



Research Article

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Bibliometric Mapping of Dating Violence in Scopus and Web of Science

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Abstract

Introduction: Dating violence is a complex and multifaceted problem that affects people around the world. The objective was to evaluate the scientific production on dating violence in the Scopus and Web Of Science databases. Method: Scoping review was used as a method to analyze manuscripts in indexed journals. The search equations were designed with Boolean terms and operators. For the analysis of co-occurrences between authors and keywords, the Biblioshyni package was used. Results: The study covered the last 10 years, included 3077 publications from 735 journals, with a citation rate of 20.65 per document. 10499 authors participated, 92.95% of these were original articles and the most prominent authors are Miller E., Gibbs A., Decker M.R., and Silverman J.G., with the United States leading in production (49.89%). The Journal of Interpersonal Violence was the most prolific journal with 403 papers. Important thematic clusters were identified, such as violence in young couples, risk factors and interpersonal relationships, and aggression, in addition, an evolution from the approach of human and sexual relationships and violence in women was evidenced. The collaborative network showed strong connections between key authors such as Silverman, Miller, McCauley, Campbell, Stockman, Jewkes, and Gibbs. Conclusions: International collaboration and the concentration of studies in high-impact journals, mainly in the United States, underscore the need for multidisciplinary and culturally adapted approaches to effectively address and prevent dating violence.

Keywords: Psychological well-being, Mental health, Domestic violence, Scientific production indicators, Bibliometric study, Scopus

1. Introduction

Dating violence (DV) is a complex and multifaceted problem that affects people all over the world, regardless of age, gender, culture, or socioeconomic status (Brodeur et al., 2023). This manifests itself in painful experiences that have consequences in various contexts, family, social, relational, and others (Barroso-Corroto et al., 2024; Fedina et al., 2024). Recent data shows that, on average, in the

United States, one in eight students has experienced violence in its various manifestations by someone they are dating (Basile et al., 2020).

For the purposes of this study, DV is conceptualized as a pattern of abusive or aggressive behaviors exercised by one of the parties in a romantic relationship towards the other (Pereda et al., 2022). Similarly, they refer to the set of abusive behaviors that are perpetrated by one of the members of the couple with the aim of maintaining power and control over the other, thus generating an environment of fear, intimidation, and submission (Gracia-Leiva et al., 2019). The theoretical models that explain DV are based on Bandura's theory (1973) which maintains that behaviors are learned through observation and imitation, which is maintained through differential reinforcement, initially observed in the father. This theory explains the behavioral mediating effect of early interactions with parents as a particular model (Shorey et al., 2008). Domestic violence often manifests itself in behaviors ranging from physical aggression and psychological abuse to more subtle forms of coercion and manipulation (Edison et al., 2024).

The importance of the study is based on the need to understand the dimensions and dynamics of violence in young people's relationships (dating), an area that, despite its importance, has been relatively little explored compared to other forms of violence (Bott et al., 2021; Pérez-Martínez & Rodríguez-Fernández, 2024). According to the scientific literature, the study on DV has an impact on health and represents a predictor of intimate partner violence in adulthood (Temple et al., 2023). In addition, it triggers psychological problems such as low levels of self-esteem, addictions, and risky sexual behaviors (Taquette & Monteiro, 2019). These manifest themselves equally in men and women (Castillo-González et al., 2024; Morrison et al., 2023). On the other hand, DV manifests itself in high rates worldwide, a clear example is the prevalence in the United States of 9.2% in adolescents (Adhia et al., 2024); in this same context it is associated with substance use, which indicates that there is a 2.1 times greater probability of occurrence (Nwabueze et al., 2024).

The aforementioned results are similar to the Latin American context, where sociocultural factors play an important role in predicting them (Terrazas-Carrillo et al., 2024). However, despite the abundant evidence on the implications of their study, there is a scarcity of measurement or characterization in the scientific literature, since they have been mostly measured in systematic review studies with the intention of understanding the problem in question to a greater extent (Arrojo et al., 2024); where family involvement and current social interaction networks are emphasized (Muñiz-Rivas et al., 2023).

