

Category I – TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

**VIOLENCE & VICTIMIZATION RESEARCH DIVISION'S
COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

1993-2011

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2005-WT-BX-0002:	An Evaluation of Sexual Violence/Harassment Prevention Program in Middle Schools
Amount:	\$425,210
PI:	Bruce Taylor & Nan Stein
Monitor:	Carrie Mulford
Status:	Completed

Sexual violence and harassment (SV/H) can lead to serious injuries for victims, and particularly young women. Schools that do not address SV/H among students can become training grounds for future violence and sexual assault. The goals are to enhance the capacity of programs to prevent SV/H by increasing knowledge about the efficacy of prevention programs through the most rigorous and cost-effective evaluation methods available. Guided by the ‘Theory of Reasoned Action’, the researchers will employ an experimental, longitudinal design for the proposed two-year study. This study employed random assignment of one hundred 6th and 7th grade classrooms in the Cleveland area to one of three conditions: Treatment 1: a gender socialization-based curriculum that addresses SV/H by focusing on construction of gender roles, power and control in relationships, hyper masculinity, and compulsory heterosexuality and healthy relationships; Treatment 2: a criminal justice-based curriculum for SV/H prevention focusing on deterring aggressive behavior and teaching self-control; and Control group: this group will not receive any of the elements of Treatments 1 or 2. Quantitative surveys will be administered before, immediately after, and 6 months after treatment and a small number of key informant interviews with program staff and focus groups with teachers will be conducted. The objectives are to answer: 1) whether SV/H prevention programs in middle schools reduce the probability of SV/H perpetration/victimization, have no effect, or lead to negative effects; 2) what are the effects of providing prevention programs compared to no prevention; 3) are prevention programs that incorporate a gender socialization component (Treatment 1) more effective in changing knowledge, attitudes, and behavior than programs that are fact-based (Treatment 2), or than no programming at all (control group); 4) do moderator variables affect the relationship between treatment and outcomes; and 5) how cost-effective are the two interventions.

Product: NCJ# 221892

Experimental Evaluation of Gender Violence/Harassment Prevention Programs in Middle Schools

Results show that the intervention appeared to reduce self-reported peer violence victimization and self-reported perpetration on some of the measures in these areas, though there was a conflicting finding regarding self-reported dating violence perpetration. The intervention seemed to increase self-reported dating violence perpetration for some of the measures in this area, but not self-reported dating violence victimization. Sexual harassment and gender violence, including interpersonal or dating violence, are serious problems in K-12 schools. Previous research shows that gender violence and harassment (GV/H) can lead to severe injuries for victims, poorer mental or physical health, more high-risk or deviant behavior, and increased school avoidance. Many schools that address GV/H do so by developing and implementing intervention programs. However, little is known about the effectiveness of these interventions. This report provides a detailed account of the results of an experimental evaluation, supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice that used a randomized controlled trial of a GV/H prevention program for sixth and seventh grade students in three suburban school districts bordering Cleveland, OH. Approximately 100 sixth and seventh grade classrooms were assigned randomly to either receive 1 of 2 intervention curricula or a true no-treatment control condition. Through student surveys, the study assessed whether GV/H prevention programming reduced the probability of self-reported GV/H perpetration and victimization, had no effect, or led to negative effects. The study also explored the impact of the prevention curricula on student self-reports of attitudes, knowledge, and behavioral intentions as they related to GV/H and sexual harassment.

2008-MU-MU-0010:	Dating Violence/Harrassment Prevention Programs: A Collaborative Multi-Level Randomized Experimental Evaluation
Amount	\$649,851
PI:	Bruce Taylor
Monitor:	Carrie Mulford
Status:	Ongoing

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Dating violence and harassment (DV/H) can lead to serious injuries for its victims, poorer mental and physical health, more "high risk"/deviant behavior, and increased school avoidance. The goal of this project is to prevent DV/H by increasing knowledge about the efficacy of prevention programs through the most rigorous evaluation methods available. The Police Executive Research Forum and Wellesley College will partner with the fourth largest school district in the nation, Miami-Dade, and its certified school police department. The proposed 27-month study will use an experimental, longitudinal design with random assignment of 50 middle schools/200 classrooms from the 6th and 7th grades to one of four conditions: (1) Both a building and classroom-level intervention; (2) A building-level intervention; (3) A classroom intervention; and (4) Neither (control group). Within each of these four cells, a random sample of 50 classrooms will be selected for study participation and complete all three waves of student quantitative surveys (200 classrooms x 30 students per classroom = 6,000 students). The classroom intervention involves a six-session curriculum that emphasizes the consequences for perpetrators of DV/H, state laws, penalties and remedies for DV/H, the construction of gender roles, and healthy relationships. The school (building-level) intervention includes training for police and school personnel in identifying/responding to DV/H, introduction of school based restraining orders, mapping of "hot spots" of unsafe areas, and use of posters for awareness and reporting of DV/H to the police/school. The control group follows normal schedule and does not receive any of the class or building-level intervention elements. Additionally, surveys, observational methods, key informant interviews, and focus groups with key stakeholder groups will be used to assess the integrity/fidelity of the intervention delivery and random assignment process. The project will answer four questions on the effectiveness of DV/H prevention programs: (1) What are the effects of providing prevention programming compared to no prevention?; (2) Are classroom-based prevention programs that incorporate an additional school-level intervention more effective in changing knowledge, attitudes, and behavior than classroom interventions that do not or compared to no programming at all (i.e., the control group)?; (3) Do moderator variables impact the relationship between treatment and outcomes?; and (4) Do DV/H patterns (e.g., prevalence/frequency and severity) differ for female versus male students, and are the interventions more effective in reducing victimization and/or perpetration for female compared to male students?

