**Introduction**

- Few studies have investigated child-parent violence (CPV), despite findings suggesting that CPV occurs in 14% to 20% of North American homes (Elman & Straus, 2003).
- Research has suggested that the frequency and severity of childhood aggression remains stable into adolescence, with chronically aggressive kindergartners more likely to abuse their parents as adolescents (Pagani et al., 2004).
- Recent findings suggest that adolescents with a history of CPV are more likely to be aggressive with their peers and other adults outside the home (Blabe & Jaureguizar, 2010).
- CPV has been associated with problematic behavioural outcomes, including low frustration tolerance and aggression (Cottrell & Monk, 2004; Neck & Kaazim, 2002; as well as poor academic functioning (Paulson et al., 1990)) in adolescence.
- While past research has contributed to our understanding of CPV outcomes during adolescence, there is a need for research that examines the implications of CPV on behavioural and interpersonal functioning later in the lifespan. Furthermore, past studies have not investigated CPV outcomes while taking into account other variables that may impact behavioural and interpersonal functioning (e.g., socio-demographics, childhood exposure to family violence).

**Research Objectives & Hypotheses**

- The current study addresses these gaps by exploring the association between CPV and violence (e.g., intimate partner violence as well as their adult dating experiences and attitudes towards the inclusion of such covariates as socio-demographics and family violence more broadly). Furthermore, past studies have not investigated CPV variables during young adulthood while controlling for a number of socio-demographics and family functioning variables.

**Hypotheses**

- CPV will be associated with greater dating violence perpetration and greater endorsement of violent attitudes. We expect that these associations will hold even with the inclusion of such covariates as socio-demographics and family violence more generally.

**Method**

- Participants and Procedure
  - 379 undergraduates at the University of Ottawa.
  - Participants completed a 60-minute on-line questionnaire, which assessed their childhood experiences of family violence as well as their adult dating experiences and attitudes towards violence.

**Results**

**Discussion**

- CPV was initially associated with greater endorsement of violent attitudes in adulthood. This finding is in line with past studies which have found a positive association between attitudes toward violence and the use of physical violence (e.g., Caulfield et al., 1994), and more generally, between attitudes toward violence and subsequent behaviours (Kraus, 1995). However, this association did not hold with the inclusion of socio-demographic and family violence covariates.
- CPV was associated with greater dating violence perpetration. This is consistent with previous findings showing that aggression generally remains stable over time (Pagani et al., 2004).
- Children who are aggressive towards parents without consequence may learn that such behaviour is effective in eliciting compliance and submission (Cottrell & Monk, 2004) and will therefore engage in similar social-aggressive behaviour in the future. Furthermore, CPV has been associated with poor parent-child relationships (Nock & Kazdin, 2002), which are predictive of relationship difficulties later in life (Bryant & Conger, 2002).
- Childhood experiences of violence were also associated with perpetration of dating violence. Specifically, exposure to physical IPV and physical abuse were found to predict dating partner violence perpetration, while spanking and physical abuse predicted levels of violence.
- These findings are congruent with social learning theory (Bandura, 1977), which indicates that children exposed to physical violence within the home model the violent attitudes and behaviours of their caregivers.
- The current study found that females were more likely to perpetrate dating violence. This result is at odds with the commonly-held belief that men are more aggressive than women. It is important to note, however, that the majority of the reported dating violence perpetration consisted of verbal aggression (e.g., insulting, swearing at one’s partner) which is typically more common among females (Halpern et al., 2001). It is also possible that males are less likely to report dating violence perpetration because male-to-female violence is generally viewed by society as less acceptable than female-to-male violence (Gray & Foshee, 1997). Future studies may wish to explore the developmental trajectories associated with male and female-perpetrated CPV, respectively.
- Limitations to this study include a cross-sectional design and reliance on retrospective, self-report data.