

- **Individual (Demographic, Psychosocial, Behavioral, and Psychological) Factors** **Demographic factors** include gender, race/ethnicity, parental education or SES, family structure, and academic grades. With respect to gender, the few available studies have yielded mixed results. For example, among mostly high school students, perpetrating cyber dating abuse differed significantly by gender, with males being more likely to perpetrate sexual forms of abuse, whereas females were more likely to perpetrate non-sexual forms of abuse (Zweig et al. 2013b). **With respect to race/ethnicity**, for high school students, race/ethnicity was not associated with perpetrating cyber dating abuse (Temple et al. 2016; Zweig et al. 2013a); however, for middle school students, Hispanic race/ethnicity was a correlate of the perpetration of cyber dating abuse (Cutbush 2012). Most of the few studies available report that perpetrating **cyber dating abuse does not differ by parental education** (Cutbush et al. 2012; Temple et al. 2016) or SES (Zweig et al. 2013a), family structure (Zweig et al. 2013a), or academic grades (Cutbush et al. 2012; Zweig et al. 2013a). With respect to psychosocial factors, only anger has been reported to be a correlate of the perpetration of cyber dating abuse (Zweig et al. 2013a).
- **Behavioral factors** associated with the perpetration of cyber dating abuse are similar to those reported for the perpetration of other types of dating violence. These factors, among predominantly high school students, include bullying perpetration (Yahner et al. 2015), delinquent behaviors, and substance use (Zweig et al. 2013a). Among seventh graders, however, bullying perpetration was not associated with perpetrating cyber dating abuse (Cutbush et al. 2012).
- **Psychological factors**: Among a sample of mostly high school students, recent depressive symptoms, but not anxiety, was a correlate of the perpetration of cyber dating abuse (Zweig et al. 2013a). Among ninth graders, peer aggression was associated with perpetrating cyber dating abuse (Cutbush et al. 2010). With respect to family factors, among a mostly high school sample, no parental factors (e.g., parental closeness, parent-child frequency of activities together and communication) were associated with perpetrating cyber dating abuse (Zweig et al. 2013a). Among seventh graders, however, **parent-child communication about social media** was a correlate of the perpetration of cyber dating abuse (Cutbush 2012).

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Results

- **Participant Characteristics** Participants were 56 % female, 30 % Black, and 61 % Hispanic, with a mean age of 12.4 (standard deviation = 0.64) years. Close to 15 % of participants reported perpetrating cyber dating abuse at least once during their lifetime. The most prevalent forms of cyber dating abuse were using a **dating partner's social networking account without permission and making a dating partner afraid of not responding to the other partner's calls and messages**. Tables 1 and 2 provide descriptive characteristics for participants and study variables, respectively.
- As shown in Table 3, on bivariate analysis, several variables across socio-ecological levels were associated with perpetrating cyber dating abuse. At the individual level, more demographic (female gender, "other" household structure, older age); psychosocial (more unfavorable norms for violence for boys against girls and girls against boys, greater destructive conflict resolution skills, more positive attitude toward sexting); behavioral (having a current boyfriend/ girlfriend, bullying victimization, bullying perpetration, alcohol/drug use); and psychological/physical health (depressive symptoms, anxiety, health complaints) variables were associated with higher odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse (all $p < .20$). At the peer level, **peer drug use and dating violence perpetration were also associated with higher odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse** (both $p < .20$). However, at the individual level, a psychosocial variable (greater self-efficacy to resolve conflict) and a behavioral variable (usual age of boyfriends/girlfriends [either same age or younger]) were associated with lower odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse (both $p < .20$). At the family level, **greater parental monitoring and greater parent-child closeness were also associated with lower odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse** (both $p < .20$). At the community level, social support from community members was not associated with perpetrating cyber dating abuse. Multivariate Analysis by Socio-Ecological Levels (Block Models) Individual Level As shown in Table 3, in the demographic block model, all variables (female gender, "other" household structure, older age) remained associated with higher odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse (all $p < .20$). In the psychosocial block model, with the exception of one variable (norms for violence for girls against boys), all variables (norms for violence for boys against girls, destructive conflict resolution skills, attitudes toward sexting) remained associated with higher odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse (all $p < .20$). Greater self-efficacy for resolving conflict remained associated with lower odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse ($p < .20$). In the behavioral block model, only two variables (having a current boyfriend/girlfriend, bullying perpetration) remained associated with a greater odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse (both $p < .20$). Usual age of boyfriends/ girlfriends (either same age or younger) remained associated with lower odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse ($p < .20$). In the psychological/physical health block model, only health complaints remained associated with higher odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse ($p < .20$).
- In the peer block model, only peer dating violence perpetration remained associated with higher odds of perpetrating cyber dating abuse

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almost 15 % of sixth graders reported perpetrating cyber dating abuse at least once during their lifetime

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The current study also found that the most prevalent forms of cyber dating abuse were using a dating partner's social networking account without permission and making a dating partner afraid of not responding to the other partner's calls and messages. This finding is consistent with that of Zweig and colleagues (2013b), who found that using a dating partner's social networking account without permission was the most prevalent type of cyber dating abuse in their sample.

The high prevalence of perpetrating cyber dating abuse among sixth-grade daters supports extant literature recommending the