2008-WG-BX-0003:	Dating Abuse Prevention in Teens of Moms With Domestic Violence Protection Orders
Amount:	\$375,125
PI:	Vangie Foshee
Monitor:	Bethany Backes
Status:	Ongoing

The purposes of the proposed research are to 1) revise an existing parent-based intervention to prevent dating abuse in 12 to 15 year old teens exposed to domestic violence (Aim 1) and 2) conduct a randomized trial to pilot test the procedures that would be used in a future larger randomized trial to test program efficacy (Aim 2). The intervention will be designed to be implemented by mothers who are victims of domestic violence and are identified through the North Carolina court system because they have obtained a domestic violence protection order. Development of Moms for Safe Dates, the proposed intervention, will involve formative research to adapt an already developed, theory-based, rigorously evaluated adolescent dating violence prevention program, Families for Safe Dates, for this highly vulnerable population of youth. Like Families for Safe Dates, Moms for Safe Dates will consist of six booklets mailed to study mothers, followed by health educator telephone calls two weeks after each mailing. To address Aim 1 the research team will recruit 32 women and their 12 to 15 year old adolescents through courthouse-recruitment procedures that were used in a recent study conducted by co-investigators to participate in three focus groups to provide feedback on program booklets. To address Aim 2, the research team will recruit 50 mothers and their 12 to 15 year old adolescents, through the same courthouse-recruitment procedures, to participate in a randomized trial. Mothers and adolescents will each complete a 25-minute baseline telephone interview, half the families will be randomly allocated to receive Moms for Safe Dates, and mothers and adolescents will complete another 25-minute telephone interview three months after treatment families complete the program. The conduct of the pilot randomized trial will allow for piloting of all the procedures that would be used in a future efficacy trial and to obtain estimates of participation and retention rates. The study is innovative in that it will be laying the groundwork for the first randomized trial of a family-based program for preventing dating abuse among adolescents exposed to domestic violence and it uses a unique approach to recruitment.

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2009-IJ-CX-0004:	Risky Relationships and Teen Dating Violence Among High-Risk Adolescents
Amount:	\$447,381
PI:	N. Dickon Reppucci
Monitor:	Bernie Auchter
Status:	Ongoing

This short-term longitudinal study will examine the prevalence rates and risk factors associated with dating violence among a sample of high-risk youth. The goal of this comprehensive, in-depth examination of dating violence is to develop a better understanding of how to promote positive relationships for youth most at risk for initiating, maintaining, and reengaging in unhealthy romantic relationships. Second, the research will explore risk factors associated with (a) remaining in relationships after abuse has occurred and (b) continued victimization and/or perpetration of violence as youth move between relationships. Third, the study will examine how relationship-level characteristics (e.g., unequal power dynamics, sexual activity) relate to dating violence among high risk youth. Finally, in response to calls for more research on the consequences of dating older partners, this project will investigate whether age differences between high-risk adolescents and their partners relate to relationship violence and explore potential mediators of this relationship to determine why partner age differences might matter in adolescent relationships.

2009-IJ-CX-0503:	Life Course, Relationship, and Situational Contexts of Teen Dating Violence
Amount:	\$596,728
PI:	Peggy Giordano
Monitor:	Bernie Auchter
Status:	Ongoing

This research builds upon a large, prospective longitudinal study of adolescent romantic and sexual relationships (The Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study-TARS). Planned analyses of quantitative and qualitative data collected across four waves of TARS interviews combined with new structured and in-depth interviews focused specifically on the youngest cohort of youths will provide a more comprehensive portrait of the: a) life course, b) relationship, and c) situational contexts that foster teen dating violence. Of major interest is to specify how experiences associated with gender influence processes that result in violent outcomes, as well as youths' own perceptions of the meanings of violent events in their lives and relationships. The following specific aims will be addressed: 1) Describe the incidence and prevalence of relationship abuse across the period of adolescence, and as young people navigate the transition to young adulthood. 2) Explore similarities and differences in the nature, qualities and dynamics within violent and non-violent teen dating relationships. 3) Investigate the situational contexts of violence by collecting new quantitative data from the youngest cohort of TARS respondents.

