



STIR

Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships

Connecting online and offline contexts and risks

***Executive Summary and Briefing Paper 3
on Violence in Teenage Intimate Relationships***

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Funded by DAPHNE III European Commission



Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships (STIR)

Connecting online and offline contexts and risks

***Briefing Paper 3:
Risk and Protective (Predictive) Factors for IPVA
Victimisation and Instigation***

Funded by DAPHNE III European Commission

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BACKGROUND

European domestic violence (DV) research, prevention and legislation (for example the Istanbul Convention) have predominantly focused on adult women's experiences of intimate forms of violence, and the impact of adult DV on children and young people.

However, in comparison, we know very little about *young people's own* experiences of intimate partner violence and abuse (IPVA) in their own relationships. In addition, many current European (EU) child welfare policies on safeguarding children insufficiently recognise IPVA in young people's relationships as constituting a child welfare concern.

Current research on IPVA in young people's relationships has primarily focused on face-to-face forms of violence and abuse. Few national or international research findings have addressed the incidence and impact of new technologies, including social networking sites, on young people's IPVA experiences. New technologies may compound incidence and impact of IPVA in young people's relationships. UK Interview findings (Barter et al 2009, Marsh et al 2010) have highlighted the role that online spaces, including social networking sites, can play in underpinning face-to-face (offline) forms of IPVA. New technologies may therefor intensify offline experiences of violence as well as constituting a discrete form of abuse in its own right. Nevertheless, how technological innovation, and young people's integrated use of new technologies in their everyday lives, impact on their experiences of IPVA remains largely unexplored both within European and international research.

The rapidity with which EU children and young people are gaining access to online, convergent, mobile and networked media is unprecedented in the history of the technical innovation (Livingstone and Haddon 2008). What seems clear is that online concerns for children and young people are not necessarily the same as adults (Livingstone et al 2011), and this applies to the issue of IPVA. Research has clearly demonstrated that, for young people, online and offline spaces are in fact mutually constituted requiring an empirical investigation of the complex ways in which new technologies are used and made sense of in everyday life (Holloway and Valentine 2001; Livingstone and Bober 2004). Our research continues this tradition.

The EU Kids Online programme provided ground breaking findings on European children's, and their parents', perspectives concerning internet risks and safety (Livingstone et al 2011). The online risks addressed included: pornography, bullying, receiving sexual messages and misuse of personal data. However, the role of new technologies and social media networking sites in instigating and maintaining IPVA in young people's relationships was not explored.

We also need to be cautious in transferring adult IPVA understandings and prevention models onto young people's own experiences. Although the structural inequalities underpinning IPVA as a form of gender-based violence may be similar, the position of young people within the construction of childhood also brings structural, as well as social, inequalities and limitations, not experienced by adults. In addition, different European states exhibit disparate structural and cultural dynamics which may influence both the degree and nature of IPVA in young people's relationships, the impact of IPVA on young people's welfare and their help-seeking and resistance strategies.

Consequently, a greater recognition of the problem of IPVA in young people's relationships across Europe is required. Awareness of the issues faced by young people experiencing IPVA, and a greater understanding of the role of new technologies, needs to be fully integrated into the development of prevention and intervention programmes. The lack of comparable data on IPVA victimisation, and its impact on young people's welfare, hampers this process in a range of EU states. Thus project aimed to begin to address this gap in EU understanding and prevention development.

PARTNERS

Partners were selected to provide a wide geographical and policy spread and to offer diversity in gender equality as well as variations in young people's use of new technologies. We included a spread of countries based on the European Gender Equality Index to explore how specific country gender dynamics impacted on IPVA experiences. Within our sample England and Norway were calculated as having greater gender equality than Bulgaria, Cyprus and Italy. The countries chosen also needed to reflect the distinctions identified by the EU Kids Online survey on children's and young people's differential use of new technologies and associated risks. We purposely selected EU states identified as having low (Bulgaria and Cyprus), medium (Italy) and high (England and Norway) levels of internet use.

Project Teams:

England: Christine Barter, Nadia Aghtaie, Cath Larkins, Marsha Wood, Nicky Stanley

Bulgaria: Georgi Apostolov, Luiza Shahbazyan

Cyprus: Susana Pavlou, Stalo Lesta

Italy: Noemi De Luca, Gianna Cappello

Norway: Carolina Øverlien and Per Hellevik

Alba Lanau (University of Bristol) provided statistical support to the project team.

