

Review

Associations between Adverse Childhood Experiences within the Family Context and In-Person and Online Dating Violence in Adulthood: A Scoping Review

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Abstract: *Background:* Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are a common pathway to risky behaviour, violence or re-victimisation, disability, illness, and premature mortality and, as such, may be associated with victimisation and perpetration of dating violence not only in adolescence but also in adulthood. *Method:* A scoping review was performed in accordance with PRISMA guidelines. Four databases (Web of Science, Scopus, PubMed, and PsycINFO) were used to search for studies published between 2000 and 2021 that analysed the relationship between adverse childhood experiences within the family context and the perpetration or victimisation of dating violence in adulthood. *Results:* The search yielded 599 articles, 32 of which met the inclusion criteria and were ultimately included in the review. Most of the study samples were from the United States. Most of the studies sampled university populations. The studies had a clear objective, were of an appropriate design, contained a detailed description of the sample, and used valid and reliable measurement instruments. *Conclusion:* This scoping review shows that the relationship between ACEs and perpetration and/or subsequent victimisation is complex and that, while adverse childhood experiences are a factor associated with adult dating violence, they are likely to coexist with other personal, family, and environmental problems. Therefore, adverse childhood experiences may not be a necessary or sufficient condition for experiencing dating violence.

Keywords: dating violence; intimate partner violence; adverse childhood experiences; scoping review; adulthood



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1. Introduction

Intimate partner violence is a major public health issue with multiple implications for mental health [1–3]. It occurs not only among married or cohabiting couples, but also among those who are dating or in an affective and/or sexual relationship, regardless of sexual orientation [4,5]. When intimate partner violence takes place between dating partners, it is known as dating violence [6]. Within the scientific community, there is no clear consensus on the concept of dating violence. Stonard, Bowen, Lawrence, and Price [7] define dating violence as any violent, abusive, threatening, controlling, or stalking behaviour directed towards a partner or ex-partner in the context of a dating relationship. Straus [8] defined the dating relationship as a relationship between two people that includes opportunities for social interaction and shared activities, with an explicit or implicit intention to continue the relationship until one of the two parties ends it or some other more committed relationship (e.g., cohabitation or marriage) is established.

Dating violence comprises four types of behaviours [9]: (1) Physical violence: assaulting or trying to harm a partner by hitting, kicking, or using other physical force; (2) sexual violence: forcing or attempting to force a partner to engage in a sexual act, sexual contact, or

physical or non-physical activity (e.g., sending photos of a sexual nature and/or demanding unwanted sexual acts through digital media); (3) psychological aggression: using verbal and/or non-verbal communication with the intention of mentally or emotionally harming and/or controlling another person; (4) stalking: a pattern of repeated and unsolicited surveillance and contact by a partner that causes the recipient fear or concern.

As a widespread social problem, dating violence has a significant impact on the health of its victims in several areas. Regardless of sexual orientation, victims of all forms of dating violence (physical, sexual, and psychological violence, and stalking) were found to have lower levels of physical and psychological health [1,10], as well as greater academic difficulties [11]. Various factors put people at high risk of experiencing or perpetrating dating violence. These factors include gender inequality, racial discrimination, homophobia, or poverty [12], negative interpersonal relationships such as “having deviant peers” [13], and negative events during childhood and adolescence [14,15], with particular relevance given to factors such as “witnessing parental violence” [13].

Negative events during childhood can be grouped into what are known as Adverse Childhood Experiences (hereafter ACEs). ACEs were initially defined as child abuse and domestic abuse [16]. Experiences included (but were not conceptually limited to) harms directly affecting children such as abuse (emotional, physical, and sexual) and neglect (physical and emotional). Also included were harms affecting children indirectly through their living environments, such as growing up in homes with domestic violence, household members who abuse alcohol or drugs or have mental disorders, illness, relationship stress (such as separation or divorce), or where household members engage in criminal behaviour. This set of experiences was later expanded to include ACEs from both developing and developed countries, with the addition of collective violence in the community, early compulsory military service, exposure to bullying, other forms of peer violence, and physical and emotional violence between siblings [17]. This review will focus on ACEs that take place within the family context, using the classification developed by Felitti and Anda [18], which includes the categories of child abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction.

A growing body of research has made it increasingly clear that adverse childhood experiences are a critical public health issue [19–21]. A nationwide representative study from the USA revealed that 61.55% of the sample had reported at least one ACE and 24.64% had reported three or more [22]. Stressful or traumatic childhood experiences are a common pathway to social, cognitive, and emotional impairments leading to greater risk of unhealthy behaviours, violence or re-victimisation, disability, illness, and premature mortality [17] and, therefore, may be associated with victimisation and perpetration of dating violence.

The emergence of dating violence as a form of intimate partner violence is linked to the onset of dating and sexual experimentation in early adolescence, between the ages of 10 and 14 [23]. As relationships become more serious and stable during adolescence, conflict may escalate with relational dynamics based on domination and aggression starting to emerge [24,25]. Dating violence mainly affects adolescents, but also occurs among adults. In fact, young adults aged 20–24 years old are most at risk of perpetrating and experiencing intimate partner violence [26,27]. Several studies show that prevalence ranges from 23–38% among emerging adults [8,28], declining thereafter until the age of 35 [29], by which time many of these relationships, if not already over, have become cohabiting relationships or have reached marital status.

For the purpose of this review, dating violence is understood as a form of intimate partner violence occurring not only in adolescence, but also between emerging adults, young adults, and older dating partners. The heterogeneous nature of the research on dating violence, due to the use of different definitions, sampling, and data analysis, combined with the fact that there has been less research on dating violence among adults than among adolescents [30], makes it difficult to conduct systematic reviews and meta-analyses on its relationship to adverse childhood experiences. However, a comprehensive synthesis of the available data on this association is required, so a scoping review has been selected. The

present scoping review was conducted to explore the associations between ACEs within the family context and dating violence perpetration and victimization in real and online environments in adulthood. Therefore, this scoping review synthesises the literature analysing the relationships between adverse childhood experiences and dating violence among people over the age of 18, both as a means of raising awareness of the importance of negative childhood events for personal and social development and providing recommendations for preventing dating violence.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Design

A scoping review was performed of the published literature on the relationship between adverse childhood experiences within the family context and perpetration or victimisation of intimate partner violence in adulthood. Scoping reviews are an excellent tool for providing an overview of the scientific evidence on a specific topic, examining how research has been conducted on that topic, describing the volume of research, and identifying the main factors related to the topic under study [31]. They have been used to map research on the nature, patterns, and consequences of different forms of intimate partner violence. Malhi et al. [32], for example, used this approach to synthesise the scientific evidence on what influences male perpetration of dating violence during adolescence. Reyes et al. [3] conducted a scoping review to explore the mental health implications of intimate partner violence by past or current romantic partners among Hispanic women in the United States. Afrouz [33] used a scoping review to explore the nature, patterns, and consequences of intimate partner violence perpetrated using technology.

No protocol was registered for this project. The present scoping review followed the five-step methodological framework proposed by Arksey and O'Malley [34]. The screening of the articles included in this review, as well as the summary and reporting of the results obtained, is described in line with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) [35].

2.2. Identification of the Research Question

The research question for this scoping review was: *what adverse childhood experiences within the family context are associated with dating violence in adulthood?* In addition, the aim was to find out which forms of dating violence have been examined by the research and which are most closely related to ACEs. With regard to the latter, an important question was which ACEs have been most and least studied in relation to intimate partner violence. Dating violence has been defined as a form of intimate partner violence that includes any form of physical violence, psychological aggression, sexual violence, stalking, or a combination of one or more of these, between current or former dating partners [36]. In keeping with previous research [37], adulthood encompassed individuals aged 18 and older. Adverse childhood experiences were defined as “childhood events, varying in severity and often chronic, occurring in a child’s family or social environment that cause harm or distress, thereby disrupting the child’s physical or psychological health and development” ([38], p. 1489).

2.3. Identification of Studies

Four bibliographic databases were used for this review: Web of Science (WoS), Scopus (SP), PubMed (PM), and PsycINFO (PI). The literature search was conducted in October 2021 and was restricted to English language articles published during or after 2000. It was decided to focus the search on five dimensions with a search string for each one (see Table 1 for all dimensions and terms used): Participants (Dimension 1), Dating Violence (Dimension 2), Roles Played in Dating Violence (Dimension 3), Adverse Childhood Experiences (Dimension 4), and Study Design (Dimension 5). To ensure as complete a search as possible, variants or synonyms of the established search terms were used.

