Electronic Aggression among Adolescent Dating Partners: Demographic Correlates and Associations with Other Types of Violence

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1. Adolescent Dating Violence and Electronic Aggression

- Electronic dating aggression includes psychological abuse among dating partners and electronic aggression such as e-mail, instant messaging (IM), blogs, or a networking site like MySpace or Facebook.

2. Prior Studies on Electronic Aggression

- An online survey by Pendle RTI International in 2000 and 2001 also reported instances of being stalked by an ex-dating partner.

3. Objectives

- Identify prevalence of psychological aggression among adolescent dating partners and other types of electronic aggression.
- Explore associations among electronic aggression and psychological aggression.
- Explore demographic characteristics associated with electronic aggression.
- Explore other types of adolescent dating violence.

4. Conceptual Model

5. Data Collection and Study Sample

- A survey conducted by the Associated Press RTI International (APRTI) in 2000 included 1,245 individuals aged 15 to 17 from an online parent sample.
- 25% of the respondents were in a romantic relationship and the partner had cheated but did not have a partner that was involved in their activities.
- 12% reported that a boyfriend or girlfriend had sent them sexual messages.
- 10% reported that a cell phone or IM message from a new lover had put them down or said something mean.
- 7% thought that they had talked too much about their relationship on social networks.

6. Measures

7. Analyses

- Calculated correlation of percentages of adolescents reporting electronic dating aggression perpetration or victimization.

8. Results

- Physical dating violence perpetration was associated with a variety of demographic variables, including:
  - Being female
  - Being gay, lesbian, or bisexual
  - Being American Indian
  - Being Asian
  - Being Hispanic
  - Being White

- Sexual dating violence perpetration was associated with:
  - Being male
  - Being gay, lesbian, or bisexual
  - Being American Indian
  - Being Asian
  - Being Hispanic
  - Being White

- Psychological dating abuse was associated with:
  - Being female
  - Being gay, lesbian, or bisexual
  - Being American Indian
  - Being Asian
  - Being Hispanic
  - Being White

- Stalking was associated with:
  - Being male
  - Being gay, lesbian, or bisexual
  - Being American Indian
  - Being Asian
  - Being Hispanic
  - Being White

9. Discussion

- Examine factors that predict electronic aggression among adolescent dating partners:
  - Peer aggression
  - Psychological abuse
  - Physical dating violence
  - Sexual dating violence

10. Limitations

- Acknowledgments

- Author Affiliations

- For further information:

- Contact Information

- Endnotes

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