FUNDING

The research was funded under the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Commission. The NSPCC was a partner.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The project overall aim was to contribute to:

- raising awareness through the provision of robust evidence;
- enable young people's experiences and views to inform policy and practice;
- enhance the development of appropriate prevention and intervention programmes;
- provide a resource which young people can access directly.

The specific research objectives were to:

- 1) Map relevant policy, practice and knowledge on IPVA in young people's relationships within each partner country and the degree to which these address the association between new technologies and IPVA in young people's relationship.
- 2) Create the first European comparative evidence-base on the incidence, impact, and the risk and protective factors associated with online and offline IPVA in young people's relationships.
- 3) Include young people's IPVA experiences and views, including the role of new technologies, to enhance and inform the development of European prevention and intervention responses.
- 4) Develop a virtual resource in each partner language which is directly accessible through the STIR website and also via a downloadable app. The resource will be developed with young people for young people and will provide awareness raising, research findings and signposts for appropriate sources of help in each country.

METHODOLOGY

STIR was based on a four stage mixed-method approach:

- **Stage 1:** Expert workshops: Respectively partners, on two occasions, convened a group of national experts to identify what is known about IPVA in young people's intimate relationships in each country, and to identify relevant policy and practice developments
- **Stage 2:** A School-based confidential survey of approximately 4,500 young people aged 14-17 year-olds was completed in 45 schools.
- **Stage 3:** Semi-structured interviews with 100 young people, using an interview schedule and vignettes
- **Stage 4:** Development of an online resource and a downloadable app for young people (www.stiritapp.eu)

A young people's advisory group was convened in each country to comment on all aspects of the study. The groups helped to develop the survey, interview schedule and vignettes, and the online resources.

Sample

Survey: 4564 young people, approximately equal numbers of young women and young men took part in the survey (lower proportion of young women in the Italian sample), see table 1. All countries aimed to collect 1000 participants except Cyprus where, due to the smaller population size, half this amount was required, which was subsequently exceeded. All participants were aged between 14 and 17 years-old (see Table 2), the spread of ages were quite similar across the four country samples, however in England all young people were aged 14 or 15. The majority of young people (72%) reported having a boyfriend or girlfriend (see table 3). This was highest in Italy and lowest in Norway. Most young people (96%) had a partner of the opposite-sex and 4% had a same-sex partner. We were unable to systematically record ethnicity or religion due to sensitivity of recording this data in some countries (e.g. in Italy, the categorization of ethnicity is different as are the religions). All the survey findings are based on the 3277 young people who said they had been in a relationship.

