sexual intercourse. An analysis of the sequence of occurrence indicated that the sexual intercourse usually occurred *before* the abuse; engaging in sexual intercourse dramatically increased the risk of dating violence, especially physical abuse. (Kaestle CE & Halpern CT, 2005)



According to data from the 1999 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, boys who had **multiple sex partners** (OR=3.53) and boys who reported **nonuse of condoms** (OR=1.66) were more likely to be victims of physical dating violence (Howard & Wang, 2003).

According to data from the 1999 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, girls who disclosed **multiple sex partners** (OR=2.38) and **nonuse of condoms** (OR=1.53) were more likely to experience physical dating violence (Howard & Wang, 2003).

Other Correlates/Risk Factors

According to data from a cross-sectional survey with an ethnically diverse sample of female adolescents between the ages of 14 and 23 years who presented for care at an urban adolescent health care facility, **going to the perpetrator's house to be alone** was associated with a 3-fold (OR=3.01) risk of rape/attempted rape (Rickert et al, 2004).

In a survey of a nationally representative sample of 9th-12th graders (n=3533), **binge and purge behaviors** were associated with dating violence (Ackard et al, 2003).

V. Influencers (Parents, Friends, Professionals)

A cross-sectional survey was administered to a small convenience sample of **middle school Latino youth** (149 boys and 167 girls; 27.6% 6th graders; 32.6% 7th graders, and 29.4% 8th graders), 11 to 13 years of age. In bivariate analyses, parental monitoring, family connectedness, and parental academic encouragement were protective factors for girls experiencing physical dating violence victimization. Only family connectedness was protective for boys experiencing physical dating violence victimization in the bivariate analyses. However, none of the parental protective factors were linked to the odds of being a victim of physical dating violence in multivariate analyses in this study with a relatively small study population. The authors noted that the lack of evidence that parental factors uniquely affected the likelihood of victimization based on multivariate analyses may be that its effect is mediated by peer relationships and/or school engagement which were not examined in this study. (Yan FA, Howard DE, Beck KH, Shattuck T & Hallmark-Kerr M. *Psychosocial correlates of physical dating violence among Latino early adolescents. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2010;25(5):808-831*).

Surveys and focus groups were conducted in two waves across two academic years with predominantly Latino (80%) students in the Los Angeles area. A total of six focus groups were conducted with **9th grade** students; three of the focus groups were with students who received the Break the Cycle Ending Violence curriculum and three focus groups were with students who did not receive the intervention. Findings from the survey (N=1655 students; average age 14.53 years) indicated that teens saw **informal sources of help as most helpful, especially parents**, and would be most likely to seek informal sources of support: parents, siblings, other relatives, or friends versus professional sources of help. They were particularly unlikely to seek help from a doctor, other health professional, or school nurse. Focus group data indicated that students would seek help from friends first. With regard to seeking help from family members, students said they would talk to their mothers (not their fathers). Focus group feedback also indicated that students did not trust or feel close to adults in professional roles and that they would not seek help from a teacher if they were experiencing dating violence. (Ocampo BW, Shelley GA & Jaycox LH. *Latino teens talk about help seeking and help giving in relation to dating violence. Violence Against Women. 2007;13(20):172-189*).



In a cross-sectional survey of 367 **middle school** and 314 high school students (39% African American; 61% Caucasian), **parental support** moderated the association between dating violence victimization and psychological well-being. Among African American students who experienced physical dating violence, **maternal social support** moderated the association between physical dating violence and increased risk of anxiety/depression. The moderating effect of perceived maternal social support varied by gender and level of dating violence victimization. For African American youth; the most significant findings were for males. For Caucasian students, females with high levels of physical dating violence and the highest perceived **paternal social support** reported the fewest anxiety/depression symptoms. (Holt MK & Espelage DL, 2005)

These findings are based on a longitudinal study (Minnesota Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children) with a subsample of individuals (predominantly European Americans) who were followed from the third trimester of pregnancy through 23 years of age and had been in a romantic relationship. **Features of parent-child interactions at age 13 predicted physical perpetration and victimization in romantic relationships at ages 21 and 23.** Parent-child boundary violations (casually seductive and role-reversal behaviors by parent) were the most consistent predictors of perpetration and victimization. Parent-child interaction quality was assessed by video-taping youth and their parents (usually only the mother) during a series of structured laboratory tasks. (Linder JR & Collins WA, 2005)

According to data from a longitudinal study of adolescents conducted in the public high school system of a primarily rural county, 60% of victims and 79% of perpetrators did not seek help for dating violence. Most victims and perpetrators who sought help **chose friends and family members rather than professionals.** Male victims and perpetrators who sought help were more likely to chose professional sources of help than female victims and perpetrators (Ashley & Foshee, 2005).

