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Dating Violence Among Adolescents: When Does it Begin?

Kelly S. O'Hearn

University of Texas Permian Basin

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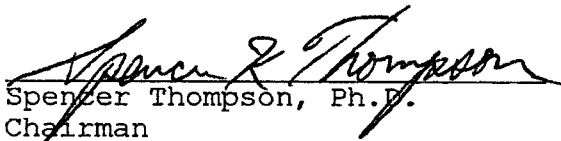
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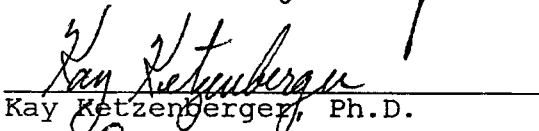
DATING VIOLENCE AMONG ADOLESCENTS:

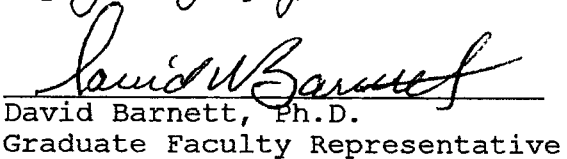
WHEN DOES IT BEGIN?

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David Barnett, Ph.D.
Graduate Faculty Representative

DATING VIOLENCE AMONG ADOLESCENTS:
WHEN DOES IT BEGIN?

by

KELLY S. O'HEARN, B.A.

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Faculty of Psychology
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for the Degree of
MASTER OF ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

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Abstract

Research has investigated dating violence (DV) in high school populations yet no studies have examined adolescents in the 7th and 8th grades. The present study investigated the prevalence of DV in the Permian Basin area of West Texas. Comparisons of the prevalence of DV between junior high (7th & 8th grades), freshman high (9th grade) and senior high school (10th, 11th, & 12th grades) found no significant differences of used or received DV. The prevalence of DV in the Permian Basin was similar to those found in some studies that used college student samples. Significant interactions effects and main effects were found for ethnicity and gender in the DV subscales. Acceptance of violence was examined. This analysis found that adolescents who had used dating violence were more accepting of violence in dating relationships. Significant between groups differences were found for ethnicity and gender.