Table 1 Sample and Gender

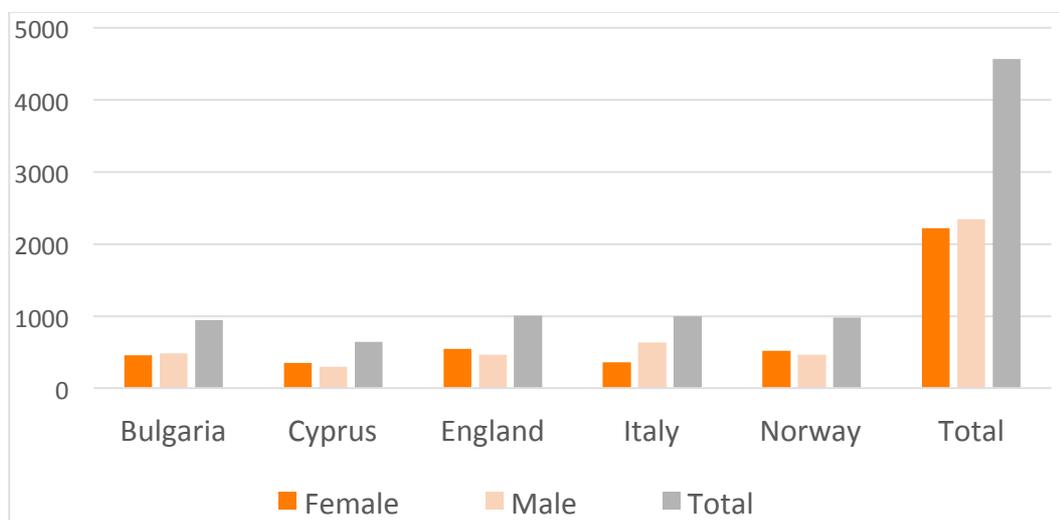


Table 2 Sample and Age

	Mean age	Number	Std Deviation
Bulgaria	15.27	950	1.07974
Cyprus	15.62	642	1.09834
England	14.73	1005	.59950
Italy	15.29	991	.89191
Norway	15.10	991	.85630
Total	15.17	4579*	.94749

*15 did not provide gender and were excluded from the overall analysis

Table 3 Ever had a Relationship by Gender

	Gender	Yes	No
Bulgaria	Female	69% (n=313)	31% (n=140)
	Male	69% (n=335)	31% (n=148)
	Total	69% (n= 648)	31% (n=288)
Cyprus	Female	79% (n=272)	21% (n=74)
	Male	79% (n=233)	21% (n=63)
	Total	79% (n=505)	21% (n= 137)
England	Female	74% (n= 401)	26% (n=139)
	Male	70% (n=323)	30% (n=138)
	Total	72% (n=724)	28% (n=277)
Italy	Female	82% (n= 293)	18% (n=66)
	Male	89% (n=565)	11% (n=67)
	Total	87% (n=858)	13% (n=133)
Norway	Female	53% (n=272)	47% (n=242)
	Male	58% (n=270)	42% (n=197)
	Total	55% (n=439)	45% (n=981)

*48 did not answer this question

Interviews: For the qualitative arm of the study, a total of 100 in-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with young people: 91 of these interviews were included in the analysis as not all young people recruited had direct experiences of intimate violence. Interviews included in the analysis were completed with 67 young women and 24 young men. Participants were aged between 13 and 19 years-old; the majorities were 15 to 17.

The interview respondents were recruited from schools via pastoral services, settings such as youth camps and workshops for young people or specialist services such as those working with IPVA.

Analysis

Survey: Descriptive statistics including cross-tabulations were run for each form of violence across each country. Chi-squared analysis was undertaken to determine statistically significant differences *within* each country data set. As it was not possible in the confines of this study to collect a randomly stratified sample we are therefore unable to statistically compare *cross* country differences, however we can observe general patterns in the comparative data.

Running logistic regressions separately for each country confirmed that, with a few exceptions, predictive factors were largely consistent across all five countries. This indicated the use of a single model for each type of violence. Additionally, separate regressions were run for males and females. Key variables were identified on the basis of existing theory, and progressively added into the model, testing for stability of the associations identified at each step. The initial model contained age and country variables to which other block variables were added including participant characteristics, wider attitudes and childhood violence. Associations were found to be generally stable. For this summary, the Odds Ratios (OR) are provided. As with any cross-sectional survey, we cannot identify causal relationships and are therefore unable to determine if the predictive factors are a cause or effect of violence. Only effects that were significant at 0.05 are reported.

Interviews were fully transcribed and analysed using a Framework approach, to ensure that comparable issues were identified and understood in context.

Ethics

The STIR research team had all worked on a range of sensitive research projects with children and young people and were fully aware of the ethical issues involved in undertaking such work. The project received ethical approval from the University of Bristol, School for Policy Studies, Ethics Committee (2013).

Stage 1: Questionnaire

Introduction and information distribution

Initially a researcher from each team introduced the study to school pupils and distributed information leaflets for young people and their parents/carers. Young people were able to ask questions at this time or individually with the researcher/s afterwards. The information leaflets explained: who the researchers were; how to contact them; the aims of the project; what was involved in participation; guarantees that the survey was completely confidentiality and anonymity; voluntary nature of the project; and consent. Both young people and parents/carers were provided with contact details of the research team if they had any further questions or concerns.

Consent – young people

All young people who wished to take part in the study were required to sign a consent form before participation. The consent form clearly stated what they had consented too and reminded the young person that the survey was completely confidential and that participation was voluntary.

