Dating Partner Sexual Violence & Bullying Among Kansas Youth

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Why Did We Look at This Data?

• Availability of new data source
• Bullying & sexual violence perpetration linked
• KDHE SVPE Program works across multiple sectors in public health prevention
Why Should We Be Concerned with Bullying & Relationship Abuse?

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Definitions

• Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

• Dating Violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors over a course of time -- used to exert power and control over a dating partner.

stopbullying.gov and breakthecycle.org
Dating Violence & Bullying

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Video Clip

KS Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

• Cross-sectional

• School-based survey of students grades 9-12

• Public & private schools

• Two-stage sample design
  • Schools randomly selected
  • Classrooms chosen randomly within selected schools, all students in selected classes eligible to participate

• Anonymous & self-administered questionnaire
Methods

• 2013 Kansas YRBS (n=1,941)

• Weighted data analysis

• Descriptive analysis

• Crude and Adjusted Prevalence Rate Ratios (PRR) calculated to compare prevalence of being a victim of bullying among students who experienced dating partner sexual violence compared to students who did not experience dating partner sexual violence

• Adjusted PRRs are calculated by controlling for socio-demographic characteristics
Dating Partner Sexual Violence Question

During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)

A. I did not date or go out with anyone during the past 12 months
B. 0 times
C. 1 time
D. 2 or 3 times
E. 4 or 5 times
F. 6 or more times
Dating Partner Sexual Violence Question

During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)

A. I did not date or go out with anyone during the past 12 months
B. 0 times \textcolor{red}{\cancel{\text{Did not experience dating partner sexual violence}}}
C. 1 time
D. 2 or 3 times
E. 4 or 5 times
F. 6 or more times

\textcolor{red}{\cancel{\text{Experienced dating partner sexual violence}}}

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Bullying Questions

The next 3 questions ask about bullying. Bullying is when 1 or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when 2 students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way.
Bullying Question

During the past 12 months, have you ever been bullied on school property?

During the past 12 months, have you ever been electronically bullied? (Count being bullied through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or texting.)

During the past 12 months, have you ever been the victim of teasing or name calling because of your weight, size, or physical appearance?
Unsafe Question

During the past 30 days, on how many days did you **not** go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?

A. 0 days
B. 1 day
C. 2 or 3 days
D. 4 or 5 days
E. 6 or more days
Unsafe Question

During the past 30 days, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?

A. 0 days  Feeling safe at school
B. 1 day
C. 2 or 3 days
D. 4 or 5 days
E. 6 or more days

Feeling unsafe at school
Results

7.8% (95% CI: 6.5-9.3) of Kansas high school students in grades 9-12 experienced dating partner sexual violence in the last year.
Percentage of Kansas students within gender groups, by dating partner sexual violence (DPSV) status, YRBS 2013

Experienced DPSV

- Male: 26.8%
- Female: 73.2%

Did not experience DPSV

- Male: 53.5%
- Female: 46.5%
Percentage of Kansas students within age groups, by dating partner sexual violence (DPSV) status, YRBS 2013
Percentage of Kansas students within race/ethnicity groups, by dating partner sexual violence (DPSV) status, YRBS 2013

- Experienced DPSV:
  - Hispanic: 14.9%
  - Other, non-Hispanic: 13.9%
  - Black, non-Hispanic: 7.3%
  - White, non-Hispanic: 63.9%

- Did not experience DPSV:
  - Hispanic: 15.5%
  - Other, non-Hispanic: 7.7%
  - Black, non-Hispanic: 6.1%
  - White, non-Hispanic: 70.7%
Prevalence of **being bullied** by dating partner sexual violence (DPSV) status, YRBS 2013

- Experienced DPSV: 57.0%
- Did not experience DPSV: 19.3%
Prevalence of being electronically bullied by dating partner sexual violence (DPSV) status, YRBS 2013

Experienced DPSV: 51.3%
Did not experience DPSV: 15.8%
Prevalence of **being bullied because of physical appearance** by dating partner sexual violence (DPSV) status, YRBS 2013

- Experienced DPSV: 52.0%
- Did not experience DPSV: 23.6%
Prevalence of feeling unsafe at school by dating partner sexual violence (DPSV) status, YRBS 2013
Crude Prevalence Rate Ratios for victimization among students who experienced dating partner sexual violence vs. students who did not, KS YRBS 2013
Adjusted Prevalence Rate Ratios * for victimization among students who experienced dating partner sexual violence vs. students who did not, KS YRBS 2013

- Physical appearance bullied
- Electronically bullied
- Bullied
- Unsafe at school

* Adjusted for gender, age and race/ethnicity
Summary

High prevalence of bullying is seen in high schools students in Kansas

Prevalence of bullying is considerably higher among students who experienced dating partner sexual violence compared to students who did not
Limitations

• Cross-Sectional Study
  • Unable to determine temporality or causality

• Non-Response Bias
  • Not possible to know if those who refused to respond would have answered the questions in the same ways as those who responded
Discussion

• Assess for multiple issues
• Trauma-informed approach
• Work in partnership with other prevention issues
• Find out what kind of bullying is happening in high school

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One Theory to Explore: Polyvictimization

Figure 6: Conceptual Models of Pathways to Polyvictimization

Pathway 1
Dangerous Families
- Child Maltreatment
- Sibling Assault
- Witness Domestic Violence/Sibling Maltreatment

Pathway 2
Family Disruption and Adversity
- Poor Supervision
- Emotional Deprivation
- Peer Victimization
- Sexual Victimization
- Property Victimization

Pathway 3
Dangerous Neighborhoods
- Property Crime
- Witnessing Violence
- Peer Victimization
- Sexual Victimization

Pathway 4
Emotional Problems
- Burden for Caregivers
- Poor Social Skills
- Impaired Self-Protection
- Stigma
- Child Maltreatment
- Peer Victimization
- Sexual Victimization

Finkelhor et al. 2011
Thank you!

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Questions

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