Longitudinal data from annual surveys with **8th and 9th** graders in North Carolina (n=1291) indicated that **having a friend who had been a victim** predicted sexual dating violence victimization for females (Foshee et al, 2004).

In a randomized clinical trial with 444 predominantly African American youth, **parental monitoring** (OR=0.41) and religious service attendance (OR=0.40) were protective against dating violence (Howard et al, 2003).

In a cross-sectional survey with 105 high-risk youth (14-18 years old) attending a high school dropout prevention program, three characteristics of parental care were associated with girls perpetrating physical dating violence; the three parenting characteristics were **parental involvement, parental behavioral control, and parental supervision.** Parenting factors were measured with the 26-item Parenting Style instrument. Physical dating violence perpetration was measured with the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS). There was no correlation between parental care and male adolescents' perpetration of dating violence. (Chase KA, Treboux D & O'leary K, 2002)

VI. Schools/Academic Performance

In a cross-sectional survey with a stratified, multi-stage sampling of Jewish and Arab Moslem junior high and high school students in Israel (n=1357), **academic achievement in the preceding year was protective** for physical and emotional dating violence victimization among Jewish students, particularly females. (Sherer M. *The nature and correlates of dating violence among Jewish and Arab Youths in Israel. Journal of Family Violence. 2009;24:11-26*).



In a cohort intervention study, predominantly Hispanic adolescent girls (average age 15;N=590) in the juvenile justice system, **school attendance** was negatively correlated with dating violence (poor school attendance was associated with an increased risk of dating violence). The negative correlation between dating violence and school attendance was limited to bivariate analyses. (Kelly, Cheng, Peralez-Dieckmann & Martinez E. *Dating violence and girls in the juvenile justice system. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2009;24(9):1536-1551.*)

According to bivariate analyses of the data from the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey for San Francisco (n=2419) and Los Angeles (n=1228), high school girls who were victims of physical dating violence in the past 12 months were more than twice as likely **not to attend school** due to feeling unsafe at school or on the way to or from school on one or more occasions in the past 30 days compared to nonabused girls (20% versus 8%). (Davis, A. *Interpersonal and physical dating violence among teens. Focus: Views from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. September, 2008. Downloaded on July 15, 2010 at www.vawnet.org*)

Analysis of longitudinal data from the Welfare, Children, and Families: A Three-City Study (Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio), indicated an association between **academic difficulties in early adolescence** (10-15 years old) and higher rates of dating violence perpetration six years later for Hispanic males (this association was not found for African American boys or girls). Dating violence perpetration was measured with the Conflict Tactics Scale. (Schnurr MP & Lohman BJ. *How much does school matter? An examination of adolescent dating violence perpetration. Journal of Youth and Adolescence. 2008;37:266-283*).

Based on data from the national, cross-sectional Youth Risk Behavioral Survey of high school students, physical dating violence victimization in the past 12 months was more prevalent among female students who earned “**mostly Cs**” compared to female students who earned “mostly As.” (Kelly, Cheng, Peralez-Dieckmann & Martinez. *Dating violence and girls in the juvenile justice system. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 2009;24(9):1536-1551.*)

Bivariate analyses of data from a survey of 980 adolescents, ages 11 to 19, indicated that low social support, low social responsibility, and **low school attachment** were associated with self-reported perpetration of dating violence (Banyard et al, 2006).

The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health used in-home interviews with a stratified, random sample of students in the 7th through 12th grades that was representative of all high schools in the United States. The first wave of data was collected in 1994-1995; students were re-interviewed in 1996. Nearly one-third (32%) of respondents disclosed experiencing physical and/or psychological dating violence victimization in a heterosexual romantic relationship in the 18 months before the interview. **Grade point average was associated with dating violence victimization among girls.** The odds of physical or physical and psychological dating violence victimization decreased by a factor of 0.75 for every 1-point increase in grade point average. The odds of physical or physical and psychological dating violence victimization (versus no victimization) for a girl with a grade point of 4.0 (straight A's) was less than a third (0.31) of the odds of victimization with a grade point average of 1 (D's and F's). (Halpern CT, Oslak SG, Young ML, Young MS, Martin SL & Kupper LL, 2001)



VII. Healthy Relationships

The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline conducting a national online survey on dating relationships with **tweens** (n=2192; **ages 11-14**). Nearly one half (49%) of tweens **did not know the warning signs of a bad/hurtful tween-dating relationship**. (www.loveisnotabuse.com, 2008)

In this longitudinal study with 522 African American females (aged 14-18 years), girls who experienced physical or verbal dating violence victimization by a boyfriend were 2.0 times more likely to report **less understanding of healthy relationships**. Relationship knowledge was assessed with an eight-item scale developed to measure attitudes about healthy and unhealthy relationships. (Raiford JL, Wingood GM & DiClemente RJ. *Prevalence, incidence, and predictors of dating violence: A longitudinal study of African American female adolescents. Journal of Women's Health. 2007;16(6):822-832.*)

Focus groups with predominantly African American, urban female and male adolescents revealed that teens do not talk about the violence in their lives without discussing the gender-based violence they experienced in a number of social roles—as witnesses to family violence, as victims of dating violence, as peer observers of harassing and violence behaviors. Teens struggled to identify the boundaries between playing, harassment, and abuse and females **struggled to determine if violence was a reflection of love**. Prevention strategies need to consider these key findings (Johnson et al, 2005).

