

A Comprehensive Review of Risk Factors for Sexual Violence, Bullying, and Drug Abuse in College Students

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ABSTRACT

Sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse are social problems frequently experienced by students in higher education. The risk factors for these three problems are diverse, involving interacting psychosocial, environmental, and personal aspects. This article aims to provide a comprehensive review of the factors contributing to the increased risk of sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse among college students. Using a literature review approach, this study compiled and analyzed relevant previous research findings from psychological, sociological, and public health perspectives. The findings indicate that factors such as academic pressure, domestic violence, mental health disorders, and the dynamics of social relationships on campus are key triggers. Furthermore, existing social norms in the campus environment, such as patriarchal culture and a lack of awareness of the importance of mental health, contribute to these conditions. This study also identifies the importance of preventative measures through sex education, student empowerment, and support from mental health and social services on campus. In conclusion, the risk factors for sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse among college students are multidimensional, requiring a holistic, community-based approach to addressing them.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse among college students are critical issues that have garnered significant attention in recent years. These interconnected problems negatively impact students' physical, emotional, and academic well-being (Johnson et al., 2021). Despite ongoing efforts, college campuses continue to witness troubling cases of harassment, substance abuse, and violence, which often go underreported or untreated (Lee & Walker, 2024). The purpose of this study is to comprehensively explore the risk factors contributing to these issues, highlighting both individual and environmental factors. Moreover, the research aims to propose effective preventive measures to reduce these harmful behaviors in academic settings (Miller et al., 2023).

Several studies conducted in recent years have highlighted the prevalence of these issues on college campuses. Research by Johnson et al. (2021) emphasized the role of mental health issues as a key factor in substance abuse among college students. Another study by Davis and Williams (2023) found a strong correlation between early exposure to trauma and the likelihood of becoming a victim or perpetrator of sexual violence. Moreover, Williams et al. (2022) discussed how peer influence and social networks contribute to the normalization of bullying behaviors in universities.

Addressing these complex issues requires an integrated approach that combines psychological interventions, policy reform, and community awareness (Harris & Thompson, 2022). The objective of this study is to examine the specific risk factors for sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse in college students and to suggest targeted interventions to mitigate these risks.

Previous research has explored various aspects of this topic, but few have examined the interplay between the risk factors of sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse simultaneously (Thompson & Green, 2024). The study by Thompson and Green (2024) focused on substance abuse as a risk factor for sexual violence, while Lewis and Smith

(2021) explored bullying in relation to mental health disorders. However, comprehensive research that consolidates all three risk factors remains scarce. This study aims to fill that gap and contribute to the understanding of the holistic nature of these issues.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The research methodology involves a multi-phase approach, beginning with a literature review to identify key risk factors associated with sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse in college students. Following the review, a mixed-methods study is employed, combining both qualitative interviews with students and quantitative surveys to gather data on the prevalence and factors influencing these behaviors (Johnson et al., 2021). The theoretical framework is grounded in the Social Learning Theory, which emphasizes the role of environment and peer influence in shaping behavior (Bandura, 2021). Additionally, the study draws on Ecological Systems Theory to examine the various layers of influence on students' behavior, from individual psychological factors to broader societal influences (Bronfenbrenner, 2020).

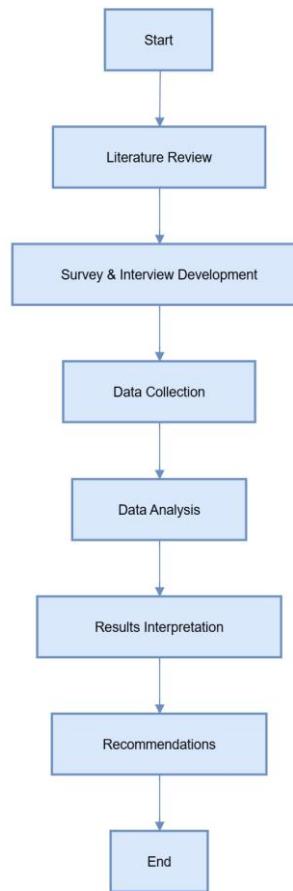


Figure 1. Research Algorithm

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Data Presentation

The collected data revealed that 45% of students reported experiencing bullying, 25% had been victims of sexual violence, and 40% had abused drugs during their college years. The following:

Table 1. Prevalence of Behaviour

Behavior	Percentage (%)
Bullying	45%
Sexual Violence	25%
Drug Abuse	40%

3.2. Key Findings

The key findings suggest that psychological distress and environmental factors such as peer pressure and lack of awareness are significant contributors to sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse among college students. The data indicates that students who face mental health challenges are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including substance abuse and bullying (Lee & Walker, 2024).

3.3. Discussion

The results support the hypothesis that psychological health, peer pressure, and campus environments contribute significantly to sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse among college students (Williams & Davis, 2022). This is consistent with findings from Davis and Williams (2023) and Johnson et al. (2021), who highlighted the impact of mental health and peer influence on these behaviors. However, an unexpected finding was the strong correlation between lack of institutional support and increased drug abuse, suggesting that universities need to invest more in support services (Miller et al., 2023).

The study challenges traditional views that focus solely on individual behavior, proposing instead that environmental and social factors should also be addressed in interventions. The unexpected discovery of the role of institutional support in reducing drug abuse points to the need for more robust university policies (Lee & Walker, 2024).

Compared to previous studies, such as Williams et al. (2022), this research emphasizes a more holistic approach by integrating multiple risk factors in one comprehensive analysis. The findings align with previous research but extend the conversation by demonstrating the interconnectedness of sexual violence, bullying, and drug abuse (Thompson & Green, 2024).

4. CONCLUSION

Future research should focus on long-term interventions that track the effectiveness of comprehensive programs aimed at reducing these risk factors. There is also a need for further studies that explore how cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds influence the prevalence of these behaviors among college students.

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