Consent – parents/carers

Two forms of parental/carer consent was used in the study reflecting the different ethical frameworks in each country. In England, if parents/carers did not wish their child to participate they were required to sign an opt-out consent form which accompanied the parental/carer information leaflet and return this to the research team in a pre-paid envelope or email the named researcher to withdraw their child from the study. In Italy, parents/carers were required to provide opt-in consent where they were required to sign and return the consent form to allow their child to participate.

Survey Administration

Researcher/s administered the survey in each school. The survey process took between 20 and 30 minutes to complete. A small general quiz was included at the end for participants who finished early or who did not wish to continue with the survey itself.

Confidentiality

The questionnaires were confidential and anonymous. It was made clear to all participants that they could stop at any time and that they did not have to answer any questions they

didn't feel comfortable with. Due to the sensitive nature of the research after completion of the survey a hand-out was given to all young people containing the names and contact details of relevant local and national support organisations. The researchers were also available afterwards if young people wished to discuss anything.

Stage 2: Semi- Structured Interviews

The Interviews with young people lasted between 25 and 40 minutes. The team negotiated with each school or agency the most appropriate procedure to select the interview sample which ensured this was not stigmatising or placed pressure on young people to participate. Interviews were undertaken at a time and location most convenient to the young person.

Information Leaflet

An information leaflets for young people and their parents/carers outlined the project, the interview process, and limits of confidentiality.

Young People's Consent

As with the survey all young people who wanted to participate were required to sign a consent form. The consent form clearly stated the participant's rights within the interview process and what they were consenting to.

Parental Consent

As the interviews were not completely confidential opt-in parental consent was required. Parents/carers or legal guardians of young people aged 16 or under were required to sign and return a consent form. Parents could contact the research team to discuss their child's participation. Parents/carers of young people aged 17 and 18 years-old followed the opt-out consent procedure.

Confidentiality Policy

Conditional confidentiality was offered to interview participants. All information remained confidential to the research team unless the researcher felt that the participant was at risk of significant harm. This was stated and explained in the leaflets and consent forms for young people and parents/carers. The conditional nature of the confidentiality policy was explained again before starting the interview, and repeated periodically throughout the research interaction. The young person was informed that if they said something that indicated to the researcher that a risk of significant harm may exist (examples were

provided), either to them or another child/young person, this information would not be kept confidential. At each fieldwork location a protocol for sharing information was developed in partnership with the school or agency.

FINDINGS

The main findings are:

- Being a victim of interpersonal violence and abuse (IPVA) was significantly associated with: not doing well at school; having an older partner; negative gender attitudes; family violence; bullying and, for young men, having peers who used intimidation.
- Instigation of IPVA was significantly associated with: not doing well at school; having older and younger partners; negative gender attitudes; watching pornography; family violence; bullying and associating with peers who used intimidation.

Survey findings: Predictive factors

The survey measured a range of predictive or protective and risk factors in addition to age and gender. These factors were chosen on the basis of previous research findings and associations identified through direct practice. The factors can be grouped into two categories:

- The first grouping addressed young people's general experiences and attitudes including: how young people feel they are doing at school; the age of their partner; their gendered attitudes and if they regularly watched online pornography (see Table 8).
- The second grouping measured young people's wider experiences of childhood violence and abuse including: domestic violence and child abuse in the family (family violence); being bullied and bullying others and aggressive peer friendship groups (see Table 9).

Table 8: General Experiences and Attitudes

Country	Gender	Doing well at school			Age of partner		Gendered Attitudes			Regularly watch pornography	
		Yes %	No %	Don't Know %	Includes older %	Same or Younger %	1 %	2 %	3 %	Yes %	No %
Bulgaria	Female	65	7	28	66	34	36	50	14	8	92
	Male	55	16	29	14	86	17	42	41	44	56
	Total	60	11	29	39	61	26	46	28	26	73
Cyprus	Female	78	7	15	57	43	33	59	8	3	97
	Male	76	7	17	24	76	9	50	41	59	41
	Total	77	7	16	41	58	26	46	28	28	72
England	Female	74	8	18	52	48	53	43	4	3	97
	Male	80	4	16	17	83	29	54	18	39	61
	Total	77	6	17	37	63	42	48	10	19	81
Italy	Female	82	1	16	70	30	67	31	2	5	95
	Male	72	3	25	24	76	25	54	21	44	56
	Total	75	3	22	40	60	40	46	14	30	70
Norway	Female	79	8	13	44	56	53	43	4	7	93
	Male	75	9	16	13	87	28	55	16	48	52
	Total	77	8	15	28	72	41	49	10	26	74

