The Relation between Borderline Personality Disorder Features and Teen Dating Violence Victimization in Adolescence

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Introduction

- Teen dating violence (TDV) is a serious social problem with significant physical and emotional consequences (Wolfe et al., 2001)
- Theoretical models have identified the role of borderline personality disorder features and intimate partner violence in adults (Dutton, 1995), however the downward extension to adolescents is rare
- The aim of this study was to investigate the relation between borderline features and TDV in a community sample of adolescents

Method

- The sample included 851 ethnically diverse adolescents (M_{age} = 15.09, SD = .79) from seven schools in the Houston area
- The following measures were administered:
  - Conflict in Adolescent Dating and Relationship Inventory (CADRI; Wolfe et al., 2001)
  - Borderline Personality Features Scale for Children (BPFS-C; Crick et al., 2005)
  - Symptom Checklist hostility subscale (SCL-90; Derogatis et al., 1973)
  - Substance use (Johnston et al., 2010)
  - Exposure to parental violence

Sample Items

CADRI	During a conflict or argument with my boyfriend / girlfriend: • He/She tried to turn my friends against me • I tried to turn my friends against him/her • He/She said things just to make me angry • I said things just to make me him/her angry
BPFS-C	• I go back and forth between different feelings, like being mad or sad or happy • I do things that other people consider wild or out of control • Lots of times, my friends and I are really mean to each other
SCL-90	In general, how often do you: • Have urges to beat, injure, or harm someone? • Get into frequent arguments? • Shout or throw things?

Results

Bivariate Analyses

- Borderline features were significantly correlated with TDV victimization (r = .138, p < .001), TDV perpetration (r = .131, p < .001), and hostility (r = .179, p < .001)
- Both TDV victimization and TDV perpetration were significantly higher for females (t = 5.27, p < .001; t = 7.93, p < .001), those who used substances (t = -4.99, p < .001; t = -5.78, p < .001), and those exposed to mother-to-father violence (t = -2.56, p = .012; t = -2.84, p = .005)

Multivariate Analyses

- For TDV victimization, results of hierarchical linear regression revealed that gender ($beta$ = -.135, p < .001), substance use ($beta$ = .101, p = .005), and hostility ($beta$ = .254, p < .001) were statistically significant, but BPFS-C scores were not ($beta$ = .060, p = .091)
- For TDV perpetration, results of hierarchical linear regression revealed that gender ($beta$ = -.226, p < .001), substance use ($beta$ = .125, p < .001), and hostility ($beta$ = .277, p < .001) were statistically significant, but BPFS-C scores were not ($beta$ = .026, p = .458)

Analyses by Gender

- Given that BPFS-C scores did not retain significance and gender was a significant covariate in the regression, separate analyses were conducted for males and females
- For females, results of hierarchical linear regression revealed that substance use ($beta$ = .098, p = .039), hostility ($beta$ = .261, p < .001), and BPFS-C scores ($beta$ = .107, p = .024) were statistically significant for TDV victimization (see Table 1); BPFS-C scores were not significant for TDV perpetration ($beta$ = .036, p = .440)
- For males, regression analyses were not conducted as borderline features were not significantly correlated with TDV victimization (r = .067, p = .233) or TDV perpetration (r = .107, p = .055)

Discussion

- Borderline features appear to place female teens at higher risk for TDV victimization
- Identifying personality disorder features associated with TDV is important from a clinical standpoint to identify those adolescents most at risk for being victims of TDV

Table 1. Hierarchical linear regression with substance use, mother-to-father violence, hostility (Block 1), and BPFS-C scores (Block 2) as independent variables and TDV Victimization as the dependent variable

Variable	B	SE	β	t	p	95% CI for β Lower	Upper
Hostility	.335	.062	.261	5.387*	.000	.213	.457
Mother-To-Father Violence	.404	.620	.030	.652	.515	-.815	1.624
Substance Use	.931	.450	.098	2.071*	.039	.047	1.815
Borderline Features	.036	.016	.107	2.261*	.024	.005	.067
Constant	-.2014	1.081		-1.863	.063	-4.140	.111

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