



Journal Club

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Risky Behaviors Associated with Interpersonal Violence

Davis, Combs-Lane, Jackson. 2002. "Risky Behaviors Associated with Interpersonal Violence." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17(6), 611-629.

Main question of this study

- Little is known about factors that may contribute to greater risk taking among victims of interpersonal violence.
- How is potential for risk-taking behaviors associated with previous exposure to violence.
- Variables include:
 - Type of assault (sexual/physical)
 - Number of incidents (single/multiple)
 - Characteristics of assault (relationship to perpetrator, frequency, penetration)

Background

- Most studies have focused on substance abuse as predictor
- Studies indicate that previous history of sexual assault (particularly in childhood) is associated with increased engagement of risky sexual behaviors and greater frequency of sexual activity among college women

Participants

- 310 college aged women (mean = 19.4) recruited from four sororities

Victimization Experience

<i>Victimization</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Any victimization	99	31.9
Type of victimization		
sexual assault only	58	19
physical assault only	18	6
sexual and physical assault	23	7
Number of victimizations		
sexual assault single incident	52	16.8
sexual assault multiple incident	29	9.4
physical assault single incident	32	10.3
physical assault multiple incident	9	2.9

Alcohol consumption as risky behaviors

- Multiple and single assault groups have higher risk-taking scores
- The multiple sexual assault groups were more likely than the single or no sexual assault group to:
 - Have more drinking days
 - Have the largest number of drinks consumed per occasion
 - Have largest number of days intoxicated
- Groups with both sexual and physical assault have highest scores of risk-taking behaviors

Demographics

- Younger age, sexual assault only, sexual and physical assault and multiple sexual assaults were associated with increased involvement in risky behavior

Sexual assault characteristics

- Characteristics (from lowest to highest) most associated with risk taking behavior
 - Series
 - Multiple child SA
 - Date
 - Family member
 - Adult SA
 - Friend/acquaintance **
 - Multiple perpetrators **
 - Child and adult SA **

** most associated with risk-taking behaviors

Conclusion

- Interpersonal violence
- Multiple incidents
 - “more is worse” as false