Parental Monitoring, Peer Risk Involvement and Adolescent Sexual Risk Behavior

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In the study, perceived peer risk involvement was positively correlated with sexual risk behavior at each time (0.33–0.39) and across time points (0.29–0.36). Parental monitoring was negatively correlated with sexual risk behavior at each time (−0.25 to −0.31) and across times (−0.24 to −0.34). Age was positively correlated with sexual risk behavior at Times 1, 2 and 3 (0.09–0.12).

Also, compared with male youth, females reported higher levels of parental monitoring (0.20–0.31) and lower levels of sexual risk involvement (−0.18 to −0.24) at all four times.

Structural Equation Models

The overall fit was acceptable for the full structural equation models for males (CFI=0.93, TLI=0.91, RMSEA=0.07, χ²/df=2.49; Figure 1, page 93) and for females (CFI=0.95, TLI=0.93, RMSEA=0.06, χ²/df=2.41; Figure 2, page 93). At baseline, perceived peer risk involvement was positively correlated with sexual risk behavior for males and females (coefficients, 0.57 and 0.39, respectively), and parental monitoring was negatively correlated with sexual risk behavior (−0.33 and −0.19). In addition, initial perceived peer risk involvement was negatively associated with initial parental monitoring for both genders (−0.49 and −0.51). The cross-lagged paths in both models showed that perceived peer risk involvement at Times 1, 2 and 3 predicted significantly riskier sexual behavior among male and female adolescents.

Bivariate Correlations

Perceived peer risk involvement was negatively correlated with parental monitoring at each time point (coefficients, −0.15 to −0.27; Table 2, page 92) and across time points (−0.15 to −0.27); it was positively correlated with sexual risk behavior at each time (0.33–0.39) and across time points (0.29–0.36). Parental monitoring was negatively correlated with sexual risk behavior at each time (−0.25 to −0.31) and across times (−0.24 to −0.34) and lower levels of sexual risk involvement (−0.18 to −0.24) at all four times.

Notes: Numbers before the slash are coefficients for male model and numbers after the slash are coefficients for female model. Bold lines with coefficients indicate significant paths. T1=baseline; T2=6 mos.; T3=12 mos.; and T4=18 mos. E1–E8 indicate error terms.