The bibliometric study on DV will provide relevant information for the formulation of public policies and the implementation of preventive and intervention practices. By identifying priority areas for research and evidence-based best practices, it could improve the institutional and community response to this social problem. In addition, the analysis of collaborative networks in the field of VN helps to better understand how research is carried out in different institutions and countries, to foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

Faced with this reality, various questions arise, such as: What type of documents or publications have been produced between 2014 and 2023? What was the evolution of the presentation of dating violence? Which have been the most representative countries, journals and authors in terms of knowledge of DV?, and What is the thematic map of future studies related to DV? This bibliometric study on scientific production in Scopus and Web of Science allows the evaluation of scientific activity in high-impact databases in relation to dating violence (Cañedo et al., 2010; Norris & Oppenheim, 2007; Zhu & Liu, 2020). By employing bibliometric mapping, this study not only reveals trends and key contributions in the field but also provides a comprehensive understanding of how research on dating violence has developed over the last decade. In this sense, the objective of the study is to reveal a topic of great social and academic importance; In addition, the findings contribute to the advancement of knowledge in this field and to the creation of more effective and sensitive strategies to address and prevent this global problem.

2. Methods and Materials

2.1 Study design

For the development of the study, a bibliographic review was considered under the scoping review approach (Colquhoun et al., 2014) that allowed the analysis of publications on DV. In this sense, the review of studies published in journals indexed in Scopus and Web Of Science between 2014 and 2023 was carried out worldwide. For the study, both university and non-university institutional affiliations were considered.

2.2 Data collection

Data collection was carried out in May 2024, a search was carried out using terms and descriptors, considering a large volume of available articles. The descriptors used were: "Dating violence, Intimate partner violence, Relationship abuse"; in addition, Boolean operators such as AND, OR were used. To perform the search in Scopus, the following equation was entered in the search for titles, abstract and keywords: TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Dating violence" OR "Intimate partner violence" OR "Relationship abuse" AND young). For Web Of Science, the following equation was entered into the search engine: ((TI=(Dating violence)) OR TI=(Intimate partner violence)) OR TI=(Relationship abuse)) AND TI=(Young). The initial search yielded 5049 documents in both databases, which were narrowed down between 2014 and 2023. Subareas of medicine, psychology, nursing and health professionals were selected and the language was not restricted, the results showed a total of 3077 documents in the PRISMA matrix (Figure 1).

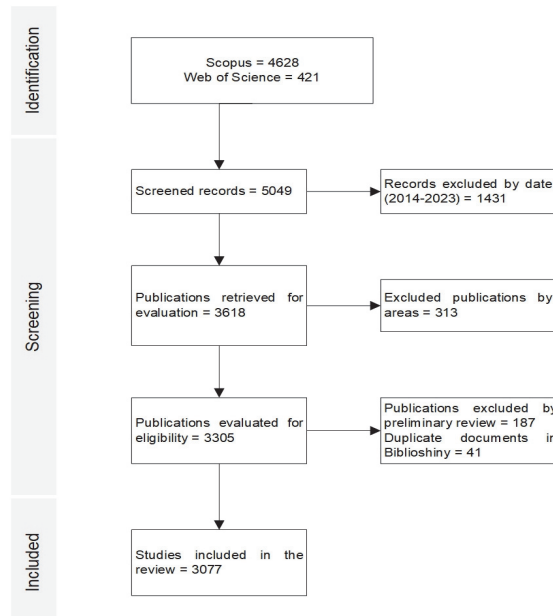


Figure 1. Searching and Selecting Articles (PRISMA)

The recovered documents maintained an evaluation process in terms of their quality, mainly ensuring that they have been subjected to a double-blind evaluation in their review, in addition to

the fact that the journals have been indexed in Scopus and Web Of Science. On the other hand, a review process has been followed to organize the findings (Montazeri et al., 2023).

2.3 Data analysis

The data retrieved from the main databases (Scopus and Web Of Science) were downloaded and then processed in Microsoft Excel®, according to the type of document, source and main journals. These data allowed the results to be presented in tables and figures. For the analysis, the Bibliometrix package was used with the Biblioshiny complement in RStudio 4.4.0, where the analysis of co-occurrence of keywords, authors and interactions between countries, journals and authors was carried out. It is important to clarify that the results of the databases were combined in RStudio to have a single file, the same one that eliminated 41 articles due to duplicity. In this way, 3077 documents were entered.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Results

The study covered the last 10 years and consulted 735 journals; in total they presented 3077 documents with a rate of 1.28% with respect to their annual growth. In addition, 10499 authors were registered, of these only 125 wrote documents of sole authorship. There were also 20.65 citations for each document, while the average time of the selected articles was 5 years, and 4286 keywords were analyzed (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Characteristics of the selected articles

A total of 3077 publications indexed in Scopus and Web Of Science were explored. Of these, 92.95% were original articles, followed by 3.41% of review articles and 1.04% of conferences (Table 1). The results found help researchers decide which database to search for literature related to their field of study and identify which types of contributions are most common and valued in their field. During the study period considered (2014-2023), the assessment of dating violence was considered to a greater extent in 2019 (Figure 3), while it began to decline in 2020 in relation to the confinement recorded by Covid-19.

