



# DOES SELF-ESTEEM AND EXPOSURE TO NEIGHBORHOOD DEVIANT BEHAVIOR INFLUENCE DATING VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION AMONG AMERICAN-INDIAN ADOLESCENT GIRLS?



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## Background

- Little is known about the correlates of dating violence among American Indian (AI) adolescents despite the fact that dating violence is considered a reason for high rates of intimate partner violence (IPV), especially among adult AI population.
- Even less is known about the predictors of dating violence victimization among AI girls.
- This study investigates the relationship of Self-esteem (SE), exposure to deviant behavior (NES) and dating violence victimization (DV) among AI teens in an Indian reservation.

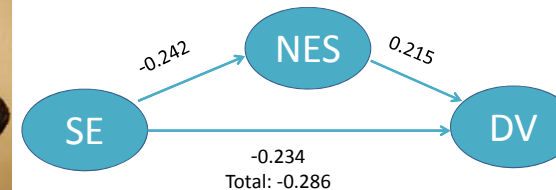
## Methods

- This study used data from Believing in Native Girls (BLING) program.
- BLING is an afterschool intervention focused on building protective factors among American Indian adolescent girls.
- Survey data (N=220) of the girls (ages 12-18 years) who had dating experience examined.
- Investigated mediating role of exposure to neighborhood violence and deviant behavior in the relationship between self-esteem and dating violence victimization (DV).
- Victimization in Dating Relationships (Foshee, 1996) was measured using a 20-item scale that included 18 physical behaviors and 2 verbal behaviors.
- Neighborhood deviant behavior was measured using 17-item Neighborhood Safety Scale (Crum, 1996).
- Self Esteem was measured using 10-item Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1979).
- Missing data were handled using maximum likelihood approach in MPlus 7.11.

## Results..

- Total effect of self-esteem on DV was significant (B= -0.28, SE=0.073, p=0.000) indicating that one unit increase in self-esteem score results in 0.28 unit decrease in the DV score.
- Direct effect of self-esteem on DV was significant (B=-0.234, SE=0.076, p=0.002).
- The indirect effect of self-esteem on DV via exposure to neighborhood deviant behavior was also significant (B= -0.052, SE=0.024, p= 0.033) indicating that exposure to neighborhood deviant behavior mediates the relationship between self-esteem and DV.

Effects from SE to DV	Estimate (B)	S.E.	Est./S.E.	P-Value
Total	-0.286	0.073	-3.918	0.000
Direct (SE to DV)	-0.234	0.076	-3.078	0.002
Specific indirect (SE to NES to DV)	-0.052	0.024	-2.129	0.033



## Conclusions/Recommendations/Implications

- Self esteem is inversely related to dating violence victimization. Those with higher level of self esteem are less likely to be the victim of dating violence as compared to those with lower level of self esteem.
- Exposure to neighborhood deviant behavior mediates the role of self esteem on dating violence victimization. Even those with higher self esteem may have an increased likelihood of experiencing victimization in dating relationships if they are exposed to the neighborhood violence as compared to those who have not.
- Programs targeted at increasing self esteem coupled with reducing neighborhood deviant behaviors may be helpful in addressing dating violence.