

Cyber-Digital Relationship Aggression (CDRA): A New Form of Psychological Dating Aggression

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CDRA: A New Form of Psychological Dating Aggression

Dating aggression among adolescents and young adults can take shape in various forms and is expressed/experienced through different means:

- psychological/emotional abuse
- physical aggression
- sexual aggression

In recent years a new form of dating aggression has emerged. This new form of aggression is commonly expressed via means of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, & Snapchat) or through digital means (e.g., texting and e-mail).

Literature Search

- 24 articles were examined
 - Keyword search: relationship violence, dating aggression, dating violence, intimate partner violence, technology, emerging adults, adolescents, and teens
- Studies were obtained through Google Scholar and PsychInfo.
- Other terms used in reference to CDRA in the literature:
 - Cyber harassment
 - Cyber dating abuse
 - Technology-facilitated sexual violence
 - Technology Assisted Adolescence Dating Violence and Abuse

Literature Search Results

- 25% of youths were victimized by CDRA (Borrajo et al., 2015).
- Girls perpetrate more CDRA compared to boys (Reed et al., 2016).
- Motives of CDRA:
 - Jealousy
 - Intimidation
 - Harassment
 - Threatening
 - Control
- 52% of adolescents who were victimized by CDRA also experienced physical abuse (The Urban Institute, 2016).
- CDRA has been linked with sexually harassing behaviors (Henry & Powell, 2016).

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- Given the high prevalence of technology use in young adult romantic relationships it is vital to better understand various forms of this new form of relationship aggression, CDRA.

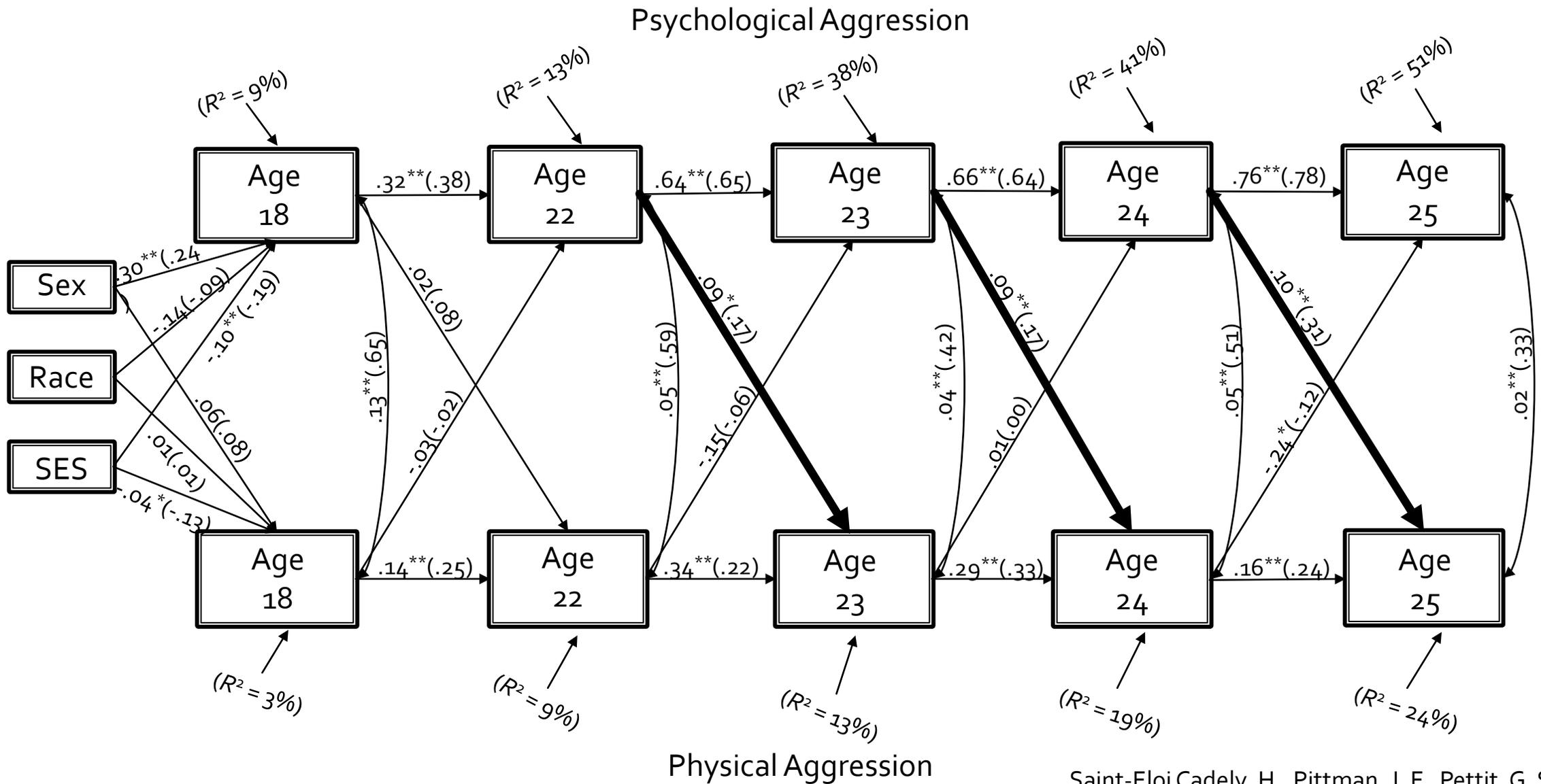


Figure 1. Cross-lag model of early psychological aggression predicting later physical aggression, and early physical aggression predicting later psychological aggression. Standardized coefficients are in parentheses ($N = 462$). * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

Saint-Eloi Cadely, H., Pittman, J. F., Pettit, G. S., Lansford, J. E., Bates, J. E., Dodge, K. A., & Holtzworth-Munroe, A. (In preparation). Psychological to physical or physical to psychological? A cross-lag analysis study of intimate partner violence.

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Research question: Does CDRA precede later forms of physical and sexual dating aggression?

Preliminary Data: Prevalence of CDRA among College Students

Negative Conflict Strategies via Digital Means/Social Media

Negative Conflict Strategies	% of Mutual Expression of CDRA
Keeping track of partner	31.9%
Posting snapchat stories	20.9%
Liked someone else's photo	26.0%
Ignoring text messages	43.0%
Bombarding text messages	34.5%
Follow-up with multiple messages	40.4%

Implications

- CDRA is a new form of dating violence among youths.
- More focus on appropriate usage of technology within romantic relationships among young adults is needed.
- Education efforts should work to promote more effective face- to- face and cyber-digital communication and conflict resolution strategies.
- Recognition of different types of violent profiles is warranted.

Discussion Questions

- When do CDRA behaviors begin to emerge?
- What efforts should be made to offset the emergence of CDRA early on?