

Title: Exploring risk and protective factors for adolescent dating violence across the social-ecological model: A systematic scoping review of reviews

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What is the process for creating a plain language summary?

- Plain language summaries use short sentences and words most people know.
- We created this version so more people can read the article.
- The summary takes the **main points** of the research article and makes them easier to read.

Our Process:

- Caroline Claussen wrote the research article that this summary is based on.
- Emily Matejko and Keri Rempel worked together to create the plain language version.
 - Caroline, Emily and Keri and Blank worked to make sure the plain language version said the same thing as Caroline’s article.
- We used a screen reader software to read the plain language text out loud to ensure it was accessible to anyone with vision or learning disabilities.
- We did our best to make this version easy to read for many people.

- If there is anything we can change about this version to make it easier to read, please let us know at hopedlab@ucalgary.ca

You can access the original research article here [[click here](#)].

1. What is the study about?

- Adolescent dating violence (ADV) is an issue that effects many youth across the world and can have negative mental health consequences (i.e., depression) for the youth who experience it. Preventing ADV is an important step in making sure these negative consequences do not occur. Therefore, this review will be used to support and inform the development of ADV Prevention Programs (an evidence based intervention and/or policy that has shown to effectively prevent/reduce the target behaviour) by performing a scoping review, summarizing research journals that discuss the risk and protective factors of ADV. Risk factors are variables that increase the likelihood of ADV victimization and/or perpetration and protective factors are those that that can directly lower the risk of ADV victimization and/or perpetration, and/or buffer against risk factors. These risk and protective factors will be assessed for those perpetrating and/or victims of violence, across four levels: (1) the individual, which are the things specific to each individual person such as genetics, character traits and personal history; (2) relationships, which considers close relationships in the persons life (i.e., peers, family, etc.); (3) community, which explores the settings where social relationships happen (i.e., school) and; (4) societal, which considers the greater influence that society can have (i.e., societies view on

violence). The 20 articles included in the review revealed that most research concentrates on the risk factors of perpetrating violence at the individual and relationship level and very few published articles focus on community or societal level risk and protective factors of any level. Therefore, this study identifies a gap in ADV prevention research.

2. Why is this study important?

- ADV is associated with negative physical and psychological health consequences (i.e., depression and post traumatic stress disorder).
- Prevention programming is important to reduce ADV.
- For prevention programs to be effective, they need to identify the risk and protective factors associated with adolescent dating violence.
- To effectively identify risk and protective factors, researchers must consider how people interact with their environment and how these experiences create risk and protective factors for adolescent dating violence.

3. How was the study done?

- The team looked at English, peer-reviewed research on the risk and protective factors of ADV that had been published between January 2020 and September 2020. To know which research journals should be included in the study, the research team created a search strategy.
- The search strategy included looking for papers that included specific words. Below are the three categories of words used. At least one word from each category had to be present.




1. *Teen, OR young adult, OR youth, OR adolescent, OR young people*
 2. *Dating violence, OR intimate partner violence, OR relationship abuse, OR dating abuse, OR teen dating violence, OR gender-based violence*
 3. *Risk, OR protective, OR at-risk, OR high-risk, OR vulnerable*
- The terms were searched on six different databases
 - PsychInfo, Medline, CINAHL, EMBASE, ERIC and SocIndex
 - The study was left with 20 research journals that were included






4. How can you use this study?

- This study looks at risk and protective factors that arise in the individual, their relationships, the smaller communities they interact with, and the society they reside in.
- This study identifies that most research focuses on the risks, therefore future research should target protective factors.
- Most of the factors identified were at an individual and relationship level. However, communities and society influence perceptions and acceptance of violence and therefore they play an important role in adolescent dating violence which needs to be acknowledged and further explored.

5. What was found in this study?

This study identified risk and protective factors across four levels of the socio-ecological model. In the table below, the risk and protective factors associated with each level of the socio-ecological system are presented.

Perpetration		Victimization
Individual		
	<p>Behavioural factors, including mental health conditions, substance abuse, poor anger management skills, poor conflict resolution skills and the use of aggressive media.</p> <p>Attitudes, such as the acceptance of violence, aggression tolerance, acceptance of rape myths and adherence to gender roles.</p> <p>Believing myths about love, having sexist beliefs, adversarial sexual beliefs, the belief that violence is justified and male entitlement.</p> <p>Race and socioeconomic status for girls.</p> <p>Personality traits like narcissism and grandiosity, personal competence and rejection</p>	<p>Being female.</p> <p>Behavioral factors like, conflict resolution skills, responsibility and mental health conditions.</p>
	None identified	None identified
Relationship		
	The peer groups the individual surrounds themselves with, peer influence, bullying, using violence against peers and having a friend who engages in and/or is a victim of dating violence.	Being bullied, experiencing peer harassment and/or having peers who were considered deviant.

	<p>Seeing their parents engage in violence and parenting-skills (i.e., parenting-style, interactions with parents). For girls, current family violence and an avoidant attachment style. For boys, witnessing family conflict and aggression.</p> <p>Experiencing any kind of violence and experiences with dating partners.</p>	Being in a relationship with an older partner.
	Positive parent-child relationships and having beneficial peer groups.	Parent monitoring and parental support.
Community		
	Living in a high crime or poverty stricken community, the number of alcohol outlets surround the community they live in and their proximity to those outlets.	For boys, the number of alcohol outlets surround the community they live in and their proximity to those outlets.
	Social order in their neighbourhood and school attachment.	The quality of the neighbourhood.
Societal		
	Society gender norms, racism, discrimination against gay people, based on the belief that being heterosexual is the normal sexual orientation.	Racism and the belief that being heterosexual is the normal sexual orientation.
	Societal gender norms and ideologies.	None identified.

The results highlight that current ADV research heavily focuses on risk factors at the individual and relationship level, especially for the perpetration of ADV. Very little was found about risk factors at the community and societal level for ADV victimization or perpetration. Also, research appears to be limited at identifying protective factors at any level of the socio-ecological model. Since, best practice suggests that ADV prevention needs to consider risk and protective factors across all levels of the socio-ecological system. This paper advocates that future research on risk factors needs to expand into the community and societal level, and a strengths-approach that focuses on protective factors across all four levels.