Results from a school-based survey with urban Latino youth (n=678) indicated that teens who were more traditional (less acculturated), those who endorsed gender stereotypes, and those who reported recent fearful dating experiences had **less knowledge of abuse** and lower endorsement of nonviolent attitudes (Ulloa et al, 2004).

VIII. Prevention

Twelve focus groups (ethnically diverse; segmented by sex and grade level) were conducted with **middle school age students** (11-14 years old) in the Atlanta area. Focus group participants described **healthy tween relationships** as following some form of gender role conformity; examples included that boys should provide material support or gifts while girls are expected to provide social/emotional support. They distinguished dating relationships from friendship by gender restrictions on behavior—for example, boys are nicer to a dating partner compared to others and girls should restrain their appetite for food and loud expression when they are with their boyfriends. Themes that emerged relative to prevention included:

- Building skills to promote problem solving and bystander behavior particularly during the middle school years when dating is just
- The need to tailor efforts to age, race/ethnicity, and gender due to how dating violence was perceived differently by these factors
- Creating appropriate messengers such as peer educators; most youth rejected the option of approaching teachers, parents or counselors for help

(Noonon RK & Charles D. *Developing teen dating violence prevention strategies: formative research with middle school youth. Violence Against Women. 2009;15:1087-1105.*)



The 4th R, a 21-lesson, **school-based curriculum that addresses healthy relationships, sexual health, and substance abuse**, was evaluated with 1722 Canadian 9th grade students in a cluster randomized trial. At 2.5 years follow-up (end of 11th grade), the prevalence of physical dating violence perpetration was higher in controls versus intervention students (9.8% vs. 7.4%). Sex by group analyses revealed that 3% of boys in the intervention group reported physical dating violence perpetration compared to 7% of boys in the control group; however, the intervention had no effect on girls. Physical dating violence was measured with the Adolescent Dating Relationship Inventory. Boys who received the curriculum were also more likely to use condoms than boys in the control group. The cost of the program averaged \$16 (Canadian) per student. (Wolfe DA, Crooks C, Jaffe P, Chiodo D, Hughes R, Ellis W, Stitt L, Donner A. *A school-based program to prevent adolescent dating violence: a cluster randomized trial. Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine.* 2009;163(8):692-699).

The effectiveness of a high school marriage education curriculum (“Connections: Relationships and Marriages”) designed to **teach students about healthy relationships and marriage** was evaluated with a small sample (n=72) of predominantly female (80.6%) high school students in a nonrandomized, longitudinal study with a control group. While most of the immediate effects of the curriculum (attitudes, communication skills etc.) faded within 4 years of follow-up, students who received the curriculum reported a reduction in using physical or verbal aggression to resolve a conflict in a dating relationship, an increase in self-esteem, and an increase in family cohesion over the 4-year follow-up period. The study findings are based on the 1-year and 4-year follow-up questionnaires which had a very low response rate (20%). Physical and verbal aggression were measured with the Conflict Tactics Scales. (Gardner SP & Boellaard R. *Does youth relationship education continue to work after a high school class? A longitudinal study. Family Relations.* 2007;56:490-500.)

An evaluation of **Break the Cycle’s Ending Violence curriculum** with Latino youth indicated improved knowledge, less acceptance of female-on-male aggression, and enhanced perception of the helpfulness and likelihood of seeking assistance from a number of sources immediately after the program. Improved knowledge and perceived helpfulness from an attorney were maintained 6 months later but there were no differences in recent dating violence victimization or perpetration (Jaycox LH, McCaffrey D, Eisenman B, Aronoff J, Shelley GA, Collins RL, Marshall GN. *Impact of a school-based dating violence prevention program among Latino Teens: randomized controlled effectiveness trial. Journal of Adolescent Health.* 2006;39(5):694-704).

A randomized clinical trial design was used to evaluate five waves of data from the **Safe Dates Project**. Results indicated reductions in psychological, moderate physical, and sexual dating violence perpetration and moderate physical dating violence victimization. Marginal effects were found for sexual victimization (Foshee VA, Bauman KE, Ennett St, Suchindran C, Benefield T, Linder GF. *Assessing the effects of the dating violence prevention program “Safe Dates” using random coefficient regression modeling. Prevention Science.* 2005;6(3):245-258).

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