

Submission for the 2013 American Psychological Association Annual Conference

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Title: The Role of Cultural Factors on Dating Violence Perpetration and Delinquency among Latino Youth

Recent research has brought increased attention to the issue of teen dating violence (TDV). However, Latino youth are largely absent from much of this work with little work taking into consideration the role that cultural factors play on the perpetration of dating violence or delinquent behavior. We evaluate this issue using the data from the Dating Violence among Latino Adolescents (DAVILA) study, which surveyed a national sample of Latino youth between the ages of 12 and 18 ($N = 1,525$). Using logistic regression we examined the association between victimization, immigration status, Anglo orientation, Latino orientation, and familial support on dating violence perpetration and other forms of delinquent behavior.

Victimization was associated with all forms of delinquent behavior and dating violence perpetration. Gender results show that females were less likely to engage in all of the general delinquency categories and sexual dating violence perpetration, but were more likely to engage in any, physical, and psychological dating violence perpetration. Familial support was associated with a decreased odds of engaging in overall delinquency, physical assaults, property delinquency, and substance use (all p 's $< .001$). Anglo orientation was associated with increased odds of physical assault and Latino orientation was associated with decreased odds of substance use (all p 's $< .05$). For dating violence perpetration, familial support was significantly associated with a decreased odds of any and psychological dating violence perpetration. Anglo acculturation was associated with decreased odds of sexual dating violence perpetration (all p 's $< .05$).

The results suggest that cultural variables, particularly familial support, are associated with delinquency and TDV perpetration. For Latino youth, cultural variables have to be considered both when researching TDV as well as when implementing prevention and intervention programs. Additionally, the role of gender merits attention, and interventions should target both genders when developing prevention efforts.

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