

Institute explores intimate partner violence across generations

October 30 2013

Most parents who experienced intimate partner violence had children that grew to face violence in their own adult relationships, according to a study published by the Crime Victims' Institute at Sam Houston State University.

"These families, unfortunately, were not able to break the cycle of violence," said Kelly Knight, an Assistant Professor at the College of Criminal Justice and the primary author of the study. "Most [parents](#) who had experienced [intimate partner violence](#) had children who eventually grew up to experience intimate partner violence themselves."

"Generational Cycles of Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S.: A Research Brief" showed that nearly four out of every five families where parents were involved with intimate partner violence had [adult children](#) who perpetrated violent acts against partners, and three out of every four families had adult children who became victims of the crime.

The study was based on the National Youth Survey Family Study, a national sample of 1,683 families, and followed 353 second generation parents and their third generation offspring over a 20-year period.

Generally, the study found that most participants, regardless of the generation or [family](#) background, were involved in some form of intimate partner violence (IPV), either as a perpetrator or a victim. Examples of intimate partner violence included throwing something; pushing or grabbing; slapping; hitting with a fist; hitting with an objects;

choking; beating; threatening with a weapon; using a weapon; or attempting to kill a partner or spouse.

A total of 92 percent of parents in the study admitted to committing a least one minor act of [intimate partner](#) violence, with 67 percent saying they committed at least one violent act against their significant other. Among their adult children, 81 percent admitted to at least one minor incident of IPV, while 33 percent said they used violence against a partner.

Regarding the issue of victimization, 66 percent of parents and 36 percent of adult child report being the victim of violence at the hands of their partners, while 93 percent of parents and 78 percent of adult children report being a victim of minor incidents of IPV.

The study also found that one-fifth of those surveyed had participated in three or more types of intimate [partner violence](#).

More information: The study can be found at www.crimevictimsinstitute.org/publications/

Provided by Sam Houston State University

Citation: Institute explores intimate partner violence across generations (2013, October 30) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-10-explores-intimate-partner-violence.html>

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