What is Teen Dating Violence?

- Physical, sexual, psychological harm, or stalking by a current or former partner
- Hetero-sexual or same-sex couples
- Does not require sexual intimacy
- Can occur in person and/or electronically
Teen Dating Violence

- 15-24 year old women are at the highest risk for relationship violence
- 1 in 3 teens in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner
- 1 in 10 high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend
Teen Dating Violence and Latinas

- More likely to be victims of TDV
  - 11.5% vs. 8%
- Fastest growing minority group
- More likely to live in urban communities associated with violence
- Research lacks cultural specific data
- Evidence based prevention programs developed for white adolescents
Impact of TDV

- Increases high-risk behavior
  - STI risk
  - Unintended pregnancy (4-6 times higher rate than
  - Substance use
  - Disordered eating

- Mental health challenges
- Suicidal tendencies
- Perpetuates social norms that violence against women is acceptable
Specific Aims

Teen dating violence research and prevention efforts lack research on specific populations.

- To investigate Latina adolescents' perceptions of teen dating violence.
- To uncover how culture impacts Teen Dating Violence amongst Latinas.
- To understand the cultural factors impacting communication about Teen Dating Violence between parents and teens.
- To utilize the youth’s wisdom in creating prevention programs.
Methods

- Design
  - Qualitative, Exploratory
  - Based in grounded theory

- Setting
  - Alternative high school in King County
    - Serves primarily Latino youth

- Subjects
  - Female students (15-19)
  - Latina
  - Speak English
Methods

Collection

- Surveys
  - demographic information
- 6 semi-structured focus groups
  - Focus group guide
  - 3-5 participants in each
  - Tape recorded
  - Incentives

Analysis

- Transcription and coding
Results

- 12 of the 21 participants were U.S. born

- Ethnicity
  - 18 – Latino
  - 2 – multi-racial
  - 1 - non-respondent

- Preferred Language
  - 5 – English at school, Spanish at home
  - 9 – English
  - 5 – Spanish

- Cultural Identification
  - 10 Latino
  - 2 – American
  - 7 – Both Latino and American

- Experience with DV
  - 3 shared personal experiences
  - 10 shared about knowing someone close to them
Dating violence happens because
- Girl’s low self-esteem
- Boys not knowing how to handle their feelings
- Girls familiarity with violent behavior

Consequences of TDV
- Isolation
- Pregnancy
- Challenges in friendships and support systems
- Impact on future relationships
Girls want to
- Protect their partner
- Do not want to tell their family
- Do not want to tell teachers or other adults
  - Confidentiality
- Do not want to tell friends
  - Reactions and rumors
Acculturation

- Measures how much a person has adopted the dominant cultures norms and values
- Different levels of acculturation in comparison to each other, their partners and their parents impact their relationships
Cultural Factors

- Immigration/Deportation
- Collectivism
- Familism
- Machismo
Suggestions for Prevention Programs

- Teach skills
- Equip friends with support strategies
- Focus recruitment on
  - How this applies to their life
  - Recruit friends to recruit friends
Limitations

- Urban alternative high school
- Specific issues experienced by this population may influence generalizability
- Higher acculturation
Thank You

- Rosa Solorio and Jon Conte
- Family and Friends
- The author acknowledges funding for this work from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), grant # T76MC00011-21-00.


Miller, E. et al. (January 01, 2010). Pregnancy coercion, intimate partner violence and unintended pregnancy. Contraception, 81, 4, 316-22.


Questions
Discussion