

Technology-Delivered Dating Aggression: Risk and Promotive Factors and Patterns of Associations Across Violence Types Among High-Risk Youth

Publication Brief

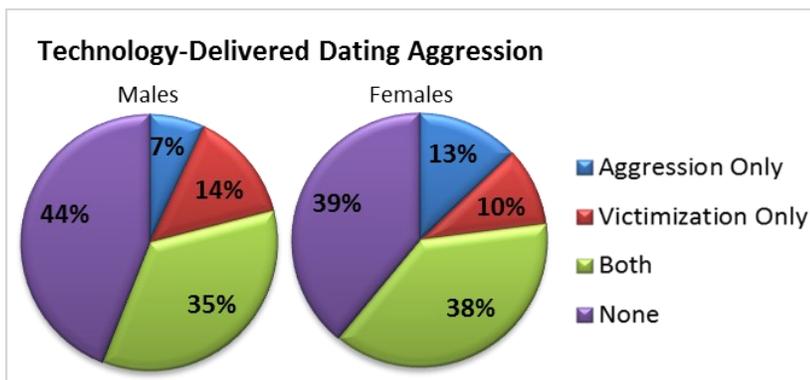
Purpose This publication explores factors related to the frequency of youth using technology (e.g., text, email, and social media) to send aggressive messages to their dating partners and how this behavior may be associated with different types of violence experienced by urban youth.

Background Previous research indicates that youth are increasingly using technology to deliver aggressive messages to their dating partners.

Methods All youth aged 14 to 20 residing in one of two pre-identified neighborhoods and presenting to the emergency department (ED) for any reason were eligible to participate in the study. All participants completed a self-administered computerized survey measuring their experiences with violence and technology-delivered dating aggression (TDA) in the past two months.

Key Findings

- Of the 210 youth who reported having a dating partner in the past 2 months, nearly half (48.1%) reported TDA.
- Promotive/Protective Factor
 - > More mindfulness was associated with less TDA.
- Violence Involvement
 - > Physical dating violence & community violence exposure were positively associated with TDA.



Implications

These findings show youth are using technology to send aggressive messages to their dating partners and suggests there is a strong association between technology-delivered dating aggression and physical dating violence.

Mindfulness may be an intervention strategy for future research studies to explore.

The lack of gender differences found in these analyses indicate that dating violence prevention efforts should focus on both males and females.

Citation

Epstein-Ngo QM, Roche JS, Walton MA, Zimmerman MA, Chermack ST, Cunningham RM. Technology-delivered dating aggression: Risk and promotive factors and patterns of associations across violence types among high-risk youth. *Violence and Gender*. 2014;1(3):131-133. doi:10.1089/vio.2014.0018.