General Experiences and Attitudes

Doing Well at School

The survey asked young people: 'Do you feel you are generally doing well at school?' Respondents could answer 'yes', 'no' or 'don't know'. A similar pattern was evident across the five countries showing that the majority of young people felt they were doing well at school. This was slightly lower for Bulgaria where a greater proportion of young people were unsure of how well they were doing. For analysis purposes, 'no' and 'don't know' categories were merged.

Age of Partner

Participants were asked 'generally have your partners been': 'much younger (more than 2 years)'; 'slightly younger (between 1 and 2 years)'; 'same age'; 'slightly older (1-2 years)'; and 'much older (more than 2 years)'. Respondents often ticked more than one category. Consequently, and reflecting previous research findings on predictive factors, we coded responses into two categories: participants who reported at least one older partner; and participants who reported only a same age or younger partner. In all countries, young women were statistically more likely to report an older partner and young men were more likely to have had a younger partner.

Gender Attitudes

Young people's gender attitudes were measured using three questions. Each question was chosen to reflect a specific aspect of gender inequality. Respondents were asked to report on a five point scale 'How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:'

- For the most important job it is better to choose a man instead of women.
- Women lead men on sexually and then complain about the attention they get.
- It is sometimes acceptable for a man to hit women if she has been unfaithful.

Respondents were allocated a score that reflected their levels of agreement with these statements; the higher the score the more negative the gender attitude. For ease of analysis, scores were categorised into three groups: 1 (scored 3-6); 2 (scored 6-9); 3 (scored 10-15). Group 1 held the least negative attitudes and Group 3 the highest negative gendered attitudes. In all countries, young men were statistically more likely than young women to hold more negative gender attitudes. Young people in Bulgaria and Cyprus reported higher negative gender attitudes compared to young people in the other three countries. Focusing on the three questions separately, the highest scores, and therefore the most negative attitudes, irrespective of gender or country, were associated with question two which measured attitudes to women's responsibility for sexual violence.

Pornography

Respondents were asked 'Do you regularly watch online pornography?'. In line with other research, young men were very much more likely to report watching pornography than

young women in all countries. Young men in Cyprus were most likely to report regular exposure to online pornography.

Wider Experiences of Childhood Violence

Table 9: Wider experiences of childhood violence and abuse

Country	Gender	Family Violence		Bullied		Bullied others		Aggressive group		Peer Don't know
		yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	
Bulgaria	Female	26	74	31	69	19	81	64	23	13
	Male	21	78	24	76	33	67	62	23	15
	Total	23	77	27	73	26	74	63	23	14
Cyprus	Female	12	88	19	81	12	88	11	71	18
	Male	14	86	23	77	23	77	18	58	24
	Total	13	87	21	79	17	83	14	65	21
England	Female	32	68	49	51	10	90	11	69	21
	Male	24	76	37	63	19	81	18	56	26
	Total	29	71	44	56	14	86	14	63	23
Italy	Female	19	81	25	75	7	93	6	73	23
	Male	20	80	18	82	23	77	14	61	25
	Total	19	80	20	80	17	83	11	65	25
Norway	Female	22	78	42	58	12	88	33	75	18
	Male	14	86	38	62	22	78	12	68	20
	Total	18	82	40	60	17	83	9	72	19

Child abuse and domestic violence in the family

We measured the extent to which young people had experienced family violence through two interrelated questions. We asked: 'Have any adults in your house/family regularly used physical force such as punching, hitting, slapping?' and/or '...constant name calling/shouting?'. Participants could answer yes or no to the following options: against you; against other children/young people or against other adults. As affirmative responses to the above questions were relatively low, for the regression analysis, all responses were

coded into two categories: experienced family violence or had not experienced family violence. England reported the highest rate, although as discussed earlier, this may be influenced by wider awareness and willingness to report.

Negative peer experiences

Three questions sought to measure wider experiences of negative peer interactions. We asked participants: 'Have you ever been bullied?'; 'Have you ever bullied anyone else?' and 'Do your friends use aggression or intimidation against other young people?'