2009-MU-MU-0025:	Preventing Revictimization in Teen Dating Relationships: A Randomized Control Trial with Adolescent Girls in Foster Care
Amount:	\$777,813
PI:	Anne DePrince
Monitor:	Carrie Mulford
Status:	Ongoing

This study will test two intervention programs designed to decrease revictimization (RV) in teen dating relationships in a sample of adolescent girls in foster care. The interventions arise from two different empirical and theoretical approaches to the problem of RV: 1) social learning and feminist theory (from the teen dating violence literature); and 2) risk detection (from the adult sexual RV literature). Incorporating recent cognitive neuroscience research, this study will expand the risk detection intervention to focus on improving teens' executive function skills (EFs). EFs include a range of cognitive abilities that are 1) critical to detecting danger cues (e.g., noticing danger, planning and initiating responses) and 2) often impaired in youth and adults previously exposed to violence. A random sample of adolescent girls in foster care will be selected for participation. Teens will be randomly assigned to either waitlist control (WLC) or one of two intervention conditions; interventions will be administered in a group format and will be assessed four times. Researchers will test whether the respective interventions cause unique changes in the mechanisms they implicate. Thus, the current research will yield important findings on the relative effectiveness of two interventions; and specific mechanisms underlying RV risk in teen dating relationships.

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2009-W9-BX-0001:	Dating Violence Among Latino Adolescents (DAVILA)
Amount:	\$678,942
PIs:	Chiara Sabina, Carlos Cuevas
Monitor:	Bethany Backes
Status:	Ongoing

Latino adolescents are at risk for experiencing dating violence as well as other forms of victimization that have substantial negative effects. This study offers an analysis of their experiences and responses to dating violence while incorporating culturally-relevant components. Data will be collected via phone interviews with a targeted sample of approximately 1,500 Latino adolescents (between the ages of 12 and 18) and their caregiver living throughout the United States. The goals include (1) an examination of various forms of dating violence victimization including physical, sexual, and verbal victimization, (2) an analysis of the other forms of victimization that adolescent victims of dating violence experience, (3) a thorough analysis of the help-seeking efforts of Latino youth that addresses both formal and informal help-seeking, (4) effectiveness of services, and help-seeking barriers, (5) measurement of particular cultural factors that impact Latino youth who are victims of dating violence, (6) an assessment of current psychosocial outcomes associated with victimization, including psychological factors and delinquency behaviors, and (7) an evaluation of protective factors that may moderate the relationship between victimization and negative outcomes.

2010-MU-FX-0005:	An Exploratory Study of Juvenile Orders of Protection as a Remedy to Dating Violence
Amount:	\$300,009
PI:	Andy Klein
Monitor:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Ongoing

Although there is growing recognition of the prevalence of dating violence and its serious short- and long-term impacts, countermeasures are still in their infancy. A number of states have, or are currently considering, expanding civil orders of protection (OPs), a helpful response to adult intimate partner violence, to allow juvenile victims to directly secure orders. Advocates and research both suggest that most juvenile victims of dating violence do not discuss their situation with their parents, and parents are therefore unlikely to secure OPs on a child's behalf, even if state law allows them to do so. In July 2008, the New York State Legislature enacted a juvenile-initiated OP reform statute, which provides an excellent opportunity to examine this cutting-edge policy issue. The goal of the proposed research is to increase our understanding of juvenile OPs by developing a comprehensive portrait of their use in New York, the extent and patterns of reabuse when they are used, and the factors related to their underutilization (to date) by teen victims. The specific aims are: 1) to provide a detailed description of the use of juvenile OPs, including who is securing them, against whom and for what; 2) to determine the courts' response to these OPs, including the specific stipulations imposed; 3) to determine the rate of OP violations or other reabuse reported to police as well as the victim, offender, incident and order characteristics that are associated with reabuse up to 2 years after the order was first obtained; and 4) to explore with young people across the state in greater depth their perspective about the use of civil OPs. The quantitative part of the study will be accomplished by merging state data on OPs initiated by petitioners age 12-18 years across New York State in 2009 and 2010 (approximately 700) with data on order violations, new orders taken out by petitioners for new dating violence, and police incident reports filed across the state in 2011 for abuse involving the same parties. Qualitative research will include two samples: 1) a statewide sample of juveniles (N=120) representative of the broad diversity of New York's youth, to focus on why these orders are underutilized and how to improve awareness, access and the details of the orders of protection available to juveniles to better meet their unique circumstances; and 2) a more targeted and opportunistic sample of juveniles (N=48) referred for, or seeking help for, dating violence from the only New York City specialty legal services program addressing this issue (Day One) to focus on their actual experience accessing and utilizing protective orders. In completing the proposed research, the lead agency, Advocates for Human Potential, will partner with the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, which will provide the quantitative data sets, and with the Cornell University Family Life Development Center and Day One, which have extensive experience in assembling teen focus groups.