Table 1. Search terms used.

Search Terms
1. ("adult*" OR "young adult*" OR "emerging adult*" OR "early adult*" OR "18 yrs & older").ti
2. ("dating violen*" OR "dating abus*" OR "dating aggress*" OR "cyber dating violen*" OR "cyber dating abus*" OR "cyber dating aggress*" OR "digital dating abus*" OR "digital dating violen*" OR "digital dating aggress*" OR "electronic dating abus*" OR "electronic dating violen*" OR "electronic dating aggress*" OR "intimate partner violen*" OR "intimate partner abus*").ti
3. (victim* OR perpetr* OR aggress*).ti
4. ("Adverse Childhood Experienc*" OR "ACEs" OR "advers*" OR "childhood neglect" OR "childhood psychological abus*" OR "childhood sexual abus*" OR "childhood physical abus*" OR "exposure to substance abus*" OR "substance abus*" OR "exposure to mental illness" OR "parental mental illness" OR "mother treated violen*" OR "parental substance abus*" OR "criminal behavior in household" OR "sibling violen*" OR "family economic adversity")
5. (associat* OR correlat* OR mediat* OR moderat* OR determinat* OR predict*).ti
6. 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and 5 search performed in each database.

2.4. Study Selection

The search was conducted by the first and last authors (RN and BV, respectively). Both also screened and selected the records resulting from each database search, discussing any questionable records until reaching agreement. Any remaining doubts or disagreements were discussed and resolved with the other authors.

The articles were screened using the following criteria (see Table 2): (1) The article had to analyse at least one adverse childhood experience within the family context in accordance with Felitti and Anda's classification [18]. Studies that did not include at least one of these adverse experiences and their association with dating violence were excluded. (2) Study participants had to be 18 years of age or older. Although dating violence is usually understood as a form of intimate partner violence occurring between the ages of 10 and 24 [6], other studies include samples up to 40 years of age [39] and beyond [40]. For this reason, all studies that specifically looked at dating violence among participants over the age of 18 were included. All studies involving participants under the age of 18 were excluded. (3) Study participants had to be from the general population; therefore, studies involving specific groups (e.g., federal offenders or psychiatric patients) were excluded. (4) Studies had to be published in English, in peer-reviewed journals, and be quantitative. Studies that did not meet these criteria were excluded from the final analysis.

Table 2. Inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Participants aged 18 years or older.	Participants under 18 years of age.
Participants in the study had to belong to general populations.	Clinical samples or subgroups. For example, people with mental illness, federal sex offenders.
Quantitative empirical research, published in peer-reviewed journals.	Qualitative research, articles describing interventions or prevention and intervention programs, literature reviews, systematic reviews, conference papers, doctoral theses, journal articles.
Research investigating experiences of both in-person and online violence in dating relationships.	Research investigating both in-person and online forms of violence occurring outside of dating relationships such as among married or cohabiting couples, etc.
Research investigating at least one of the experiences linked to "adverse childhood experiences" within the family context.	Research not investigating at least one of the experiences linked to "adverse childhood experiences" within the family context.
Published in English.	Published in languages other than English.

Figure 1 shows the PRISMA flow chart illustrating the identification, screening, and selection process. The search for combinations of terms in the four databases yielded 599 articles. Ninety-five duplicate results from the different databases were eliminated, leaving five hundred and four for the first phase of screening by title and abstract. Three hundred and seventy-nine articles were eliminated in this first screening, leaving one hundred and twenty-five articles for the full screening. A total of 93 articles were eliminated after full screening against the above research question and inclusion criteria, and the reasons for their removal are shown in the flow chart. In the end, 32 articles met the above-mentioned inclusion criteria and were included in the review.

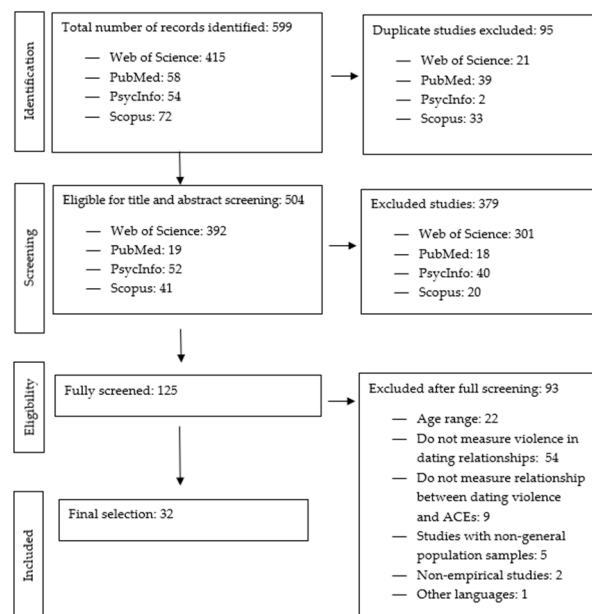


Figure 1. PRISMA flowchart on the identification, screening, and selection of articles for review.

2.5. Charting and Data Analysis

Garrad's matrix method [41] was used to extract information from each of the studies included in the final selection and synthesise their findings. The matrix (see Table A1 in Appendix A) includes the geographic location, year of publication, sample size, sex and age of the participants, study objectives, forms of dating violence analysed, roles played in dating violence (i.e., perpetration, victimisation, or both), instruments used to measure dating violence, type of ACEs examined and the instruments used to do so, type of statistical analysis used to analyse the relationship between dating violence and ACEs, and the main findings on this relationship. The selected articles were organised in chronological order so as to better visualise the evolution of the literature on the relationship between dating violence and ACEs.

2.6. Study Rigour

Coauthors EL and SY tested the rigour and quality of the selected studies using the criteria employed by Reyes et al. [3] in their scoping review on intimate partner violence and mental health outcomes. Each of the articles was evaluated using the following criteria: (1) Was the study objective/question clearly stated? (2) Was the study methodology used appropriate for the research question? (3) Was the sampling method concisely described? (4) Could the sample selection process be biased in any way? (5) Was the study sample representative of the general population to which the findings are attributed? (6) Was the sample calculation based on a statistical power analysis? (7) Was an adequate response rate achieved? (8) Are the measurement instruments valid and reliable? (9) Was statistical significance assessed? (10) Do the main findings include confidence intervals? Each question was answered with "yes," "no," or "not sure," using the sum of the "yes" responses

to create a quality index (Item 4 responses were reversed). Higher scores indicate higher quality in the conduct of the study.

3. Results

3.1. Sample Characteristics

Table A1 shows the sample characteristics (see Appendix A). Most of the study samples were from the United States ($n = 25$; 78.1%), the United States and Canada ($n = 1$; 3.1%), Italy ($n = 1$; 3.1%), Greece ($n = 1$; 3.1%), the United Kingdom ($n = 1$; 3.1%), South Korea ($n = 1$; 3.1%), and Australia and New Zealand ($n = 2$; 6.2%). Only one study from the United States and South Korea ($n = 1$; 3.1%) included cross-cultural analysis. No studies were found from Spain or Latin America. The studies included in the review were conducted between 2002 and 2021, of which 53% were carried out between 2017 and 2021.

The studies analysed comprised samples of adults aged 18–61 years old. Most studies included both male and female participants ($n = 26$; 81.2%). Seven of the studies comprised single-sex samples, where only men ($n = 3$; 9.3%) and only women ($n = 4$; 12.5%) were assessed. For the most part, data collection was limited to information provided by only one partner in a relationship; only three studies included couples (specifically, heterosexual couples). No studies involving LGBT participants were found. Of the publications analysed, 25 focused on university populations, six on the general population, and only one came from national child protection registers.

3.2. Methodological Differences

Of the 32 international articles included in this scoping review, 24 were of cross-sectional design (75%), 6 were of longitudinal design (18.7%), and 2 were of quasi-experimental design (6.2%).