Wide variation in the proportion of young people reporting being a victim of bullying was evident across the five countries. England and Norway reported the highest levels; again this may reflect the greater level of recognition in these countries. Around one in five young people reported being a bully, although the proportion was slightly higher in Bulgaria. On average, young men were twice as likely as young women to report this behaviour. In respect of wider peer aggression, and generally reflecting the pattern found for bullying across the five countries, around one in ten respondents reported that their peers used intimidation. However, in Bulgaria, over 60% of young people reported this, although this may reflect a different interpretation of the question. Levels of intimidation did not differ substantially by gender except in Norway where young women were three times as likely as young men to state that their peers used intimidation.

Predictive Factors for Experiencing IPVA

Wider Experiences and Attitudes

Young women who reported doing well at school were *less* likely to report online (OR.68), face-to-face (OR.55) and sexual (OR.60) victimisation. However, we do not know if 'not doing well at school' is a *consequence* of being in an abusive relationship or a *risk* for entering into an abusive relationship due to, for example, low self-esteem. Female participants with older partners had a greater chance of experiencing victimisation online (OR 2.5), face-to-face (OR 1.7) and sexually (OR 2.0). Young women who reported less positive gender attitudes (category 2) were more likely to report online (OR 1.5), face-to-face (OR 1.3) and sexual (OR 1.4) violence, compared with young women with the most egalitarian gender attitudes (category 1).

Wider Experiences of Violence

Two forms of childhood violence were statistically significant in predicting female experience of IPVA: family violence and bullying. Family violence was associated with an increased risk of online (OR 2.1), face-to-face (OR 2.2) and sexual (OR 2.2) female victimisation. Three different categories of bullying were associated with an increased risk of intimate violence: victim only; victim and bully and bully only. Being a victim of bullying was associated with being a victim of online (OR 1.8); face-to-face (OR 1.9) and sexual (OR 2.0) violence. Similarly, being both a victim and perpetrator of bullying was associated with experiencing face-to-face (OR 2.5) and sexual (OR 2.1) victimisation. Being a 'bully only' also showed significant association with female victimisation online (OR 2.0); face-to-face (OR 2.4) and sexually (OR 1.9). Associations with wider peer intimidation were not statistically significant.

Predictive Factors for Male Experience of IPVA

Wider Experiences and Attitudes

Similar predictive factors were also identified in the regression analysis for male victims. Doing well at school was, however, only a protective factor in relation to face-to-face male victimisation (OR 0.7). As with female participants, having an older partner increased the risk of male victimisation online (OR 2.0), face-to-face (OR 1.8) and sexually (OR 1.6). Similarly, negative gender attitudes were associated with increased male victimisation: young men with the most extreme attitudes were most likely to be victims of online (OR 1.9), face-to-face (OR 2.0) and, most strongly, sexual violence (OR 3.3). We know that many young men who reported being victims of sexual violence also reported sexual perpetration which may help to illuminate this association.

Wider Experiences of Violence

For young men, family violence was associated with an increased risk of experiencing online (OR 1.6), face-to-face (OR 1.8) and sexual violence (OR 2.5). Being a victim of bullying was significantly predictive of victimisation online (OR 1.6) and face-to-face (OR 1.6). Young men who reported being a victim and a perpetrator of bullying were also at an increased risk of intimate victimisation online (OR 1.7) face-to-face (OR 2.0) and sexually (OR 1.9). Lastly, for this variable, being a bully only was a risk for online (OR 1.4) and sexual (OR 1.5) intimate violence. In contrast to female victimisation, having peers who

used intimidation was a statistically significant predictor of male victimisation online (OR 2.1) and sexually (OR 1.6). In addition, not knowing if their peers used intimidation was also associated with online (OR 1.6) and face-to-face (OR 1.5) victimisation.

Predictive Factors for IPVA Instigation

Predictive Factors for Female Instigation:

Note: few young females reported using sexual violence; accordingly the sample sizes for female instigators of sexual violence are very small.

