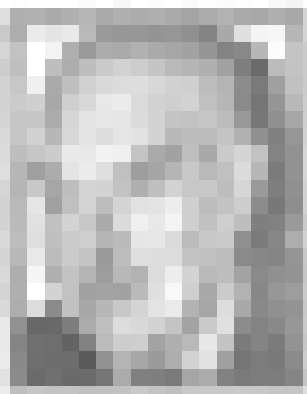



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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine whether there were differences in the prevalence of self-reported depression between men and women who had been exposed to violence during childhood and adulthood. Data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (*N = 9,800*) were used to examine the association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression among adolescents. Results showed that exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood was associated with higher rates of self-reported depression. The association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression was stronger for women than for men.

Keywords: Depression, violence, gender, adolescence

Introduction

Depression is a common mental health problem that affects millions of people worldwide. It is characterized by persistent feelings of sadness, loss of interest in activities, and changes in appetite and sleep patterns. Depression can have serious consequences on physical and mental health, leading to disability and even death. One of the most common risk factors for depression is exposure to violence. Exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood has been found to be associated with higher rates of self-reported depression (Finkelhor & Browne, 1985; Kessler et al., 1997).

Exposure to violence during childhood can have long-lasting effects on mental health. Children who are exposed to violence may experience fear, anxiety, and trauma, which can lead to depression. Exposure to violence during adulthood can also lead to depression, as it can cause feelings of helplessness and despair. The association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression is stronger for women than for men (Kessler et al., 1997). This may be due to the fact that women are more likely than men to report symptoms of depression and to seek treatment for mental health problems.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether there were differences in the prevalence of self-reported depression between men and women who had been exposed to violence during childhood and adulthood. Data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (*N = 9,800*) were used to examine the association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression among adolescents. Results showed that exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood was associated with higher rates of self-reported depression. The association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression was stronger for women than for men.

Method

Data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (*N = 9,800*) were used to examine the association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression among adolescents. The study included data from two waves of data collection, one in 1994-1995 and another in 1996-1997. Participants were asked about their exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood, and they also reported whether they had ever felt depressed. The study controlled for a number of other factors that might be associated with self-reported depression, such as age, sex, race, and socioeconomic status.

Results

Results showed that exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood was associated with higher rates of self-reported depression. The association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression was stronger for women than for men. Specifically, women who had been exposed to violence during childhood and adulthood were more likely to report feeling depressed than men who had been exposed to violence during childhood and adulthood. The association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression was also stronger for those who had been exposed to violence during both childhood and adulthood than for those who had been exposed to violence during only one of these periods.

Conclusion

The results of this study suggest that exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood is associated with higher rates of self-reported depression. The association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression is stronger for women than for men. These findings have important implications for the development of interventions to reduce the impact of violence on mental health. Interventions should focus on providing support and resources to individuals who have been exposed to violence, particularly women and those who have been exposed to violence during both childhood and adulthood.

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