

DIFFERENT CONTEXTS OF VIOLENCE EXPOSURE RELATING TO DATING VIOLENCE

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DATING AGGRESSION

- **Dating Aggression** – harmful or aggressive behaviors occurring within the context of romantic relationships among adolescents.
 - Psychological Aggression
 - Insult, threat, destroying partner's belongings
 - Physical Aggression
 - Slap, push, hit, kick

EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

- Social-learning theory (Bandura, 1978; 2001)
 - Witnessing violence
 - Victimization from violence
 - Cycle of violence hypothesis (Widom, 1989)

EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE ACROSS CONTEXTS

- Home/Family Violence
 - Interparental aggression
 - Physical Abuse
- Community Violence
 - Negative characteristics
 - Desensitization
- School Violence
 - Bullying
 - Affiliation with deviant peers

THE PRESENT STUDY

- **Research questions:** Do the effects of exposure to violence on dating aggression vary across contexts?
 - **Hypothesis:** The relationship between exposure to violence across contexts and dating aggression will be strongest for exposure to violence in the home.
- Do these effects differ when comparing exposure to violence through observation versus victimization?
 - Gender differences were also examined.

METHODS

- Sample derived from the Birmingham Youth Violence Study (BYVS) (Morris, Mrug, & Windle, 2015; Mrug & Windle, 2010).
- Data were collected at three waves:
 - Wave 1 ($N = 704$, $M = 11.8$ years old)
 - Wave 2 ($N = 603$, $M = 13.2$ years old)
 - Wave 3 ($N = 502$, $M = 18.0$ years old)
- Analysis sample: 484 participants
 - 51.4% Females, 48.3% Males
 - 80.8% African-American, 18.0% European-American, .6% Hispanic, .4% Other

MEASURES

- **Waves 1 and 2**

- Following variables were summed to indicate cumulative exposure to violence in each context:
 - Witnessing
 - School
 - Community
 - Home
 - Victimization
 - School
 - Community
 - Home

- **Wave 3**

- Dating aggression was assessed through the *Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationship Inventory* (CADRI; Wolfe et al., 2001).
 - The following variables were summed for perpetration and victimization:
 - Physical aggression (4 items) ($\alpha = .85$)
 - Threatening behaviors (4 items) ($\alpha = .78$)
 - Emotional abuse (10 items) ($\alpha = .82$)

MEASURES (CONT.).

- **Demographic covariates**

- Sex (0 = *Male*, 1 = *Female*)
- Ethnicity (0 = *European-American*, 1 = *African-American or other minority*)
- SES
 - Average of standardized (z-scores) for parental education and household income from Wave 1.
 - Higher scores indicated higher SES.

PLAN OF ANALYSIS

- Structural equation modeling (SEM) was used.
 - A latent factor was created for each type of dating aggression.
 - All six exposure to violence variables were treated as observed variables.
 - Delta chi-square tests were used to examine differences within and across contexts.
 - Analyses controlled for sex, ethnicity, and SES.

PLAN OF ANALYSIS (CONT.).

- Model fit was assessed by the following:
 - Non-significant chi-square (χ^2)
 - Comparative Fit Index (CFI) = .90 or above
 - Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI) = .90 or above
 - Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) = .10 or below
 - Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR) = .10 or below

