

**AN EXAMINATION OF MODERATORS OF USE OF
VIOLENCE BY
ADOLESCENTS**

by

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(ABSTRACT)

This project examined the extent to which psychosocial or personal variables moderated the relationship between exposure to violence and use of violence in adolescents. The relationship between exposure to violence and use of violence was examined within a sample of adolescents, ages 13 -18. The major goals of this study were to examine some possible correlates of violence use and to determine the extent to which certain personal variables (i.e., locus of control, social skills, feelings of despair, and certainty of being alive at age 25) operate as protective or vulnerability factors for those adolescents at risk for violence. The conceptualization of this study was based on the framework of the compensatory and protective vs. vulnerability models. As hypothesized, a strong relationship between exposure to community violence and use of violence was found in this study. In addition,