Among the instruments used to measure dating violence, the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) [42], ($n = 5$; 15.6%), the Conflict Tactics Scale Revised [43], ($n = 2$; 6.2%), and the Conflict Tactics Scale 2 (CTS2) [44], ($n = 17$; 53.1%) were the most used ($n = 26$; 81.25%). Instruments used to measure cyber dating abuse included: the Cyber Aggression in Relationships Scale (CARS) [45], ($n = 1$; 3.1%), the Digital Dating Abuse scale (DDA) [46], ($n = 1$; 3.1%), the Cyber Dating Abuse Questionnaire [47], ($n = 1$; 3.1%), and the Partner Cyber Abuse Questionnaire [48], ($n = 1$; 3.1%). ACE measures varied widely although the Conflict Tactics Scale [42,44,49] was again the most used ($n = 10$; 31.2%).

In terms of statistical analyses, 50% of the articles used bivariate analyses, 96.8% multivariate analyses, 21.8% mediation path analyses, 15.6% moderation analyses, 12.5% analysed the cumulative effects of ACEs, and 12.5% included interaction analyses or propensity score analyses. Mediating and moderating variables included: early maladaptive schemas, fearful dating experiences, attachment style, self-control, anger, hostility, communication of emotions, empathy, attitudes to violence, delinquency, and risky behaviours (alcohol use, drug use, and risky sexual behaviour).

3.3. Study Rigour Scores

Overall, most of the studies had relatively high quality scores, with the lowest scores being five out of a possible ten points. The criteria used indicated that all studies had a clear study objective, were of appropriate design for the research questions, provided a detailed description of how the sample was obtained, reported statistical significance, and had valid and reliable measurement instruments. Among the main problems with the studies reviewed were possible sample selection bias (56.2%) and failure to mention whether sample selection was made on the basis of a power analysis (75%). Table 3 shows all the rigour scores for each of the studies analysed.

Table 3. Study rigour indices.

Study	Study Aim	Study Design	Study Selection	Selection Bias ¹	Representative Sample	Stat Power	Response Rate	Measure Validity	Stat Sig	Confidence Interval	Quality Score
[50]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[51]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[52]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[53]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[54]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[39]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[55]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[56]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[57]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	9
[58]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8
[59]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[60]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
[61]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
[62]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8
[63]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Unsure	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	7
[64]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8
[65]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	6
[66]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[67]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	7
[68]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[69]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8
[70]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	6
[71]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
[72]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[73]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[40]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[74]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[75]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[24]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	9
[76]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
[77]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5
[78]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsure	No	Unsure	Yes	Yes	No	5

¹ Reversed score for the quality score.

3.4. Primary Analyses

The results are organised by the forms of dating violence examined and, for each one, the relationships with the ACEs analysed by the studies included in this scoping review are summarised. Table A1 provides a summary of the main findings of each study on the relationship between forms of dating violence and ACEs.

3.4.1. Findings on Global Dating Violence and ACEs

Seven studies (21.8%) measured dating violence as a global variable as opposed to examining different types of violence. These studies found that the perpetration of dating violence is related to various adverse childhood experiences: physical abuse [24,73], emotional abuse [24,73], sexual abuse [24], physical and emotional neglect [58,73], low parental warmth [58], parental mental illness, parental suicide attempt, parental criminal conviction, and parental separation [24]. However, some of these studies did not report a positive association between perpetration and sexual abuse [58,67], interparental violence, parental substance abuse [24], or violent socialisation in childhood [67].

These same studies reported a positive relationship between dating violence victimisation and adverse childhood experiences such as: physical abuse [24,51,58,64,73], emotional abuse [24,73], sexual abuse [24,39,51,64], physical and emotional neglect [49,67], witnessing interparental violence [24,51], low parental warmth [58], substance abuse, mental illness, suicide attempts, criminal conviction, and parental separation [24]. However, other studies did not support an association between dating violence victimisation and violent socialisation in childhood [67], sexual abuse [67,73], emotional neglect or interparental violence [24].

3.4.2. Physical Dating Violence and ACEs

Childhood Physical Abuse

Sixteen studies (50%) examined the relationship between childhood physical abuse and physical dating violence. A positive association was found between being a victim of childhood physical abuse and perpetration of physical dating violence [55,56,61,65,70,72,73,78]. However, Jennings et al. [60] reported that, while victims of childhood physical abuse were significantly more likely to report perpetration of physical dating violence, once adults who had experienced childhood physical abuse were matched with a sample of adults who had not, both groups were equally likely to perpetrate dating violence. Other more recent studies also failed to find statistically significant associations between the two variables [40,69].

Similarly, there was no clear direction in the study findings with regard to dating violence victimisation. Several studies reported a positive association between childhood physical abuse and dating victimisation [53,55,63,70,76]. However, other studies found no such association [40,54,59,69]. Research elsewhere has found that while there is a relationship between childhood physical abuse and physical dating victimisation, this is not a causal relationship. Instead, it occurs when other adversities are experienced within the family context, such as witnessing interparental violence in the home [60].

Childhood Psychological/Emotional Abuse

Seven studies (21.8%) examined the relationship between childhood psychological/emotional abuse and physical dating violence. Most of the reviewed research found no significant associations [40,59,72,73]. However, Baller and Lewis [74] found that greater exposure to psychological abuse during childhood was associated with higher perpetration of physical dating violence. By contrast, more studies reported a positive association between childhood psychological/emotional abuse and physical dating victimisation [40,63,74]. However, this is not the case for all the studies reviewed [76].

Childhood Sexual Abuse

Seven studies (21.8%) analysed the relationship between childhood sexual abuse and physical dating violence. Most of these found no significant associations with the perpetration of physical dating violence [54,59,73,76], while other studies did [40,62]. There were also mixed results for victimisation. Cross-sectional analyses controlling for other covariates [62] and other forms of child abuse [40] and longitudinal analyses [63] found that victims of childhood sexual abuse are significantly more likely to experience physical violence victimisation. However, other cross-sectional and longitudinal studies did not find the same association [54,73,76].

Witnessing Interparental Violence

Nine studies (28.1%) examined the association between witnessing interparental violence during childhood and physical dating violence. Most studies found that interparental violence was positively associated with the perpetration of physical violence [55,66,69,72,76], although not all studies reported this relationship [55,56,60,78]. Similarly, certain studies reported a positive relationship between witnessing interparental violence and physical dating violence victimisation [55,69,76], whereas other research found no such relation-

ship [60,70]. In their cross-cultural study with participants from the United States and South Korea, Gover et al. [56] found a positive association when the father was the perpetrator of domestic violence as opposed to the mother, but only among the US participants.

Parental Neglect

Five studies (15.6%) examined the association between parental neglect and physical dating violence. Most studies found a positive association with the perpetration of physical violence [59,69,73]. However, these results are not so clear when looking at the type of neglect (physical or emotional) and the sex of the participants. For example, Dardis et al. [59] found that childhood experience of maternal physical neglect was predictive of physical violence perpetration in men, but not in women. By contrast, Nikulina et al. [76] found no association between physical or emotional neglect and the perpetration of physical violence. With regard to physical dating violence victimisation, most studies reported an association between this and being a victim of childhood neglect [63,69,73]. However, Nikulina et al. [76] did not find the same relationship.

Other Adverse Childhood Experiences

Six studies (18.7%) examined other adverse childhood experiences in relation to physical dating violence. Perpetration was positively associated with experience of abuse in dysfunctional homes [74], the quality of the maternal relationship [70,78], and growing up with an incarcerated caregiver [76]. However, no positive relationships have been found with other ACEs, such as the quality of the relationship with the father, inconsistent discipline [70], or punitive discipline during childhood [66]. Miller et al. [57] found that eight of the twelve adversities analysed (other long-term parental separation, criminality, parental substance use disorder and mental illness, interparental violence, neglect, and physical and sexual abuse) were significantly associated with both perpetration and physical victimisation in dating relationships. Parental mental illness was the type of adversity most associated with perpetration (12.6%) and physical victimisation (10.2%) in dating. However, Nikulina et al. [76] found no association between parental mental illness or substance use and perpetration or victimisation in dating relationships.

3.4.3. Emotional and Psychological Dating Violence and ACEs

Childhood Physical Abuse

Seven studies (21.8%) examined the association between childhood physical abuse and psychological dating violence. Although some studies found a positive association with perpetration [40,56], most did not [54,59,72,73,76]. In the case of victimisation, longitudinal [63] and cross-sectional analyses [40,56] found a positive relationship between childhood physical abuse and psychological dating victimisation. Other researchers, however, did not find the same relationship [73,76].

