Bullying & Domestic Violence: Exploring the Links

Rus Ervin Funk, MSW

What we do know
• Limited research or practice knowledge, to date, has looked at this linkage
• Conceptually, there seems reason to believe there are connections
  • Most bullying is gendered
  • Exposure to domestic violence may generate bullying behaviors
  • Peer support that allows bullying may be similar to the peer support that allows domestic or dating violence

Bullying as Gendered
• Boys bully boys differently than how boys bully girls
• Girls bully girls differently than how girls bully boys
• The way boys bully boys is also gendered
  • Use of gender slurs
  • Boys perceived to be more “feminine” at greater risk for bullying
  • Boys who are friends with girls at increased risk for bullying
Power and Control

• Like DV, bullying is based on power and control dynamics

• One’s sense of power related to
  ▪ Intimidating/humiliating another
  ▪ In the presence of others

An Ecological Model

Intrapersonal (Attitudes) Relational (Behaviors)
Organizational (Practices)
Community (Norms)
Socio-Cultural (Customs, laws, beliefs)

Shared & Unique Risk Factors

Bullying

Individual
Drug use, frustration, e-aggression

Relational
Exposure to violence, lack of parental support

Community
School climate, absence of deterrence

Societal
Trad gender roles, rigid masculinity

Individual
Anger, low empathy, narcissism
Social manipulation, positive attitude to violence, connection to community

Relational
DV conflict or instability, low stress

Community
Weak social sanctions, low social capital
More research needed...

- What risk factors associated with SV perpetration are also associated with DV?
- What is the relationship between gender, experiencing domestic violence, and being targeted for or perpetrating bullying?

Respect for All Model

- Change of Climate
- Emphasize positive vision and direction
- Explicit commitment to addressing bias and equity
- Youth and adults are partners in this social change work
- Long term commitments and solutions are required

4 Square Relational Model

- Bullying Behavior
- Being an Ally
- Personal Juncture
- Being an Ally
- Being a Target
Promoting Gender Respect

• Male youth leadership development
  ▪ 10 sessions
  ▪ Action planning
• Developing/Supporting adult male allies
  ▪ To support adolescent male leadership development
  ▪ To promote and model gender respect
• Organizational assessment & Transformation

Project Overview

• To support adolescent male leadership
• Identify and support adult men who can
  ▪ Support adolescent male leadership
  ▪ Model & promote gender respect
• To create a culture of gender respect

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Resources

- MensWork: eliminating violence against women
  [www.mensworkinc.com](http://www.mensworkinc.com)
- Respect for All, a Project of Groundspark
  [http://groundspark.org/respect-for-all](http://groundspark.org/respect-for-all)
- MenEngage
  [www.menengage.org](http://www.menengage.org)

References


Centers for Disease Control, 2010: risk and protective factors for bullying and domestic violence, viewed on website, March 2, 2011

References