Table 1. Types of documents registered in Scopus and Web of Science

| Document Type | Quantity | % |
|---------------------|----------|-------|
| Original articles | 2860 | 92.95 |
| Review Articles | 105 | 3.41 |
| Congresses | 32 | 1.04 |
| Book Chapter | 28 | 0.91 |
| Conference Articles | 17 | 0.55 |

| Document Type | Quantity | % |
|------------------------------|----------|------|
| Books | 4 | 0.13 |
| Early Access Items | 5 | 0.16 |
| Corrections | 9 | 0.29 |
| Editorial | 1 | 0.03 |
| Letters to the Editor | 6 | 0.19 |
| Other (notes, short surveys) | 10 | 0.32 |
| Total | 3077 | |

Note: Prepared by author

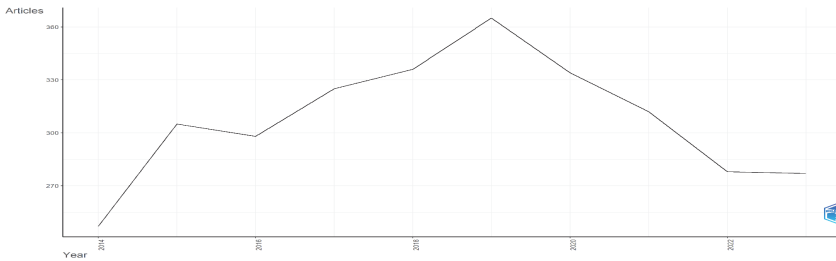


Figure 3. Evolution of the number of articles published

As for the country of origin of the reported investigations, 49.89% come from the United States, followed by Canada and the United Kingdom with more than 150 documents. Likewise, the main Latin American country was Brazil with a production of 2.07% (67 articles), which evidences its constant study to characterize and mitigate its effects within society. Despite its relevance, there is a very marked gap with respect to the production of other countries (Table 2).

Table 2. Countries with the highest production of dating violence, Scopus and Web Of Science

| Country | Quantity | % |
|----------------|----------|-------|
| United States | 1614 | 49.89 |
| Canada | 166 | 5.13 |
| United Kingdom | 165 | 5.10 |
| Spain | 159 | 4.91 |
| South Africa | 157 | 4.85 |
| Australia | 127 | 3.93 |
| Brazil | 67 | 2.07 |
| Sweden | 57 | 1.76 |
| India | 42 | 1.30 |
| China | 36 | 1.11 |

Note: Prepared by author

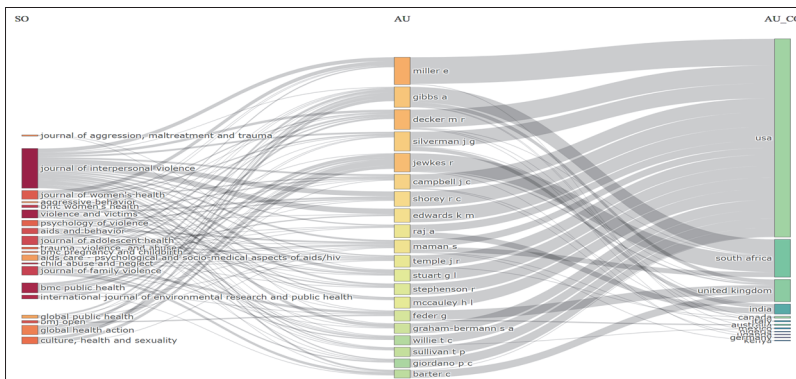
Table 3 shows the 10 main journals with the highest scientific production, 80% of the documents come from American journals where the Journal Of Interpersonal Violence stands out with 403 documents, followed by Violence And Victims with 93 articles. It should be noted that 70% of the journals were classified in the Q1 quartile with an average citation of 1.33 for each document. The areas or categories that have most explored the issue of dating violence have been 80% medicine and 40% psychology, followed by social sciences.