Childhood Psychological/Emotional Abuse

Eight studies (25%) investigated the association between childhood psychological/emotional abuse and psychological dating abuse. Fewer studies found a positive association with the perpetration of psychological and emotional dating violence [68,73,74] than those that found no association [40,54,59,76]. Of the studies that examined victimisation, most found that emotional abuse is associated with increased psychological abuse victimisation [40,63,73,74]. However, not all studies reported this association [76].

Childhood Sexual Abuse

Four studies (12.5%) considered the association between childhood sexual abuse and psychological dating violence. In relation to perpetration, Dardis et al. [59] found a positive relationship, but only among men. Other studies found no relationship for either perpetration or victimisation [40,54]. Nikulina et al. [76] found a positive relationship in

their bivariate analyses for both perpetration and victimisation, but this relationship was not present in the multivariate models.

Witnessing Interparental Violence

Three studies (9.3%) examined the relationship between witnessing interparental violence and psychological dating violence. Two of these found no positive association with perpetration [56,72]. However, Nikulina et al. [76] did find such a relationship for both perpetration and victimisation. Gover et al.'s [56] results showed that father-to-mother violence was not significantly associated with psychological victimisation in dating relationships. However, mother-to-father violence was found to be significantly related to psychological dating victimisation among participants from South Korea, but not from the United States.

Parental Neglect

Five studies (15.6%) analysed childhood neglect and its relationship to dating violence. Longitudinal [63] and cross-sectional studies [74] found that emotional and physical neglect was associated with psychological perpetration or victimisation in both sexes. However, other studies did not find this same association for either perpetration [59,76] or victimisation [73].

Other Adverse Childhood Experiences

Only two studies (6.2%) investigated other forms of ACEs and their association with dating violence. These studies found that abuse experienced in dysfunctional homes is significantly associated with the perpetration of psychological violence [74]. However, Nikula et al. [76] found no relationship between experiences such as growing up in a household where one of the family members is incarcerated, living with a person with mental illness, or parental substance abuse and an increased risk of perpetration or victimisation.

3.4.4. Sexual Dating Violence and ACEs

Childhood Physical Abuse

Two studies (6.2%) examined the relationship between childhood physical abuse and sexual dating violence. Neither study found a positive association between physical abuse and the perpetration of sexual violence [40,50]. However, Voith et al. [40] did find a positive association between childhood physical abuse and sexual dating victimisation, although only among men.

Childhood Psychological/Emotional Abuse

Three studies (9.3%) examined the relationship between childhood psychological abuse and sexual dating violence. Baller and Lewis [74] found a positive association with the perpetration of sexual violence, but the remaining studies did not [40,59]. In the case of victimisation, only one study analysed this relationship, finding no association between the two variables [40].

Childhood Sexual Abuse

Three studies (9.3%) examined the association between childhood sexual abuse and sexual violence. Dardis et al. [59] found that experiences of childhood sexual abuse were associated with perpetration of sexual violence for women, but not for men. Voith et al. [40] found that men who reported a history of childhood sexual abuse were more likely to perpetrate and experience sexual dating violence. However, Loh and Gidycz [52] found that while there was a significant relationship between the two variables, childhood sexual abuse was not predictive of perpetration of sexual violence.

Witnessing Interparental Violence

Only one of the reviewed studies (3.1%) analysed the relationship between exposure to interparental violence and dating sexual violence, finding no significant association [50].

Neglect

Of the two studies reviewed (6.2%), one found that physical neglect was associated with perpetration of sexual violence [74], while the other did not find the same relationship [59].

Other Adverse Childhood Experiences

A single study included other ACEs in relation to sexual dating violence, reporting that abuse experienced in dysfunctional homes is associated with greater perpetration of sexual violence [74].

3.4.5. Cyber Dating Abuse and ACEs

Childhood Physical Abuse

Only one of the reviewed studies examined the relationship between childhood physical abuse and cyber dating abuse (3.1%), finding neither a direct nor an indirect relationship, through the mediation of early maladaptive schemas, between childhood physical abuse and cyber dating abuse [75].

Childhood Psychological/Emotional Abuse

Two studies (6.2%) looked at the relationship between childhood psychological abuse and cyber dating abuse. Celsi et al. [75] found that frequent experiences of emotional abuse during childhood were associated with an increased likelihood of perpetrating and experiencing cyber dating abuse. However, this was mediated through the internalisation of the emotional deprivation schema. Baller and Lewis [74] found moderate associations between childhood emotional abuse and cyber dating abuse victimisation.

Childhood Sexual Abuse

The search yielded no studies researching the association between childhood sexual abuse and cyber dating abuse perpetration or victimisation.

Witnessing Interparental Violence

Three studies (9.3%) examined the relationship between witnessing interparental violence during childhood and the perpetration and victimisation of cyber dating abuse. Cano-Gonzalez et al. [71] found that adults who had witnessed interparental violence were more likely to perpetrate psychological, sexual, and stalking cyber dating abuse. The association between interparental violence and cyber dating abuse occurred irrespective of the sex of the parent perpetrating or being subjected to violence. Similarly, Ramos et al. [77] found that adults who had witnessed more interparental violence reported higher levels of perpetration of cyber dating abuse. However, Celsi et al. [75] only found a positive and significant association for women who had witnessed interparental violence committed by mothers. This same study found no relationship between witnessing interparental violence and increased cyber dating abuse victimisation.

Parental Neglect

Two studies (6.2%) examined the relationship between parental neglect and cyber dating abuse. Celsi et al. [75] found that physical neglect was associated with the perpetration of pressure aggression and control monitoring. Childhood emotional, but not physical, neglect was associated with control monitoring, but only for women. However, Baller and Lewis [74] did find a positive association between childhood physical neglect and cyber dating abuse victimisation.

Other Adverse Childhood Experiences

Two studies (6.2%) analysed the relationship between other ACEs and cyber dating abuse. Baller and Lewis [74] found that abuse experienced in dysfunctional homes was associated with cyber dating abuse victimisation. Celsi et al. [75] examined early maladaptive schemas (specifically abandonment and emotional deprivation schemas) and their relationship to cyber dating abuse perpetration and victimisation. Their results showed the existence of a relationship between emotional deprivation schemas and the two forms of cyber dating abuse perpetration under examination: control monitoring and pressure aggression.

Combined Forms of Dating Violence and ACEs

Two studies (6.2%) investigated the relationship between ACEs and combined forms of dating violence. Voith et al. [40] found that men who reported a history of childhood sexual abuse were more likely to use polyperpetration against their dating partners. Abajobir et al. [63] found that the probability of experiencing various forms of dating abuse was higher for adults who were emotionally abused or neglected during childhood. Similarly, Voith et al. [40] found that physical abuse was related to polyvictimisation in adulthood, whereas childhood sexual abuse was not.

Other Forms of Dating Violence and ACEs

Adverse childhood experiences and their association with other forms of dating violence have not been widely researched. Only two studies (6.2%) included other forms of dating violence, namely harassment and threatening behaviour. Abajobir et al. [63] showed that experience of harassment was 1.63 times higher among those who had been emotionally abused as children. McClure and Parmenter [73] found that perpetration or victimisation involving threatening behaviour was related to childhood emotional abuse, emotional neglect, and physical neglect, although only perpetration of threatening behaviour was related to childhood physical abuse.

Sex Differences in the Relationship between Dating Violence and ACEs

Of the studies reviewed, 14 (43.7%) included sex-differentiated analyses of the association between ACEs and dating violence. Four of these found no significant differences based on the sex of the participants [54,67,72,73].

In relation to the perpetration of dating violence, Luthra and Gidycz [53] found that women with violent fathers were three times more likely to perpetrate dating violence. They did not find the same relationship among men. Similarly, Milletich et al. [55] found that childhood physical abuse was associated with the perpetration of physical violence among women but not men. Childhood emotional abuse was related to the perpetration of dating violence in men, but not in women. Dardis et al. [59] found that childhood sexual abuse is associated with sexual perpetration among women and psychological perpetration among men. Childhood experiences of maternal neglect were associated with physical perpetration in men.

The moderation and mediation models of perpetration also found differences depending on the sex of the participants. Loucks et al. [68] found that the association between childhood emotional abuse and the perpetration of psychological dating violence was statistically insignificant among women with relatively high levels of emotional communication skills. Lee et al. [61] found that among women, but not men, the relationship between childhood physical abuse and perpetration of physical dating violence was also mediated by perpetration of sibling violence and an anxious attachment style. Ramos et al. [77] found that higher perspective-taking and empathy buffered the relationship between parent-to-child violence and the perpetration of cyber dating violence among men more than among women.

