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

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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.