Table 3. Journals with the highest production on dating violence in Scopus and Web Of Science

| Journal | Country | Quartiles | SJR* | Category | Quantity |
|---|----------------|-----------|-------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Journal Of Interpersonal Violence | United States | Q1 | 1.043 | Psychology | 403 |
| Violence And Victims | United States | Q2 | 0.447 | Social Sciences, Medicine | 93 |
| BMC Public Health | United States | Q1 | 1.307 | Medicine | 86 |
| International Journal Of Environmental Research And Public Health | Switzerland | Q2 | 0.828 | Medicine, Environmental Sciences | 75 |
| Child Abuse And Neglect | United States | Q1 | 1.721 | Medicine, Psychology | 58 |
| BMC Women's Health | United States | Q2 | 0.775 | Medicine | 48 |
| Journal Of Family Violence | United States | Q1 | 0.691 | Social sciences, Psicología | 48 |
| Journal Of Adolescent Health | United States | Q1 | 2.175 | Medicine | 43 |
| AIDS and Behavior | United States | Q1 | 1.440 | Psychology, Medicine | 39 |
| BMJ Open | United Kingdom | Q1 | 0.971 | Medicine | 38 |

Note: Prepared by author

Figure 4 shows a summary of the authors, journals and countries that have contributed the most to the evaluation of dating violence. The Journal of Interpersonal Violence along with the Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma, are the main sources of publications on the subject. While the authors Miller E., Gibbs A., Decker M.R., Silverman J.G., are the ones who have been most cited, which implies that they have an important role in research on dating violence and the United States is the one with the largest number of authors. The connection between the journals and the authors shows that Miller E., and Gibbs A., have strong connections to journals such as the Journal of Interpersonal Violence and the Journal of Women's Health.



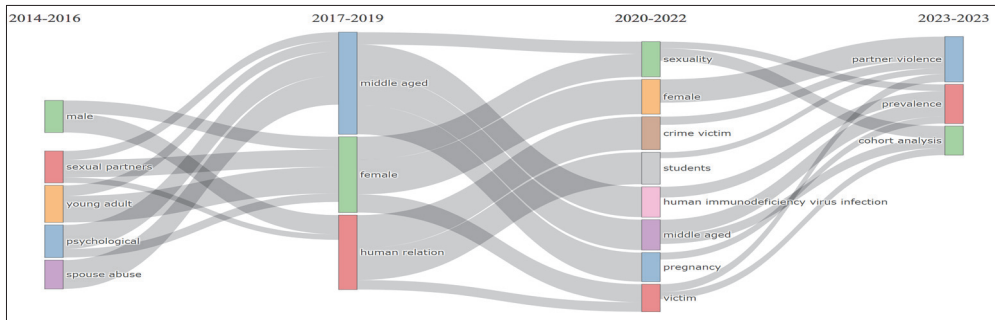
Note: Prepared by biblioshyini

Figure 4. Diagram of three journal-author-country fields on dating violence

With the 4286 descriptors of the 3077 documents distributed in Scopus and Web Of Science, four main clusters have been registered. The first (blue) groups terms such as, "female, young adult, adolescent, intimate partner violence, psychology", this focuses on intimate partner violence, especially in young adult and adolescent contexts. In other words, dating violence predominantly affects young women, found in domestic settings with mainly psychological conditions. On the other hand, the second (red) is remarkably dense and focuses on terms such as "middle aged, risk factor, prevalence, mental health". This indicates that studies have also focused on the importance of identifying risks in the young population that increase the probability of suffering violence, in addition to these having an impact on mental health. As for the third group (green), it includes terms

Moving to 2017-2019, there is a notable shift in focus towards middle-aged individuals and women. During this period, research expanded to explore human relationships, reflecting a growing interest in understanding how violence manifests across different life stages and within specific gender contexts. The attention to gender dynamics, especially violence against women, begins to take center stage, suggesting a more nuanced approach to analyzing violence based on both age and gender.

