

Introduction

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Consultation Board literature review, compiled by Research Officer Natasha Fletcher. The theme of this literature review is youth related assaults and violence.

Predicting teen dating violence, this new area of development is aiding emerging preventive initiatives for this increasing public health concern of risk for physical and sexual forms of teen dating violence (TDV) perpetration. This is of interest to those working with young people in domestically abusive relationships.

A child cannot consent to a sexual relationship where exploitation occurs. While here in the UK we recognise that a child is not a prostitute but a victim of exploitation, this research into **Prostitution and Its Impact on Youth: Violence, Domination and Inequality** provides an insight into child victims.

We recognise that not all sexual assaults are reported, understanding why this is the case and how we can as a collective encourage all of these crimes to be reported is vital. This report looking into the **Social Consequences for Danish Victims of Sexual Assaults in Peer Groups** provides learning into sexual assaults in peer groups.

Predicting the Emergence of Sexual Violence in Adolescence explores factors that identify how prior exposures may predict the emergence of Sexual Violence in adolescence. Five types of Sexual Violence were assessed: sexual harassment, sexual assault, coercive sex, attempted rape, and rape.

A review of rape **myths in males and the use of sex education programmes**, although many rape myths are accepted by both genders, most researchers have found a statistically significant difference in the acceptance of rape myths between males and females. Males overwhelmingly adhere to more rape myths than females, particularly ones that place the responsibility of an assault on the victim.

Finally, we look at **Supporting Vulnerable Youths through Community Collaboration**. The life opportunities presented to a young person vary area to area, and that the predisposed nature of a young person can influence their resilience. Youth services are often working with young people with a complex range of needs and our communities can be impacted by this.

If you find articles to include within the review or for discussion, please mail them to Natasha (natasha.fletcher@hampshire.pnn.police.uk).

Anja Kimberley,

Consultation Board Chair.

1. Predicting Teen Dating Violence Perpetration

March 2018

OBJECTIVES: With our study we aimed to (1) understand what factors uniquely conferred risk for physical and sexual forms of teen dating violence (TDV) perpetration and (2) create a screening algorithm to quantify perpetration risk on the basis of these factors.

METHODS: A total of 1031 diverse public high school students living in Southeast Texas participated in our study (56% female; 29% African American, 28% white, and 31% Hispanic). Self-report measures concerning TDV and associated risk factors were completed annually for 6 years.

RESULTS: Results suggested that family violence (domestic violence exposure, maltreatment) together with deficits in conflict resolution incrementally improved our forecasts above and beyond lifetime history of physical TDV perpetration (net reclassification improvement = 0.44; 95% confidence interval [CI] = 0.30-0.59). Meanwhile, a violent dating history (TDV sexual perpetration, sexual victimization, and emotional perpetration) and acceptance of TDV incrementally improved our models for forecasting sexual forms of perpetration (net reclassification improvement = 0.41; 95% CI = 0.24-0.58). These models adequately discriminated between future perpetrators and non-offenders (area under the curve statistic >0.70; 95% CI: 0.69-0.74). Overall, adolescents with positive test results on our algorithms were over twice as likely to perpetrate dating violence over the course of 6 years.

CONCLUSIONS: Our study represents one of the first applications of reclassification analyses to psychosocial research in a paediatric population. The result is a theoretically informed, empirically based algorithm that can adequately estimate the likelihood of physical and sexual TDV perpetration during vulnerable developmental periods. These findings can immediately aid emerging preventive initiatives for this increasing public health concern.

Report: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29178424>

Accessible: No

2. Prostitution and Its Impact on Youth: Violence, Domination and Inequality

2018

Abstract:

While the debates on prostitution usually focus on the different legislative approaches or the so-called choices of persons in prostitution, this article wants to give light to an invisible aspect of the system of prostitution: its impact on youth.

Based on a study conducted on young people in the South of France, at the borders with Spanish prostitution clubs, outcomes and analysis clearly demonstrate that prostitution is not only a form of male violence against women, it is also a system and an industry that contribute to gender inequality, to an unequal and negative representation of sexuality for young people, and to reduced choices in sexuality. Its impacts are far more detrimental than we can see, because they are invisible and entrenched in mentalities.

Today, young people, and especially young women, are directly targeted by the system of prostitution. Rape culture, economic conditions, migration paths and sexual violence in the childhood are part of the root causes which explain the highest vulnerability of youth to the sex industry. Youth has become a strong commercial value for the sex industry and for the men buying sex; the sex industry does not discriminate on age and uses the existing laws tolerating pimping and prostitution to continue to flourish.

Report: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/2455632717744312>

Accessible: Yes

3. “What Will My Friends Think?” Social Consequences for Danish Victims of Sexual Assaults in Peer Groups

Feb 2018

Abstract:

Being exposed to sexual assaults has numerous psychological and social consequences, which may interfere with the adolescent’s still-ongoing development. This article focuses on social consequences for adolescents exposed to sexual assault by someone from their peer group.

Participants were 148 in number and 15–18 year olds (M = 16.34 years, 90.5% female) from Centre for Victims of Sexual Assault’s “Youth Programme.”

