
ABSTRACT

Factors predicting dating violence in adolescence

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Adolescence is a formative period of increasing interest in romantic partners. Although dating violence has recently garnered increased attention in Japan, there is not enough research on the factors inducing violence. It is hypothesized that intimate partner violence depends on the perpetrator's empathy, anger control, and interpersonal conflict resolution styles. To test this hypothesis, we conducted a covariance structure analysis of questionnaire data conducted with 48 high schoolers and 107 university students who had experienced conflicts with their dating partner. The results revealed significant paths to preventing dating violence: a positive path from cognitive empathy "perspective taking" to anger control, negative paths from anger control to "domination" and "avoidance" conflict resolution styles, and positive paths from these solution styles to dating violence. This suggests that adolescents with high perspective taking and the selection of appropriate conflict resolution strategies by controlling anger are important factors in preventing dating violence.

Key Words: dating violence, empathy, anger control, conflict resolution strategies