With respect to victimization, Herbert et al. [24] showed that the risk of dating victimization for both sexes increases if adverse childhood experiences were experienced

before the age of 16. However, they found that men who reported childhood sexual abuse, had witnessed domestic violence, or whose parents had separated were more likely to experience dating violence victimization than women who had experienced the same ACEs.

4. Discussion

Previous research has found that exposure to ACEs is associated with experiencing or perpetrating intimate partner violence in adulthood, such as domestic violence and abuse [16,79]. One explanation for this is that experiences in dysfunctional homes and experiencing or witnessing violence during childhood may be transmitted intergenerationally as similar behaviours occur or are endured in adult relationships [80]. Based on this premise, the aim of the present review was to examine the scientific literature in order to answer the following question: *what adverse childhood experiences within the family context are associated with dating violence in adulthood?* This scoping review includes 32 peer-reviewed articles from an initial sample of 599, from which the main information for each study has been extracted and summarized.

Adverse experiences that are associated with the perpetration of dating violence include: physical abuse [24,40,55,56,58,61,65,72,73,78]; emotional abuse [24,40,46,59,68,73–75]; sexual abuse [24,40,52,59,62,76]; witnessing family violence [55,69,72,77]; physical and emotional neglect [59,69,73–75,78]; low parental warmth [78]; parental mental illness, suicide attempt, criminal conviction, or separation [24]; dysfunctional homes [74]; the quality of the maternal relationship [65,78]; growing up with an incarcerated caregiver [76]; and early maladaptive schemas [75].

In the case of victimization, a significant association has been found with: physical abuse [24,40,51,53,55,56,58,63,64,70,73,74,76]; emotional abuse [24,40,63,73–76]; sexual abuse [24,39,40,54,60,64,67]; physical and emotional neglect [63,64,69,73,74]; witnessing interparental violence [24,51,55,56,69,76]; low parental warmth [58]; and parental substance abuse, mental illness, suicide attempts, criminal conviction, or separation [24].

The studies reviewed seem to suggest that childhood physical abuse is the adverse experience most associated with both perpetration and victimization of dating violence. This result may suggest that exposure to severe child abuse has the strongest association with dating violence, although it should also be noted that this is the experience most analysed in the existing studies (50%). However, as with all other forms of dating violence, the results are inconsistent. Moreover, the studies reviewed also seem to suggest that the results vary depending on the sex of the participants. The present review provides evidence that predictors of dating violence perpetration and victimization may be differently connected for men and women. However, not all studies analyse sex differences or include samples of both sexes, which also makes it difficult to draw clear conclusions.

Presented in this way, the existing evidence seems to lend some support to social learning theory and the intergenerational transmission of violence [81], which argues that, through learning processes, witnessing and experiencing different forms of violence in childhood leads to greater use of violence as an adult [50,65]. However, the findings of the present review are inconsistent and therefore this hypothesis cannot be confirmed. Contrary to expectations, the findings partially support the idea that those who experience adverse childhood experiences may be at greater risk of dating violence perpetration or victimization in adulthood. While there appears to be a link between adverse childhood experiences and dating violence victimization and perpetration, the underlying mechanisms of this relationship are not well understood. Moreover, the results of these studies are largely correlational rather than causal. In other words, it is not known whether experiencing childhood abuse leads to an increased likelihood of experiencing adult dating violence or, rather, if those who experience childhood physical abuse are also more likely to experience a variety of risk factors that increase their likelihood of being victims or perpetrators of violence in intimate partner relationships.

The inconsistency in the findings of the reviewed studies is in line with meta-analyses that have reported only the existence of a weak size effect on the relationship between

experiencing and witnessing violence within the family and subsequent involvement in intimate partner violence [82]. Such mixed results have also been reported by methodological reviews of research into intimate partner violence. These indicate that the methodological variations between studies are so wide that their results are difficult to analyse because of contradictory findings [83].

4.1. Limitations and Recommendations for Future Research

There are several limitations to this scoping review. Firstly, search-related limitations such as the use of a limited number of databases and the search terms themselves may have led to the exclusion of some studies that addressed the question posed in this review. Similarly, the fact that only English language papers have been reviewed may mean that important studies published in other languages were omitted. Other search limitations relate to some of the decisions made in planning the search. Focusing on adulthood, looking at only one type of intimate partner violence (specifically dating violence), or considering only those ACEs occurring within the family context also limits the range of conclusions to be drawn from this review. Since dating violence occurs after childhood, future reviews should also explore dating violence in adolescence, and not restricting their associations to ACEs occurring within the family. Additionally, future reviews should extend the bibliographic search to other languages and other databases, and to reconsider the search terms in order to capture all the existing evidence and offer insights about what influences the relationships between ACEs and dating violence.

However, one strength of this scoping review is that the search has revealed some important limitations in the existing evidence on the question posed, which should be taken into account by future studies. In particular, the studies reviewed include a wide variety of methodological differences ranging from the definition of dating violence, the study design, the sampling techniques, the instruments used, and the statistical analyses performed. Furthermore, most of the studies reviewed included samples of university students, had cross-sectional designs, and the data collected from all 32 studies were self-reported. This makes it difficult to compare studies and draw conclusions about the impact of ACEs on dating violence victimization and perpetration. In fact, the results' inconsistency may, at least in part, be due to limitations in the analytical approaches and the sample used. For instance, the studies are heavily based on retrospective reports of exposure to ACEs. Therefore, there has been no control for other individual, familial, and contextual factors mediating or moderating the relationship between ACEs and dating violence that could enhance understanding of such a complex phenomenon [63]. Future research should try to identify other factors that may play a role in mediating or moderating the relationship between ACEs and dating violence perpetration and victimization in adulthood, such as peer group relationships.

In terms of sample selection, most research has focused on university students and key risk factors may vary in populations with different characteristics [76]. Another important aspect of sample selection is that most studies were conducted in the USA with mainly Caucasian samples [76]. However, the cultural context may also lead to variations [56]. Other important methodological considerations that may influence the results are the measurement of the ACEs, the severity of the behaviours assessed and their duration. As Abajobir et al. [63] note, exposure to, for example, severe abuse in childhood, such as poly victimisation, is likely to lead to more frequent experiences of dating violence perpetration and victimization later in life. Therefore, as suggested by Ulloa et al. [39], it would be beneficial to explore the severity of the adverse experiences. In light of the results, it would be appropriate to replicate the studies carried out in order to unify the methodology and measures used [62] and conduct more cross-cultural studies. Additional research could also focus on comparing these associations across high, middle, and low-income countries. Further research is needed to obtain a complete picture of the relationships between ACEs and dating violence across different geographical locations, cultural contexts, and socio-economy status. Future studies should also be conducted to

explore if the relationship between ACEs and dating violence is stronger when dating violence and adverse experiences within the family, but also in the social context, occur simultaneously. At the theoretical level, this review highlights the need for future research to start from a more concise conceptual model to define and measure ACEs. A clearer model will allow the comparison of results among studies and will also offer a more precise understanding of ACEs' health and behavioural correlates. In this sense, the conceptual model developed by Kalmakis and Chandler [38] can be very useful for research and trauma-informed care purposes.

4.2. Implications for Practice

In 1996, the 49th Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared violence prevention as a public health priority. Given the multicausal nature of this problem, the prevention of dating violence requires an understanding of different variables, such as individual, cultural and social determinants, including family and community factors. Several key public health implications arise from the evidence available on the relationship between ACEs and dating violence.

Although the present review has shown that ACEs are not always related to dating violence in adulthood, dating violence is likely to co-occur with other personal, family, and environmental problems that contribute to the underlying mechanism behind the cycle of violence. Intervention efforts must be directed to implement positive conflict resolution strategies in interpersonal relationships and address individual risk factors such as emotional dysregulation, alcohol consumption, emotional dependence, beliefs that justify violence and the myths of romantic love. Additionally, ACE prevention and trauma-informed care can have significant importance in preventing violence behaviours later in life. Preventing programs should adopt a life-course perspective that will require cross-sector interventions (involving health systems, schools, universities, social services, community organization and state security forces) addressing the economic, cultural and social contexts that facilitate the perpetration and victimization of aggressive behaviours. Among others, perinatal home visits, community-based programs providing parental skills and social support, young mentoring programs, behavioural health services and psychological therapy in primary care seem to be promising to overcome poor health status resulting from ACEs [84] and also could be helpful in preventing dating violence. Consequently, it is necessary to improve professional training of primary care and emergency physicians, paediatricians, school nurses, social workers and other public health practitioners for awareness, detection, and prevention of adverse childhood experiences.

