

The Effect of Low Perceived Life Chances on Odds of Adolescent Participation in Fighting, Stabbing, and Shooting

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The Problem: Violence

- Fighting, Stabbing, and shooting
 - Fighting may be a gateway behavior to violence
 - Minority/impooverished teens disproportionately
 - Violence increases likelihood of early death

Consider This

- 2007 YRBS
 - 31.5% reported physical fight past 12 months
 - Consistent with previous surveys
- Minority youth in middle school
 - 66% reported fighting or weapon use in past 3 months (Clubb et al., 2001)

Violence Related Deaths in 2007

Age		5-14	15-24
Rates (100,00)			
Unintentional injury (all causes)		5.5	37.4
Accidental discharge of firearm		0.1	0.4
Assault (Homicide)		0.9	13.1
	Assault (homicide) by firearm	0.5	11.0
	Assault (Homicide) other	0.4	2.1
Discharge of firearm (unknown intent)		0.0	0.2
Numbers (actual)			
Accidental discharge of firearm		46	155
Assault (Homicide)		346	5,551
	Assault (homicide) by firearm	201	4669
	Assault (Homicide) other	145	882
Discharge of firearm (unknown intent)		12	82

2007 Death Numbers (actual) and Rates (per 100,000) for Adolescents*

Note.* source (CDC, 2007)

Filling the Gap

- Alarming rates of injury and death in adolescents
- Lack of theory-based research exists
- Problem behavior theory
 - Impoverished African American adolescents

Modified Theoretical Model

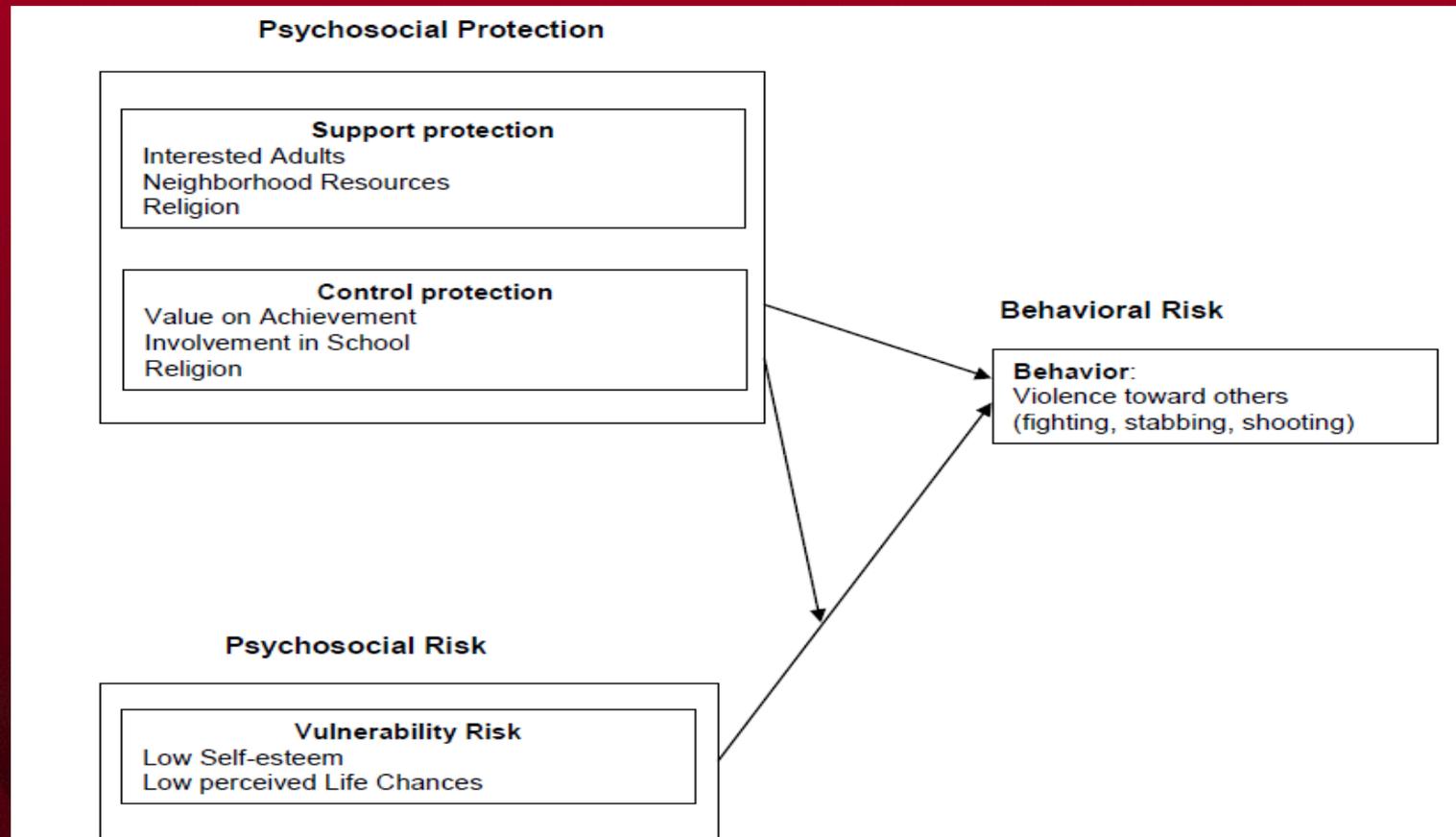


Figure 1. Modified Model of Psychosocial and Behavioral Risk and Protection*

Note. *Adapted from a theory-based protection/risk model developed at the Institute of Behavioral Sciences, University of Colorado by Jessor, Costa, Krueger, & Turbin (2003).

Purpose

- Explore relationships between violence behaviors (ever fighting, stabbing, shooting), and selected risk and protective factors

Methodology

- Secondary analysis of survey data
 - Mobile Youth Survey (MYS) longitudinal study
 - 1998 to present
- Selected from 294 questions
 - Constructs representative of model variables
- Analysis
 - Multiple regression

Respondents

- N= 1241
- Impoverished
 - 88.7% free/reduced cost lunches
- African American: 96%
- Female = 49.7%, male = 50.3%
- Mean age of 12.77 years old

Results: Physical Fighting

- Ever fought 19.9%
- Increased odds
 - Low perceived life chances ($\beta = .459$, $p = .009$)
- Decreased odds
 - Female gender ($\beta = -.612$, $p < .0001$)
 - Neighborhood resources ($\beta = -.329$, $p = .046$)

Results: Stabbing

- Ever stabbed 10.8%
- Increased odds
 - Low perceived life chances ($\beta=18.481$, $p<.0001$)
 - Low self esteem ($\beta=.707$, $p=.003$)
- Decreased odds
 - Religion ($\beta = -.044$, $p=.022$)
 - Interested adults ($\beta= -.770$, $p=.002$)

Results: Shooting

- Ever shot at someone 9.8%
- Increased odds
 - Low perceived life chances ($\beta=.985$, $p<.0001$).
 - Low self esteem ($\beta=.619$, $p=.016$)
- Decreased odds
 - Female ($\beta=-1.899$, $p<.0001$)
 - Neighborhood resources ($\beta=.418$, $p=.048$)

Model Predictions Supported

- Vulnerability Risk
 - Low perceived life chances
 - Low self esteem
- Support Protection
 - Interested adults
 - Neighborhood resources
 - Religion

Model Predictions Not Supported

- Controls Protection
 - Value on achievement
 - Involvement in school

Implications: Discovery

- First steps to reduce behaviors
 - Identify factors affecting participation
 - Culturally appropriate community interventions

Questions?

Contact information

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