

**PREVALENCE AND RESPONSE TO DATING VIOLENCE AMONG STUDENTS OF
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN, OYO STATE**

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED BY

BY

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TO

**THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH,
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MASTER IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

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I hereby declare that this work was carried out by me under the supervision of Professor E.O. Orji and that it has not been submitted for any other examination or publication.

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this research was duly carried out by **ADEKANMBI,OLUSEYE ADEDAYO**, under my supervision in the Department of Community Health, College of Health Sciences, ObafemiAwolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to God almighty, the beginning and the end, the author and finisher of my faith without whom I can do nothing. It is also dedicated to my parents and my siblings.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DV	Dating violence
ICVS	International Crime Victim Survey
NCVS	National Crime Victim Survey
WHO	World Health Organization
UN	United Nations
UI	University of Ibadan
SDp	Save Dating project
SPSS	Statistical Package in Social Science
NSA	National Survey on Adolescence
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey
CPS	Child Protection Services
SHRs	Sexual Health Risks

ABSTRACT

The study determined the prevalence of dating violence among respondents at the University of Ibadan and factors associated with this prevalence. The study also assessed the response of the respondents to their dating violence experience.

The study was a cross-sectional descriptive survey carried out among 420 undergraduates of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan in Oyo state. Multistage sampling technique was employed in which undergraduates from 200 and 300 levels in selected departments of the seven faculties of the University. A pre-tested self-administered semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect information from the students. The questionnaire was analyzed using I.B.M. statistical package for social sciences. Data analysis was carried out in three stages; Univariate analysis was used to determine properties and summary statistics and bivariate analysis was used to assess relationship between some selected factors and dating violence using chi square test. Binary logistic regression was used to identify factors associated with dating violence experience.

The results showed that the prevalence of dating violence was 45%. Different forms of dating violence were experienced. These include humiliation by dating partner (61%), threats from dating partner (54%), verbal insults by dating partner (46%), domineering attitude of the dating partner (58%), mockery (52.4%), being attacked with sharp objects (47%), battery (64%), date rape (22%), insulting sexual verbal comments (43%), insulting comments on social media (33%), embarrassing pictures of respondents on social media (17%), and insulting text messages from their current dating partners (80%). Thirty-seven percent of respondents reported their dating violence experience. Seventy-seven percent reported the incident. The factors that were

positively associated with dating violence were female gender ($x^2=25.083, p=0.001$), Christianity ($x^2=6.231, p=0.044$), partner's parental separation ($x^2=27.309, p=0.001$), residence of a partner ($x^2=15.060, p=0.001$), and partner's past experience of dating violence ($x^2=49.223, p=0.001$). (OR=5.208, 95% CI=2.841-9.548, $p=0.001$), marital separation of partner's parents (OR=29.279, 95% CI=8.926-96.047, $p=0.001$), death of partner's parent (OR=9.519, 95% CI=1.679-53.982, $p=0.011$), substance abuse by partner (OR=7.918, 95% CI=3.838-16.334, $p=0.001$), partner's past experience of dating violence (OR=13.825, 95% CI=6.701-28.523, $p=0.001$).

The study also concluded that most victims reported their dating violence experience to friends.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Dating refers to the relationship two people share together with the intention of getting to know each other better on a potentially romantic level.(Albo, B. 2011) It could also be defined as a relationship involving two people meeting for social interaction with an explicit or implicit intention to continue the relationship until one or the other party terminates it or until some other more committed relationship is established.(Strauss, M. A. 2004)While the meaning of the term can vary from one culture to another and from time to time, a common idea is two people trying out a relationship and exploring whether they are compatible, by meeting and engaging in some social activities as a couple who may or may not yet be having sexual relations(Aminini-philips, C. 2013). Violence on the other hand can be explained as unhealthy behavior ranging from psychological, verbal, physical and electronic attacks perpetrated by a person with the aim of humiliating, intimidating, scaring, causing bodily injury or psychological and emotional trauma.(Aluede,O.2011). Dating violence is therefore the perpetration or threat of an act of violence by one member of a relationship on the other within the context of dating or courtship. It is a type of intimate partner violence that occurs between two people in a close relationship. It can be difficult to define as the behaviors and incidences may come in multiple ways. A minority of researchers restrict the definition to include only the use of physical force or threats of force by or against a current or former partner (Aluede, O.2011).

Dating violence can take a number of forms which include [sexual assault](#), [sexual harassment](#), threats, physical violence, [verbal](#), mental or [emotional abuse](#), social sabotage, and [stalking](#). Physical violence in particular is very common among intimate partners in both developed and

developing countries. Physical violence is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury or harm. Physical violence includes but is not limited to, scratching, pushing, shoving, throwing, grabbing, biting, choking, shaking, slapping, punching, burning, use of a weapon and use of restraints or ones' body size, or strength against another person (United States Department of Health and Human Services. 2007). Physical violence occurs across society, regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, wealth and geography. It affects both males and females in an intimate relationship in form of threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Around the world, at least one out of three women is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own family (WHO, 2004). UNFPA (2002) reports that more than 60% of women worldwide have been abused. In 48 population-based surveys around the world, 10 to 69% of the women reported assault by an intimate partner (Krug et al., 2002). In addition, the prevalence of violence during pregnancy ranges from 4 to 20% in developing countries (Nasir et al., 2003). Findings from a national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States revealed that "9.8% of female high school students and about 9.1% of male high school students said they had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year". Psychological abuse is characterized by actions involving derogatory comments (Theriot, M.T. 2008). In addition, psychological abuse may include "emotional withholding, being treated like an inferior person, being cursed at, being ignored, and yelling" (Theriot, M.T. 2008). Verbal abuse and emotional abuse are closely linked with psychological abuse and can include many of the same behaviors. Verbal and emotional abuse is characterized by using words and gestures with the intention to degrade, humiliate, and threaten an individual. Psychological abuse is a common form of dating

violence as the verbal attacks can easily be committed and hidden compared to more physical acts of aggression. Adolescent couples have numerous opportunities to interact with one another throughout the school day, which can facilitate many occasions for verbal or emotional abuse to occur. (Theriot, M.T. 2008) Recognizing psychological abuse in adolescent relationships may be difficult, as there are no visible signs indicating that abuse is occurring. Rather, the extremely damaging effects of psychological abuse occur inside, continuously chipping away at one's self-esteem and gradually breaking down the spirit and soul. O'Leary and Slep reported that psychological abuse can predict subsequent physical aggression, therefore, an even greater importance exists to identify psychological abuse in adolescent relationships as it may perpetuate into other forms of dating violence. Sexual harassment, sexual coercion, and unwanted sexual activity are common forms of abuse that occur in adolescent relationships. These types of abuse vary, but can include sexually explicit jokes or comments, being spied on while dressing or changing, verbal pressure, using deceit to gain sexual activity, and unsolicited acts of kissing, hugging, and sex. (Jouriles, E. *et al*; 2009) Based on the CDC Youth Behavior Surveillance survey (2002) in the United States, it was found that 7.7% of students, nationwide, had experienced forced sexual intercourse and unsolicited acts of kissing, hugging from their partners. (Theriot, M.T. 2008)

Dating violence occurs among all races, religions, and demographic categories and several factors can lead to its occurrence. Looking at status, those living in poverty are more likely to be involved in heavy conflict about relationship roles and may lack the skills needed for non-violent conflict resolution which leads to higher rates of violence. Heavy alcohol consumption by either partner in a relationship increases the risk of violence. Perpetrators of dating violence

tend to have peer groups who are more violent, whereas those with nonviolent friends are the least likely to perpetrate dating violence in adulthood. The

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