Furthermore, it is necessary to detect and intervene dating violence early in life to avoid chronification. In line with previous research [57,75], intervention efforts with adolescents exposed to multiple childhood adversities could be useful to prevent the occurrence of dating violence and other forms of intimate partner violence in adulthood. Finally, considering that early experiences of childhood maltreatment may be related to dating abuse victimization and perpetration, we recommend examining and addressing early histories of trauma when intervening with victims and perpetrators in adulthood. Felitti and Anda [18] explain that the recognition of the trauma history can be therapeutic because it gives people the opportunity to reflect on the role that ACEs suffered have had on their lives and in the problem of subsequent violence.

5. Conclusions

This scoping review suggests that the relationship between ACEs and later perpetration and/or victimization is complex and may be mediated by other factors with which ACEs coexist, such as peer relationships, delinquency, and other risky behaviours [85,86]. Thus, while experiencing adverse childhood experiences is a factor associated with both perpetration and victimization of adult dating violence, it is likely to co-occur with other personal, family, and environmental problems that contribute to the underlying mechanism behind the cycle of violence. As suggested by Graves et al. [87], the effects of family violence

and adverse experiences may lessen over time, and it may be that other concurrent factors become stronger predictors of dating violence. Therefore, adverse childhood experiences may not be a necessary or sufficient condition for experiencing dating violence.

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Data Availability Statement: All data generated as part of this study are included in the article.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

Appendix A

Table A1. Summary of data from articles included in the scoping review (n = 32).

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[50]	N = 99 men Age range is not specified Mean age reported = 20 years old	Examine the association between witnessing interparental violence as a child, being a victim of parental physical violence, and perpetrating violence in dating relationship.	Cross-sectional	Physical and Sexual violence	Perpetration	The Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS, Straus & Gelles, 1986). The Sexual Experiences Survey, male version (SES, Koss & Oros, 1982)	Witnessing interparental violence Parental physical violence.	The Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS, Straus & Gelles, 1986)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Witnessing interparental violence was related to perpetration of physical dating violence but not sexual violence. Experiencing child abuse by a parental figure was not significantly related to the perpetration of dating violence forms examined
[51]	N = 1569 women Age = 18–19 years old	Assess the extent to which experiences of childhood victimisation predicts physical dating victimisation in high school and in college.	Longitudinal	Physical and Sexual violence	Victimization	A modified version of the violence subscale of the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS, Straus, 1979)	Sexual and physical abuse Witnessing interparental violence	Several measures	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Women physically or sexually victimised or covictimised across the 4 years of college were those with a history of both childhood victimisation (any type) and physical victimisation in adolescence. However, young women who were abused in childhood but not in adolescence were not at greater risk for physical victimization.
[52]	N = 325 men Age = 18–19 years old	Examine the relationship between childhood sexual assault and subsequent perpetration of dating violence in adulthood	Longitudinal	Sexual violence	Perpetration	Sexual Experiences Survey (SES, Koss & Oros, 1982). The Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS, Straus, 1979)	Sexual abuse	Child Sexual Victimization Questionnaire (CSVQ, Finkelhor, 1979) Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS, Straus, 1979)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Retrospective analyses showed a relationship between childhood sexual victimisation and perpetration of sexual aggression in adulthood at baseline. Prospective analyses showed that childhood sexual victimisation was not predictive of perpetration during the follow-up period
[53]	N = 100 men and 100 women Age = 18–24 years old	Empirically evaluate the Riggs and O’Leary (1989) model of dating violence	Cross-sectional	Physical violence	Perpetration	The Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS; Straus, 1979)	Parent–child violence Witnessing interparental violence	The Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS; Straus, 1979)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Women with violent fathers were three time more likely to perpetrate dating violence. The same relationships were not found among male participants.

Table A1. Cont.

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[54]	N = 374 women Age range is not reported Mean age reported = 18.54 (SD = 0.87)	Explore women's perpetration of dating aggression within the context of childhood and adolescent victimisation experiences	Longitudinal	Verbal and physical violence	Perpetration	The Conflict Tactic Scales (CTS, Straus, 1979)	Childhood sexual, physical and verbal abuse.	Child Sexual Victimization Questionnaire (CSVQ, Finkelhor, 1979; Risin & Koss, 1987). The Conflict Tactic Scales (CTS, Straus, 1979)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Retrospective analyses showed that 1) paternal physical abuse predicted women's reports of verbal perpetration. 2) Childhood sexual abuse predicted women's reports of physical perpetration. Prospective analyses showed that childhood abuse variables were not predictive of women's engagement in physical or verbal perpetration over the follow-up period.
[39]	N = 327 Women Age = 18–40 years old	Examine whether fearful dating experiences may help explain the relationship between childhood sexual abuse and dating violence	Cross-sectional	Sexual, emotional and physical violence	Victimization	The Conflict Tactics Scale (MCTS, Straus, 1979)	Childhood sexual abuse	Sexual Experiences Survey (SES, Koss & Oros, 1982)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Mediation path analysis: fearful dating experiences as mediator of the relationship between Childhood Sexual Abuse and dating victimisation.	Women who reported experiences of childhood sexual abuse were more likely to report dating violence victimisation. The relationship was reduced after controlling for fear in dating relationships.
[55]	N = 703 men and women Age = 18–30 years old.	Examine whether witnessing interparental violence, childhood physical and emotional abuse were related to reports of physical aggression perpetration and victimisation in dating relationships	Cross-sectional	Physical violence	Victimisation and perpetration	The Revised Conflicts Tactics Scale (CTS2; Straus et al. 1996)	Witnessing interparental violence Childhood physical and emotional abuse	The Revised Conflicts Tactics Scale (CTS2-CA; Straus, 2000) Exposure to Abusive and Supportive Environments Parenting Inventory (EASE-PI, Nicholas & Bieber 1997)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Moderation analyses conducted: Gender was tested as moderator.	Witnessing interparental violence and experiencing childhood abuse was associated with reports of dating violence perpetration and victimisation. Associations differed according to parent and child gender.

Table A1. Cont.

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[56]	N = 1,399 US women and men N = 1,588 SK women and men. Age range is not specified	Examine associations between childhood maltreatment and dating violence among U.S. and South Korean college students	Cross-sectional	Psychological and physical violence	Victimisation and perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS2, Straus et al., 1996)	Childhood physical abuse Witnessing interparental violence	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2, Straus et al., 1996)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Childhood physical abuse was positively related with psychological dating victimisation and perpetration in both samples. Witnessing interparental violence was not consistently related with involvement in dating violence.
[57]	N = 5130 women and men Age range = 21–56 years	Examine the associations of co-occurring childhood adversities with physical violence in dating relationships	Cross-sectional	Physical violence	Victimisation and perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale 2 (CTS2; Straus et al., 1996)	12 childhood adversities: Parental death, parental divorce, other long-term parental separation, parental mental illness, parental substance use disorder, parental criminality, interparental violence, serious illness in childhood, physical and sexual abuse, neglect, family economic adversity	Multiple measures	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Cumulative ACEs association with dating violence tested	10 of the 12 childhood adversities examined were significantly associated with physical dating perpetration and victimisation. Sexual abuse, interparental violence and parent mental illness were the childhood adversities associate in a highest proportion with physical dating violence
[58]	N = 900 women and men Age = 18–26 years old.	Examine the effects of poor parenting and child abuse on dating violence perpetration and victimisation	Longitudinal	Emotional, physical, and sexual violence	Victimisation and perpetration	Ad hoc questionnaire	Physical abuse, Sexual abuse, neglect and lack of parental warmth	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2; Straus et al., 1996) was used to measure childhood abuse. Ad hoc questionnaire was used to measure lack of parental warmth.	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Mediation path analysis: Substance use and delinquency were tested as mediators	Neglect and low parental warmth were directly associated with dating violence perpetration. Physical abuse and low parental warmth were directly associated with dating violence victimisation Delinquency increased the relationship between physical abuse, lack of parental warmth and dating violence victimisation and perpetration

Table A1. Cont.

