

Prediction of Violence Perpetration Among High-risk Youth

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Objectives: To prospectively examine demographic background, personality, perceived environment, and behavior as violence perpetration predictors in emerging adulthood among high-risk adolescents using problem-behavior theory as a conceptual perspective. **Methods:** Self-report questionnaires were administered 5 years apart to 676 participants. **Results:** Hard drug use, belief that hurting another's property while drunk was acceptable, and high-risk group self-identification predicted later

violence perpetration independent of baseline violence perpetration. **Conclusions:** Consistent with problem-behavior theory, personality, perceived environment, and behavior variables, beyond baseline violent behavior, predict risk for future violence perpetration in emerging adulthood, whereas demographic background may exert indirect effects.

Key words: violence, problem behavior theory, youth, emerging adulthood

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