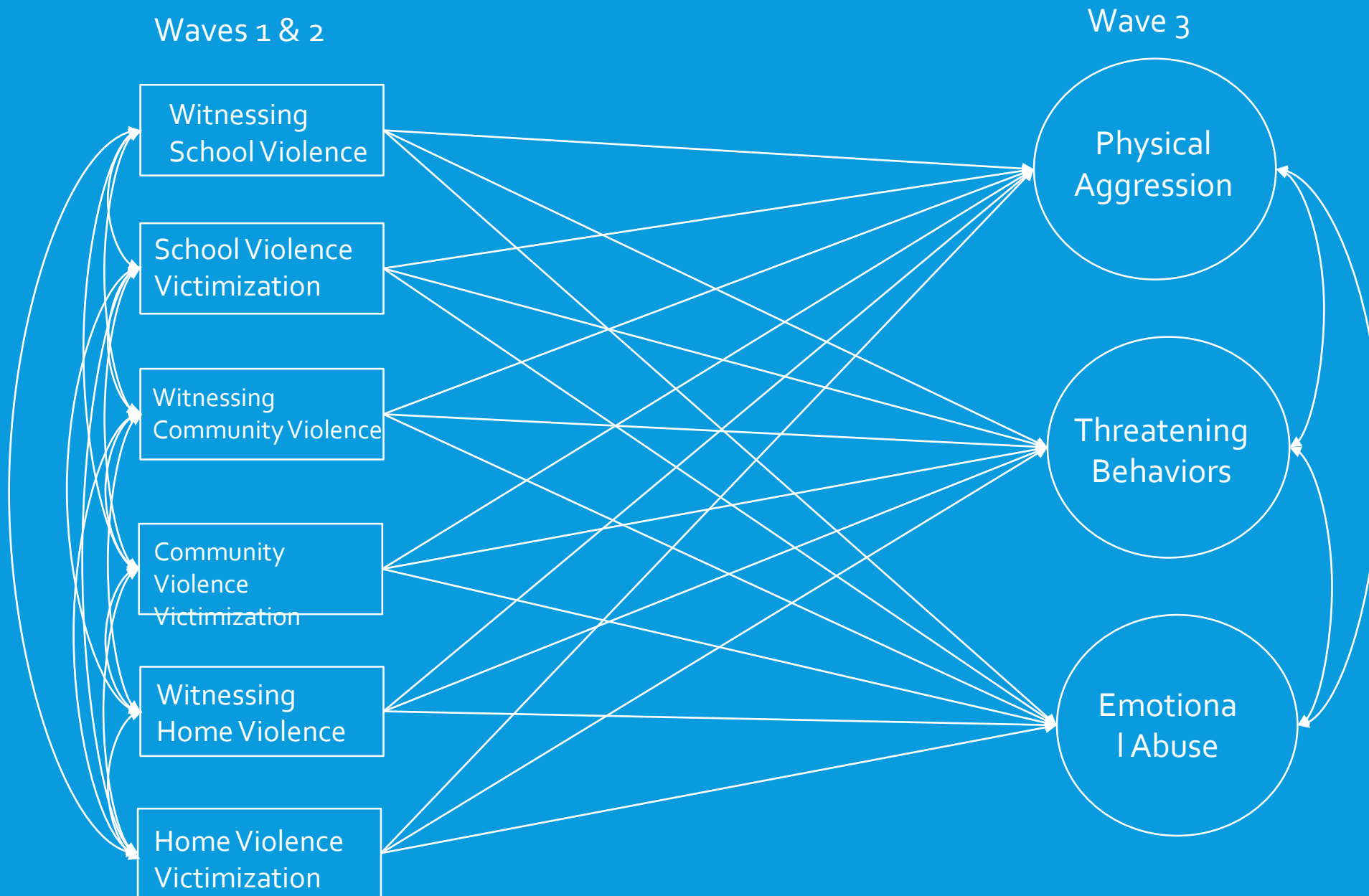


Figure 1. Hypothesized SEM model of exposure to violence across contexts predicting dating aggression. Analyses controlled for sex, ethnicity, and SES ($N = 484$).

PREVALENCE RESULTS

- Rates of perpetrating dating aggression:
 - Physical aggression: 24%
 - Threatening behaviors: 24%
 - Emotional abuse: 85%
- Exposure to violence across contexts:
 - School Violence:
 - 93% of youths witnessed school violence
 - 43% of youths were victimized by school violence
 - Home/Family Violence
 - 24% of youths witnessed home violence
 - 23% of youths were victimized by violence in the home
- Exposure to violence across contexts:
 - Community Violence:
 - 54% of youths witnessed community violence
 - 23% of youths were victimized by community violence

MODEL FIT RESULTS

Fit Statistics	Fit Statistics Results
χ^2	494.88***
DF	267
CFI	.93
TLI	.92
RMSEA	.04
SRMR	.04

SEM MODEL: EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE PREDICTING DATING AGGRESSION

	Physical Aggression	Threatening Behaviors	Emotional Abuse
Witness School	.03**	.03*	.06***
Victim School	-.04**	-.02	-.03
Witness Community	.03**	.02	.02
Victim Community	.00	-.01	-.02
Witness Home	.05*	.08***	.06*
Victim Home	.05*	.02	-.00

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$; $N = 484$.

SEM MODEL: DIFFERENCES WITHIN CONTEXTS

	Physical Aggression	Threatening Behaviors	Emotional Abuse
Witness School	.03**	.03*	.06***
Victim School	-.04**	-.02	-.03
Witness Community	.03**	.02	.02
Victim Community	.00	-.01	-.02
Witness Home	.05*	.08***	.06*
Victim Home	.05*	.02	-.00


* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$; $N = 484$.

SEM MODEL: DIFFERENCES ACROSS CONTEXTS

	Physical Aggression	Threatening Behaviors	Emotional Abuse
Witness School	.03**	.03*	.06***
Victim School	-.04**	-.02	-.03
Witness Community	.03**	.02	.02
Victim Community	.00	-.01	-.02
Witness Home	.05*	.08***	.06*
Victim Home	.05*	.02	-.00

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$; $N = 484$.

SEX DIFFERENCES

- Multigroup analyses were conducted to examine sex differences.
- Victim School  Threatening Behaviors
 - Negative predictor for females ($B = -.09, p < .01; \beta = -.27, p < .01$).
 - Non-significant predictor for males ($B = .01, p = .27; \beta = .10, p = .27$).

DISCUSSION

- **Contributions**

- Differences across contexts of violence exposure
- Theoretical implications
- Implications for preventions

- **Limitations**

- Skewness of the data
- Polyvictimization

- **Future Directions**

- At risk-populations
 - Low SES adolescents
 - Inner-city youths
 - Juvenile delinquents
- Relationships between different exposures to violence

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