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[59]	N = 570 women and men Age = 18–28 years old	Examine men and women perpetration of dating violence and its relationship with child maltreatment	Cross-sectional	Physical, sexual, and psychological violence	Perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS–2; Straus et al., 1996)	Physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, and neglect	The Comprehensive Childhood Maltreatment Scale (CCMS; Higgins & McCabe, 2001).	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Childhood experiences of maternal neglect were positively related to men’s physical perpetration. Childhood sexual abuse predicted women’s sexual perpetration and men’s psychological perpetration
[60]	N = 1399 women and men Age range is not specified. Mean age reported = 19.92 (SD = 1.12)	Examine whether child physical abuse is a causal factor in adult dating violence victimisation and perpetration	Quasi-experimental	Physical violence	Victimisation and perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS–2; Straus et al., 1996)	Physical abuse Witnessing interparental violence	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS–2; Straus et al., 1996)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Propensity score matching approach with 29 covariates as potential confounders including: Witnessing interparental violence, maternal and paternal support, religiosity, substance use, self-control, risky sexual behaviour, and several demographic variables.	Child physical abuse is associated with adult dating violence. However, there is a spurious relationship. The relationship likely exists in tandem with other problems within the family such as witnessing interparental violence.
[61]	N = 484 women and men Age range is not specified. Mean age reported = 20.81 (SD = 1.81)	Explain how sibling violence perpetrations and attachment styles mediate the relationship between child maltreatment and dating violence perpetration	Cross-sectional	Physical violence	Perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS–2; Straus et al., 1996)	Physical abuse	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS–2; Straus et al., 1996)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Mediation path analysis: Attachment style and sibling violence perpetration were tested as mediators.	Men: Parent-to-child victimisation was directly associated with dating violence perpetration. The hypothesized mediational model was not supported. Women: Parent-to-child victimisation was directly associated with dating violence perpetration. Sibling violence perpetration and attachment styles also served a mediating role between child abuse and dating violence.

Table A1. Cont.

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[62]	N = 4162 women and men Age range is not specified. Mean age reported = 22 years old.	Examine the relationship between childhood sexual abuse and adult dating violence perpetration and victimisation	Quasi-experimental	Physical violence	Victimisation and perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2; Straus et al., 1996)	Sexual abuse	The Personal and Relationships Profile (PRP, Straus, Mouradian, & DeVoe, 1999)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Propensity score matching approach with 18 covariates as potential confounders including: Child physical abuse, Witnessing interparental violence, substance use, self-control, criminal history, and several demographic variables.	Experiencing child sexual abuse influences adult dating violence victimisation and perpetration. This relationship remained significant after the potential confounders were included in the analysis.
[63]	N = 3322 women and men Age = 19–22 years old.	Examine whether distinct types of childhood maltreatment differentially are associate with dating violence victimisation controlling for individual and family confounders	Longitudinal	Emotional and physical violence, harassment and severe combined abuse	Victimisation	The Revised Composite Abuse Scale (CAS, Hegarty et al. 2005)	Physical and emotional abuse Physical and emotional neglect	Cases of child maltreatment were identified through state-wide child protection records.	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Relationships measured adjusting for 11 confounders including social deprivation, aggressive behavior, maternal stress, maternal negative life events, family violence	Participants who experienced any form of child maltreatment were more likely to report emotional and/or physical victimisation in dating relationships.
[64]	N = 293 women Age range is not reported Mean age reported = 22.8 (SD = 6.9)	Examine the relationship between child abuse and intimate pattern violence victimisation	Cross-sectional	Psychological and physical violence, injury, sex pursuant to insisting, threats, and force	Victimisation	The Revised Conflict Tactic Scale (CTS2; Straus et al., 1996)	Neglect, physical and sexual abuse	The Personal and Relationships Profile (PRP; Straus et al., 1999)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Women characterized by a high intimate partner violence victimisation profile were the most likely to have experienced neglect, physical and sexual abuse in childhood

Table A1. Cont.

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[65]	N = 1482 women and men Age range and mean age not reported	To examine the role of child abuse, self-control, entitlement, and risky behaviours on dating violence perpetration among college students from one Southeastern and one Midwestern university in the United States	Cross-sectional	Physical violence	Perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2, Straus et al., 1996)	Physical abuse	The Parent-child Conflict Tactics Scale (PC-CTS; Straus, Hamby, Finkelhor, Moore, & Runyan, 1998)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Mediation path analysis: Self-control and General Entitlement and risky behaviours (drinking, drug use and sexual risk behaviour) were tested as mediators.	Students who reported perpetrating dating violence were significantly more likely to have experienced more physical abuse Child physical abuse was also linked to dating violence perpetration through the mediation of lower self-control. and its association with risky behaviours.
[67]	N = 3344 women and men Age range: 18–25 years old	Examine the shared and sex-specific background-situational correlates of dating violence typologies among college students	Cross-sectional	Physical assault, sexual coercion, and psychological violence	Victimisation and perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS2, Straus et al., 1996)	Childhood violent socialization, sexual abuse	The Personal and Relationships Profile (PRP; Straus et al., 2010)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Childhood violent socialization and sexual abuse history were not significantly associated with the different dating violence typologies examined among women and men college students.
[66]	N = 807 women and men Age range not reported Mean age reported = 20.89 (SD = 3.54)	Examine the association between childhood family violence and involvement in mutual dating violence	Cross-sectional	Physical violence	Perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS2, Straus et al., 1996)	Interparental violence, Punitive discipline	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2, Straus et al., 1996) The Dimensions of Discipline Inventory-Adult Recall form (DDI; Straus & Fauchier, 2007)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Mediation path analysis: Violence approval, negative relating to others, negative relation to mother and father, and closeness to mother and father were tested as mediators.	Mother's punitive discipline affected mutual dating violence through the mediation of violence approval and negative relating to others. Mutual interparental violence had a direct effect on mutual dating violence and an indirect effect via violence approval, negative relating to mother, and less closeness to mother

Table A1. Cont.

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[68]	N = 60 women and men Age range = 18–33 years old	Examine the relation between childhood emotional maltreatment and perpetration of psychological violence	Cross-sectional	Psychological violence	Perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (Straus & Douglas, 2004)	Physical, emotional and sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect	The Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (Bernstein & Fink, 1998)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Moderation analyses conducted: Skilful emotion communication was tested as a moderator	Higher levels of childhood emotional maltreatment were associated with higher levels of self-reported dating psychological violence. Higher skilful emotion communication attenuated associations between childhood emotional maltreatment and dating psychological violence, but only for women
[69]	N = 3495 women and men Age range = 18–25 years old	Examine the relationships between violent socialization, family social structure, relationship dynamic factors and dating violence among college students.	Cross-sectional	Physical violence	Victimisation and perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS2, Straus et al., 1996)	Violent socialization: childhood neglect, harsh corporal punishment, and witnessing interparental violence	Ad hoc questionnaire	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Interaction analyses conducted: Combinations of variables measuring violent socialization, family social structure and relationships dynamics were created to explore the underlying relationships of these variables with dating violence.	Childhood neglect and witnessing interparental violence were significantly related to physical dating violence victimisation and perpetration. Interaction effects: Adverse early socialization variables were associated with higher levels of physical dating violence victimisation and perpetration if they also experience psychological violence in their dating relationships
[70]	N = 704 women and men Age range and mean age not reported	Examine both risk and protective factors for dating violence perpetration and victimisation.	Cross-sectional	Physical violence	Victimisation and perpetration.	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS2, Straus et al., 1996).	Child physical abuse, Witnessing interparental violence, Inconsistent discipline, Maternal and parental relationship quality	Multiple measures	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Childhood physical abuse was positively associated with dating violence perpetration and victimisation. Maternal relationship quality was associated with a lower risk of perpetrating dating violence.

Table A1. Cont.

