



Developmental Pathways Explaining Repeat Victimization: The Influence of Delinquent Friendships



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Introduction

- Peer affiliations are groups of children who engage in unlawful or inappropriate behavior (ex. smoking, drinking, skipping class, violence, etc.)
- There are social and environmental reasons for a child joining a peer affiliation
 - Pressures both at home and at school
 - Ex. Child who seeks comfort in peer affiliations after being bullied at school and having an unstable family
- Lack of comfort leads adolescents to finding comfort
- After finding refuge in peer affiliations, adolescents believed the affiliations with protect them
 - Adolescents can believe they will be guarded specifically at school
- With this protection, they become part of a cycle
 - There will be others who are not in the status quo who are bullied
 - These children will then join the peer affiliation, feeding the cycle
 - Bullying, improper support from home, and pressures to conform continue to feed this cycle

Abstract

There is a causality linking victimization and delinquent friendships. Previous studies have argued that victimization affects changes in deviant peer affiliations, but the mechanisms by which victimization affects peer associations have rarely been examined. Through a further literature review, my study explores whether victimization increases delinquent peer affiliations and the casual processes involved. Additionally, this research examines, in a more general sense, who the targets are, what risk factors increase the risk of victimization, and even what the negative consequences of victimization would be. Finally, I suggest policy implications to reduce the risk of victimization for adolescents.

Methods

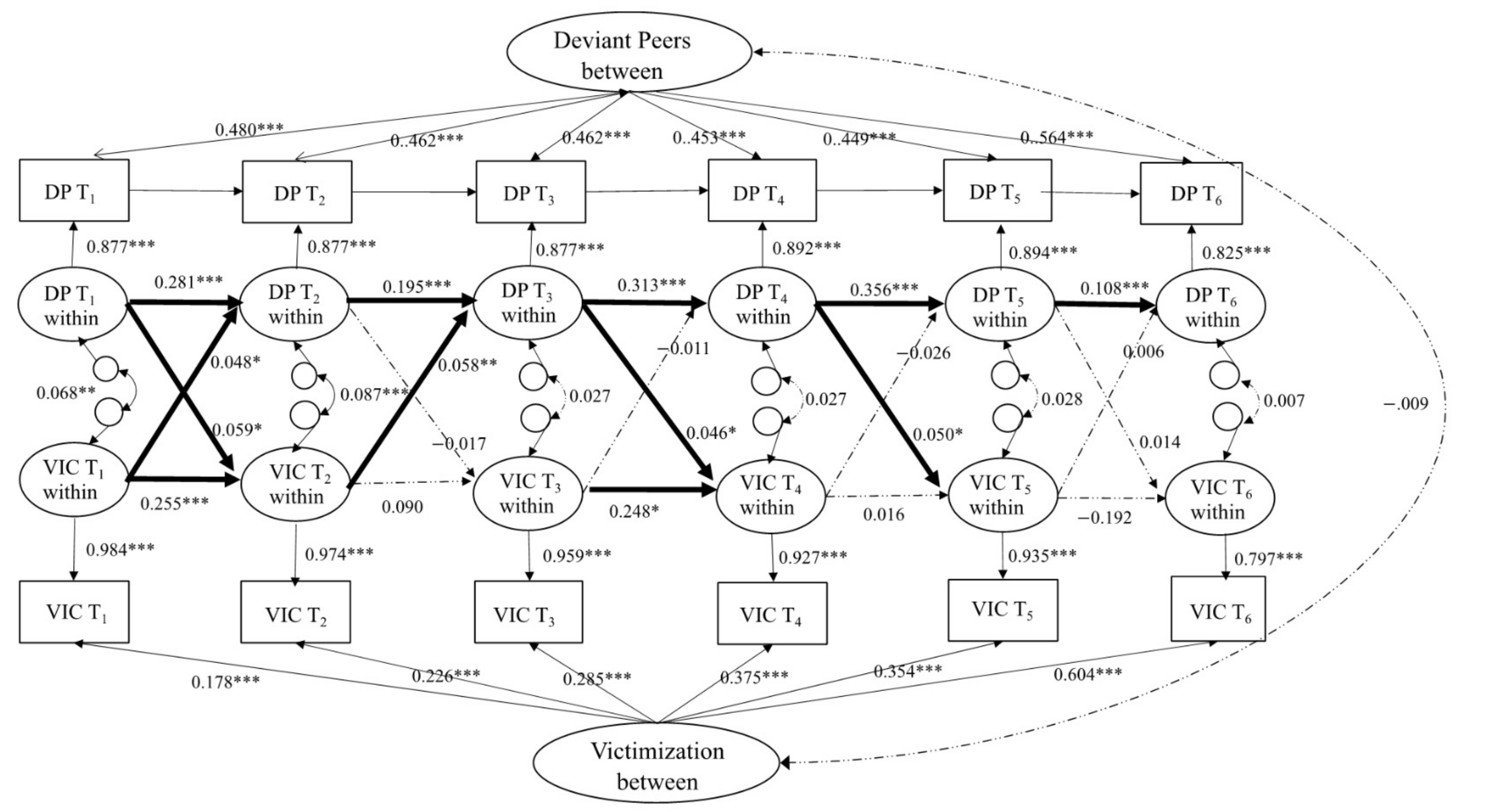
- Literature review
- Academic journals
- Studies on children's behaviors and environments
- Includes studies, such as observing different schools and how the students interact within the schools
 - A study done in South Korea measured delinquent peers, victimization, control variables, parental socialization, family structure, and teacher attachment

Results

- Adolescents more at risk have: low self-control, experienced violence early in life, no present capable guardian, etc.
- Maladaptive coping responses
- Delinquent peers increase chance of being a victim in later life after adolescence
- Victimization in peer affiliations is so effective because adolescents have a "peer-oriented" nature
- Victimization in adolescence increases risk of repeat victimization, but young adults are not as susceptible
- School initiatives can be effective in reducing repeat victimization – prosocial opportunities

Victimization Chart

"You, M. (2024), The Intervening Mechanism of Repeat Victimization throughout Delinquent Peer Association (in progress for *Justice Quarterly*)"



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