

Alan W. Leschied and Anne Cummings
Faculty of Education
The University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, Canada

and
Michele Van Brunschot and Alison Cunningham
Family Court Clinic
London, Ontario, Canada

and
Angela Saunders
OISE/University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Female Adolescent Aggression: A Review of the Literature and the Correlates of Aggression¹

2000-04

¹This report was provided to the Solicitor General of Canada under contract number 9914-UNI-587. The support of Dr. Jim Bonta, Chief, Corrections Research of the Ministry, is greatly appreciated. In addition, we acknowledge Irving Kulik of the RCJNet, who supported this work in encouraging our efforts early on. Technical advice and support was obtained from Dr. Linda Simourd of Kingston Ontario, Dr. Paul Gendreau of the Centre of Criminal Justice Studies at the University of New Brunswick, and Dr. Bob Sandieson and Nicole Heilbron of the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario.

The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Solicitor General Canada. This document is available in French. Ce rapport est disponible en français sous le titre: *La violence chez les adolescentes: Étude documentaire et corrélations*. This report is also available on the Solicitor General Canada's Internet Site <http://www.sgc.gc.ca>

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Cat. No.: JS4-1/2000-2E

ISBN: 0-662-28720-7

Abstract

This review of the literature focuses on aggression and girls. Recent evidence from Statistics Canada has reported on the increase of female adolescent aggression in official crime statistics. This reporting has created considerable interest in a heretofore largely ignored area of childhood maladjustment. This review provides a context on the violence literature with adolescent girls through first, reviewing the aggression literature with girls under the age of twelve years and second, providing a summary of the correlates from the aggression literature with adolescent girls. Important differences regarding the development and expression of aggression with girls in contrast to boys is provided. In the context of what is acknowledged to be a limited literature, there are important themes for human service providers and policy makers to consider in examining assessment, treatment and prevention strategies for aggressive adolescent girls. Finally, an orientation towards furthering a research agenda in the area of adolescent aggression with girls is provided.

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