A mixed methods design combined extensive survey data collected from the 148 adolescents and five case stories. Almost half of the assaults (47.4%) were committed by someone from the victim’s social circle who was not a family member. Only 30.5% of these victims reported the assault to the police. Fear of social consequences was the main reason for not reporting. The majority of the participants described failure to thrive in school in the aftermath of the assault, for example, because the assailant attended the same school. The results furthermore showed how social relations can be complicated due to an assault and subsequent reactions, which can result in isolation for the victim and exclusion from their peer group.

Sexual assaults in peer groups have great impact on the victim’s well-being. Understanding and support from peers is of the utmost importance.

Report: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10538712.2018.1425942>

Accessible: No

4. Predicting the Emergence of Sexual Violence in Adolescence

July 2017

Abstract:

This study aims to report the epidemiology of sexual violence (SV) perpetration for both female and male youth across a broad age spectrum. Additionally, the etymology of SV perpetration is examined by identifying prior exposures that predict a first SV perpetration. Six waves of data were collected nationally online, between 2006 and 2012, from 1586 youth between 10 and 21 years of age. Five

types of SV were assessed: sexual harassment, sexual assault, coercive sex, attempted rape, and rape. To identify how prior exposures may predict the emergence of SV in adolescence, parsimonious lagged multivariable logistic regression models estimated the odds of first perpetrating each of the five types of SV within the context of other variables (e.g., rape attitudes).

Average age at first perpetration was between 15 and 16 years of age, depending on SV type. Several characteristics were more commonly reported by perpetrators than non-perpetrators (e.g., alcohol use, other types of SV perpetration and victimization). After adjusting for potentially influential characteristics, prior exposure to parental spousal abuse and current exposure to violent pornography were each strongly associated with the emergence of SV perpetration—attempted rape being the exception for violent pornography. Current aggressive behaviour was also significantly implicated in all types of first SV perpetration except rape.

Previous victimization of sexual harassment and current victimization of psychological abuse in relationships were additionally predictive of one's first SV perpetration, albeit in various patterns. In this national longitudinal study of different types of SV perpetration among adolescent men and women, findings suggest several malleable factors that need to be targeted, especially scripts of interpersonal violence that are being modelled by abusive parents in youths' homes and also reinforced by violent pornography.

The predictive value of victimization for a subsequent first SV perpetration highlights the inter-relatedness of different types of violence involvement. Universal and holistic prevention programming that targets aggressive behaviours and violent scripts in inter-personal relationships is needed well before the age of 15 years.

Report: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11121-017-0810-4>

Accessible: No

5. Rape Myth Acceptance among Adolescent Males – How to Integrate Components of Preventative Sexual Assault Programs into Sex Education

2017

Rape and sexual assault have become two of the most prevalent forms of violent crime in the United States. Among all cases of sexual assault and rape, college-aged females are by far the most victimized group. Interventions within the field have focused on college male's adherence to rape myths with the belief that changing these attitudes may decrease the prevalence of sexually violent behaviour. Because of this, college campuses have become the primary target of intervention with preventative sexual assault programs (PSAPs) as a common method of delivering this education. However, the delivery of these interventions has the potential to be more effective among adolescents who are developing biologically, psychologically, and sociologically. Capitalizing on these naturally occurring dimensions of adolescent development may lead to greater retention and eventual attitude change.

There is no denial that rape and sexual assault have become quite prevalent, with 20 million out of 112 million women (18%) in the US having been raped within their lifetime. This percentage does not account for unreported assaults, another 16% of sexual assaults are never reported to the authorities (Kilpatrick, Resnick, Ruggiero, Conoscenti, & McCauley, 2007). Among this population, women ages 16 to 24 were found to be four times more likely than any other age group to be assaulted (Smith &

Welchans, 2000). Several studies have found that more than 80% of these victims knew their attacker (Breitenbecher & Scarce, 1999; Lonsway, 1996; Marciniak, 1998).

Although many rape myths are accepted by both genders, most researchers have found a statistically significant difference in the acceptance of rape myths between males and females. Males overwhelmingly adhere to more rape myths than females, particularly ones that place the responsibility of an assault on the victim.

Report: <https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=http://scholar.google.co.uk/&httpsredir=1&article=1455&context=honorsthesis>

Accessible: Yes

6. Supporting Vulnerable Youths Through Community Collaboration

Feb 2018

Across the United States, communities are struggling with multiple complex social determinants of health, including poverty, unemployment, and poor education outcomes. Young people growing up in these communities are exposed to substantial threats to their well-being. Research has shown repeatedly that young people taking risks in one part of their lives are taking risks elsewhere. The young person experimenting with alcohol or drugs often is also experimenting with sexual activity and is at risk for violence. Neighbourhoods and communities can contribute to risk-taking behaviour across a wide spectrum either through a lack of positive opportunities to safely grow and develop or through exposure to health threats such as proximity of liquor stores, failing schools, violence, and unsafe housing. Too often, though, programs designed to serve youths are segregated into discrete programs that address only one risk-taking behaviour.

Youths who are taking multiple risks and struggling to transition successfully to adulthood come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Research indicates that youths living with additional challenges beyond typical adolescent “angst” disproportionately engage in risk taking. Our most vulnerable youths—those living in poverty, youths of colour, immigrant youths, sexual minority youths, disabled youths, and youths with mental health challenges—need a responsive and effective system of care more than ever. We also know that young people who are suffering frequently seek relief by attempting to numb psychological pain or the aftereffects of trauma. Engaging in risky behaviour, therefore, may in fact be a call for help.

Report: <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304225>

Accessible: Yes
