

Teen Relationship Violence in Groups at Risk for Juvenile Delinquency

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Exposure to an aggressive family environment has been associated with delinquency-related and relationship violence in adolescents. Some studies propose that youth learn aggressive attitudes from their families and that these cognitions lead to delinquency-related and dating violence. Despite proposed similarities in developmental pathways for these two types of violence, few studies have examined teen dating violence in delinquent youth. This study examined teen relationship violence in 1,556 teens who are in three groups at varied risk for juvenile delinquency: universal, selected, and indicated. Results show that dating violence is prevalent across all three risk groups. Acceptance of violence beliefs and perpetration of psychological-emotional abuse scores increased dramatically across the risk groups (from universal to selected to indicated).