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[71]	N = 423 men Age range = 18–29 years old	Examine the indirect effect of witnessing interparental violence on cyber partner abuse through attitudes toward violence, controlling effects of childhood maltreatment and face-to-face partner abuse.	Cross-sectional	Cyber abuse: psychological, stalking, and sexual perpetration Face-to-face abuse: sexual, physical, and psychological abuse	Perpetration	Cyber Aggression in Relationships Scale (CARS; Watkins et al., 2018). Conflict Tactics Scale 2 Short Form (CTS2-SF; Straus & Douglas, 2004)	Witnessing interparental violence Emotional, sexual and physical abuse Emotional and physical neglect.	Computer Assisted Maltreatment Inventory (CAMI, DiLillo et al., 2010) The Childhood Trauma Questionnaire-Short Form (CTQ-SF; Bernstein et al., 2003)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Mediation path analysis: Attitudes toward violence was tested as a mediator.	Participants reporting witnessing interparental violence in childhood held attitudes justifying intimate partner violence that were associated with perpetrating the three types of cyber abuse examined.
[72]	N = 504 women and men Age range = 18–21 years old	Examine overlapping and distinct correlates of psychological and physical dating violence perpetration in emerging adults.	Cross-sectional	Physical and psychological violence	Perpetration	The Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (CADRI; Wolfe et al., 2001)	Physical and emotional abuse. Witnessing interparental violence	Exposure to Abusive and Support Environments: Parenting Inventory (EASE-PI; Nicholas & Bieber, 1997) Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ; Hamby, Finkelhor, Ormrod, & Turner, 2004)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Moderation analyses conducted: Insecure/anxious attachment, anger and hostility were tested as moderators.	Physical child abuse and witnessing interparental violence were physical dating violence perpetration. Moderation effects were not found.
[73]	N = 395 women and men Age range = 17–23 years old	Examine the relationship between dating violence, childhood trauma, trait anxiety, depression, and anxious attachment	Cross-sectional	Threatening behaviour Relational, physical, sexual and emotional abuse	Victimisation and perpetration	The Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (CADRI; Wolfe et al., 2001)	Emotional, physical and sexual abuse Emotional and physical neglect	The Childhood Trauma Questionnaire-Short Form (CTQ-SF; Bernstein et al., 2003)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Dating violence perpetration and victimisation were significantly related to four forms of childhood trauma: physical and emotional abuse, physical and emotional neglect.

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Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[40]	N = 423 men Age range = 18–61 years old	Examine the relationships between childhood physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and interpersonal violence between intimate partners	Cross-sectional	Physical, sexual, and psychological violence	Victimisation and perpetration	The Revised Conflicts Tactics Scale (CTS2; Straus et al. 1996) The Sexual Experiences Short Form Perpetration and Victimisation (SES-SFP; SES-SFV; Koss et al., 2006).	Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse	The Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ; Bernstein et al., 1994)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence	Childhood physical abuse was related with perpetration (psychological, polyperpetration) and victimisation (sexual, psychological, polyvictimisation). Childhood sexual abuse was related with perpetration (physical, sexual, polyperpetration) and victimisation (physical, sexual). Childhood emotional abuse was related with physical and psychological victimisation.
[74]	N = 228 women and men Age range = 18–24 years old	Examine adverse childhood experiences in relation to relationship communication quality and intimate partner violence	Cross-sectional	Physical, emotional, sexual, and cyber abuse	Victimisation and perpetration	The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale-Short (Straus & Douglas, 2004). The Abusive Behavior Inventory (ABI, Shepard & Campbell, 1992). Partner Cyber Abuse Questionnaire (Hamby, 2013)	Physical neglect, emotional abuse, and abuse experienced due to dysfunctional households	Adverse childhood experiences Questionnaire (Felitti et al., 1998).	Bivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Dichotomized ACEs scores were created: Low exposure (≤ 3 ACEs) and high exposure (≥ 4 ACEs)	Men and women showed moderate associations between the exposure to adverse childhood experiences and victimisation as well as perpetration of physical, emotional, sexual, and cyber abuse.
[75]	N = 134 women and men Age range = 18–30 years old	Examine the relationships between adverse childhood experiences, early maladaptive schemas and cyber dating abuse.	Cross-sectional	Various types of cyber dating abuse: aggression, threats, control, privacy intrusion, identity theft, and pressure for sexual behaviours or for sharing sexual images	Victimisation and perpetration	The Digital dating abuse (DDA, Reed et al., 2017) The Cyber Dating Abuse Questionnaire (Borrajó et al., 2015)	Physical, emotional and sexual abuse Physical and emotional neglect Witnessing Interparental Violence	The Childhood Trauma Questionnaire–Short Form (CTQ-SF; Bernstein et al., 2003). Ad hoc items to measure witnessing interparental violence.	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Mediation path analysis: Early maladaptive schemas (emotional deprivation and abandonment) were tested as mediators.	Emotional abuse and physical neglects were related to women's and men's perpetration and victimisation through the mediation of the internalization of the emotional deprivation schema. Witnessing intimate partner violence by the opposite-sex was related to women's and men's tendency to control and monitor their partners online.

Table A1. Cont.

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[24]	N = 3279 women and men Age range = 21–22 years old.	Examine risk factors for dating violence occurring up to age 21 in a large UK population-based birth cohort.	Longitudinal	Emotional, physical and sexual violence	Victimisation and perpetration	The IPV measure was based on a previous National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) questionnaire (Barter et al., 2009).	Sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Emotional neglect Substance abuse by parents Parental mental illness or suicide attempt Witnessing interparental violence Parental crime conviction Parental separation Bullying	The Questionnaire from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC, Houtepen et al. 2018)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Cumulative ACEs association with dating violence tested	Risk of victimisation increased if the adverse childhood experiences were reported before age 16 for most types, except emotional neglect for either sex, bullying for men, or witnessing violence between parents for women Risk for perpetration also increased for both men and women exposed to adverse childhood experiences before age 16 for most categories
[76]	N = 284 women and men Age range not reported. Mean age reported = 20.05 (SD = 2.5)	Examine the relation between adverse childhood experiences and intimate partner violence in emerging adulthood	Cross-sectional	Physical and psychological violence, injury	Victimisation and perpetration	The Conflict Tactics Scale 2 (CTS2; Straus et al., 1996)	Emotional, physical and sexual abuse Emotional and physical neglect Witnessing interparental violence, Parental mental illness Substance abusing Household member incarceration	The Adverse Childhood Experiences Survey (Felitti et al., 1998)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Cumulative ACEs association with dating violence tested	Witnessing domestic violence was associated with perpetration and victimisation of physical violence and injury. Household member incarceration and physical abuse were associated with physical violence perpetration No cumulative associations were observed.

Table A1. Cont.

Study	Participants	Aim of the Study	Study Design	Types of Dating Violence Analysed	Roles in Dating Violence Examined	Instrument Use to Measure Dating Violence	Aces Analysed	Instrument Use to Measure Aces	Statistical Analyses included to Test the Association between Aces and Dating Violence	Key Findings about the Relationship between Aces and Dating Violence
[77]	N = 359 women and men Age range: 18–27 years old.	Explore the relation between family-of-origin violence history and electronic dating violence perpetration. Examine whether perspective taking, and empathy moderated the association between family-of-origin aggression and electronic dating aggression.	Cross-sectional	Cyber dating abuse	Perpetration	The How Friends Treat Each Other Questionnaire (Bennett et al., 2011)	Parent-to child violence, parent-to-parent violence	The Modified Domestic Conflict Inventory (Margolin, John, & Foo, 1998) The Conflict Tactics Scales–Parent/Child (Straus, Hamby, Finkelhor, Moore, & Runyan, 1998)	Multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Moderation analysis conducted: Perspective-taking, and empathy were tested as moderators.	Participants who reported greater family-of-origin aggression also reported greater electronic dating violence perpetration. Higher perspective-taking and empathy separately lowered the association between family violence and dating violence perpetration.
[78]	N = 1432 women and men Age range and mean age not reported	Examine the role of poor parenting, child abuse, attachment style and risky sexual and drug use behaviours on dating violence perpetration among university students.	Cross-sectional	Physical and psychological violence	Perpetration	The Conflict Tactics Scale 2 (CTS2; Straus et al., 1996)	Child physical abuse. Witnessing parental violence. Maternal relationship quality.	The Conflict Tactics Scales–Parent/Child (Straus, Hamby, Finkelhor, Moore, & Runyan, 1998) Ad hoc questionnaires	Bivariate and multivariate analysis between ACEs and dating violence Moderation analysis conducted: Attachment style and risky behaviours were tested as moderators.	Child physical abuse and poorer maternal relationships quality were directly associated with dating violence perpetration. Witnessing parental violence was associated with perpetration on those participants engaged in more sexual risk behaviours.

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