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2010-MU-MU-0012:	The Fourth R: A Randomized Trial of a Violence-Reduction Program in Bronx, New York
Amount:	362,101
PI:	Amanda Cissner
Monitor:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Ongoing

National estimates indicate that anywhere from 1 in 10 to 1 in 5 teenagers experience physical dating violence, and an even greater number experience verbal or psychological abuse. Victims face a number of associated risks, including risky sexual behavior, substance abuse, unhealthy dieting, attempted suicide and future intimate partner violence. Accordingly, interest has grown in the development of evidence-based prevention models. One such model, the Fourth R, was previously shown to reduce physical dating violence among Canadian ninth-grade students. However, the program was found to be less effective with secondary target behaviors (e.g., physical peer violence, drug and alcohol use and condom use), prompting the evaluators to recommend a younger target audience. The proposed project would expand our knowledge through a randomized controlled trial (RCT) of the Fourth R, conducted among younger seventh-grade students in a racially diverse, urban setting (Bronx, New York). The trial would test eight distinct hypotheses, spanning impacts on physical, sexual, verbal and psychological abuse; sexist attitudes; safe sex behaviors; substance abuse; and peer violence. Through a secondary quasi-experimental design, the study would further test peer-to-peer dissemination effects. Approximately 40 teachers across seven public schools in the Bronx, New York, would be randomly assigned either to implement the Fourth R curriculum with their seventh-grade students during the 2011-2012 academic year (Group 1) or to adhere to a standard curriculum (Group 2). A secondary quasi-experimental study would compare survey responses from all 800 experimental students to approximately 250 grade-matched students from middle schools where the curriculum was not implemented at all. Finally, a process evaluation would allow the researchers to document planning and implementation, fidelity to the program model, teacher and participant experiences, and costs associated with the Fourth R program. The proposed study would inform school administrators, city officials, and other policymakers nationwide regarding the effectiveness of the Fourth R curriculum with an urban, middle school population.

2010-MU-MU-0031:	Life Course, Relationship, and Situational Contexts of Teen Dating Violence
Amount:	\$346,275
PI:	Peggy Giordano
Monitor:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Ongoing

Intimate partner violence necessarily occurs within the context of relationships, but knowledge of the character and dynamics of teen and young adult violent relationships is limited. The research builds on a large, prospective longitudinal study of adolescent romantic and sexual relationships (Toledo Adolescent Relationships Study, TARS). Currently, the grantee has funding to interview the youngest cohort (one third of the existing sample). However, interviews with two additional cohorts (the entire TARS sample) will allow a complete age-graded portrait of teen and young adult dating violence, extending to the critical age period in which intimate partner violence increases exponentially in frequency and seriousness. Analyses of the four waves of existing TARS interviews, combined with new structured and in-depth qualitative interviews based on responses of the entire sample, will provide a portrait of the life stage, relationship, and situational contexts that foster teen and young adult intimate partner violence. Drawing on a symbolic, interactionist perspective, the focus is on the respondents' perceptions of the meanings and impact of violent events in their lives and relationships. Of particular interest are the universal and uniquely gendered aspects of intimate partner violence as individuals transition from early adolescence to young adulthood. The project includes three specific aims: 1) To analyze the incidence, prevalence and patterns of relationship abuse from adolescence to young adulthood. TARS is innovative because it moves beyond school-based samples and included oversamples of African-American and Hispanic respondents, enabling analysis of the socio-demographic patterning of TDV (e.g., physical perpetration and victimization, psychological abuse and sexual coercion). Furthermore, the long window of observation (over a 10-year period) will establish patterns from ages 13 to 25 and show how developmental life stage is related to relationship abuse. The project will also identify distinct trajectories of abuse and examine early risk factors and contemporaneous circumstances associated with these varying life course experiences of perpetration and victimization. It moves beyond the limited prior research on change

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processes by identifying factors linked to desistance, escalation and persistence in TDV. 2) To examine similarities and differences in violent and nonviolent relationships. 3) To identify situational contexts within relationships that amplify risk for violence.

For an index of all grants, go to <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572-grants-index.pdf>.