Wider Experiences and Attitudes

Doing well at school was associated with lower reported rates of face to face instigation (OR 0.7) and it was nearly significant for online violence (OR: 0.8). Female participants with younger partners were more likely to report sexual instigation of violence (OR 3.5). However, and rather oddly, those with at least one older partner reported increased instigation online (OR 2.6) and face to face (OR1.6). As most provided a range of partner ages we cannot be sure that their actions were directed at the older partner. Negative gender attitudes were also a significant predictor of instigating violence online (OR 1.3), face to face (OR 1.5) and, most strongly, sexually (OR 3.6). Watching pornography was associated with increased sexual instigation (OR 5.0), although the number of young women viewing pornography was extremely low which may also explain the very high odds ratio.

Wider Experiences of Violence

Family violence was associated with increased online (OR 2.4) and face to face (OR 2.0) instigation. Being a victim of bullying was a significant predictor of face to face IPVA (OR 1.6). Bullying others was associated with online (OR 1.7) and face to face (OR 2.6) instigation. Also, having aggressive peers was associated with face to face violence instigation, although the effect was relatively weak (OR 1.5).

Predictive Factors for Male Instigation:

Wider Experiences and Attitudes

As with female respondents, doing well at school was only associated with lower reported rates of face to face violence instigation by young men (OR 0.7). Having an older partner was, rather unexpectedly, associated with online (OR 2.1) face to face (OR 1.6) and sexual (OR 2.0) instigation, although the above caveat stands. Holding negative gender attitudes was also a significant predictor of online (OR 1.7), face to face (OR 2.3) and, most strongly, sexual (OR 2.8) violence instigation. Lastly, watching pornography was significantly associated with sexual violence (OR 2.4), and was nearly significant for online (OR 1.3) and face to face (OR 1.3) instigation.

Wider Experiences of Violence

Family violence was significantly associated with all three forms of IPVA instigation: online (OR 1.9); face to face (OR 1.9); and sexual (OR 2.3). Being a victim of bullying was a predictive factor for online (OR 1.8), face to face (OR 2.3), and sexual (OR 1.8) violence instigation. Similarly, young men who reported bullying others were also more likely to use online (OR 1.5), face to face (OR 1.5) and sexual (OR 1.6) forms of IPVA. Lastly, having aggressive friends was an indicator for online (OR 2.0 [don't know OR 1.5]) and sexual (OR 1.5) violence instigation.

IMPLICATIONS

1. The consistency of risk and protective (predictive) factors across the five countries indicates that a similar response across European countries to identify young people most at risk of IPVA, and the subsequent targeting of resources, may be appropriate.
2. The findings show that family violence and/or bullying are significant risk factors for experiencing or instigating IPVA in teenage relationships. It is therefore important that associated services providing help and support to children and young people in relation to domestic violence, child abuse and bullying recognise that these young people may also be at greater risk of experiencing and/or instigating IPVA in their own relationships and develop appropriate responses. Our research indicates that unless services and intervention programmes provide a more holistic approach to supporting young people they will fail to address the interconnection of risk, incidence and impact of different forms of childhood violence.
3. The association between young people's wider attitudes and norms, especially in relation to young people's negative gender attitudes, requires closer examination. Although we are unable to determine causation it is still clear that young people who hold negative gender attitudes are more likely to experience and/or instigate IPVA. Societal and peer norms and attitudes which condone IPVA require addressing and young people need to be supported to understand how these attitudes perpetuate harm in young people's relationships. Schools, as a universal provision, are an important site for undertaking this work with young people.
4. The association between mainly young men's regular viewing of online pornography and the use of sexual violence in their own relationships requires attention. Sex and relationships education needs to address young people's use of pornography and encourage the development of more critical attitudes that distinguish between the values and behaviour conveyed by pornography and those that characterise positive intimate relationships.

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STIRiAPP



STIRiAPP is an app developed within the framework of the project "Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships" – STIR – co-financed by the Daphne III Programme of the European Commission.

The app was designed with young people for young people who want to know more about relationships, and to explore their own attitudes and behaviours using interactive technology.

It guides you in a journey to explore different aspects of relationships, to assess your partner's and your own behaviour in a relationship, and to find out how you can ask for help if you need it.

The STIR APP is created in consultation with groups of young people in five countries, who have developed and discussed the app proposals and been involved all stages of the project on the STIR website www.stiritup.eu and with project partners.



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