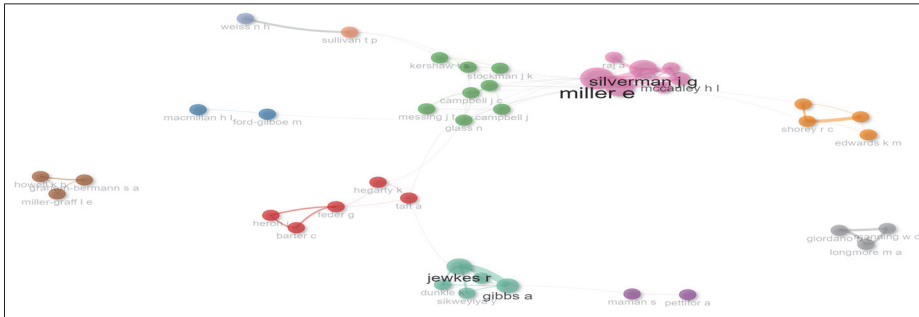
In 2020-2022, the thematic scope broadens even further, with research delving into topics such as sexuality, victimization among students, and the implications of HIV infection in the context of violence. There is also a growing emphasis on the impact of violence during pregnancy, signaling an increasing concern with the vulnerabilities experienced by women during critical life stages. This period marks a diversification in the study of violence, integrating a wider range of public health and societal issues. Finally, in the most recent period of 2023-2023, research appears to concentrate on intimate partner violence, with a focus on the prevalence of violence and the development of cohort studies. These cohort studies are designed to provide longitudinal insights into patterns of violence within specific populations, indicating a methodological evolution in how researchers approach the study of violence. The emphasis on partner violence reflects a sustained interest in gendered violence, while the prevalence studies and cohort analyses suggest a commitment to understanding the scale and persistence of violence over time (Figure 7).



Note: Prepared by biblioshyni

Figure 7. Thematic evolution of keywords

The nodes represent the collaboration between authors regarding the publication of papers, the size of the papers reflects the number of the author's publications and/or the frequency of citations, and the strength of the lines between the nodes indicates the number of papers that the authors have written together. According to Figure 8, the first cluster (pink) is one of the largest and most connected, indicating close collaboration between authors such as: Silverman, Miller, and McCauley who appear to be the most prominent researchers, with many connections to other authors. The second cluster (green) shows a collaboration between Campbell J.C., Stockman J.K. that stands out as a central node, suggesting a leading role in the collaborations. Similarly, the third cluster (light green) has a dense network of collaborations with Jewkes R and Gibbs A. In addition, the fourth cluster (orange) is a small but well-defined cluster with collaborations between Shorey and Edwards. This co-authorship network also indicates well-developed research areas and others that may be emerging, providing a clear view of the structure and dynamics of research in this important field.



Note: Prepared by biblioshyni

Figure 8. Visualization of the main authors in the network

3.2 Discussion

The findings of the study reported 3077 publications in the Scopus database and Of Science website, where production maintained a similar trend in recent years, countries such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Spain have predominance over their production and exploration of the VN; In addition, it is the high-impact journals Q1 and Q2 that are evident in these countries and stand out clearly in terms of the number of publications. These results are similar to the literature found on DV (Martínez-Heredia et al., 2021) coincidentally, from 2015 onwards higher growth is reported and countries such as the United States lead its evaluation (Wu et al., 2020) This reality is explained by the early onset of violence within the context; that is, there is a higher prevalence of facts, factors, or predictors for this type of behavior (Paradis et al., 2024) The results of the study in question show a more limited participation of Latin American countries in the assessment of dating violence, despite the fact that it is a problem, as reported by studies in Mexico (Orozco et al., 2021), Argentina, Chile, Peru (Osorio et al., 2021) and Ecuador (Lopez-del Burgo et al., 2021), in which very high rates are recorded. In this sense, Brazil leads the assessment of this problem (Estebarán-Viñas et al., 2021) which highlights the need for greater geographic and cultural diversification in future research to better understand the dynamics of dating violence in different sociocultural contexts; in addition, in relation to the data obtained, its production on DV is contrasted.

In relation to the main journals, it is evident that once again journals in the United States lead scientific production, due to the concentration of financial resources and research infrastructure in these countries, which sustain a solid tradition of research and academic publication (Byrt et al., 2023). In addition, the presence of many of the most influential publishers and magazines in these countries increases their ability to define and address current issues and social relevance, such as dating violence. Public awareness and progressive policies in these regions also promote and require research on gender-based violence issues (Rochford et al., 2022) contributing to greater representation in the scientific literature. The results also show that the United States is the country with the highest number of authors who study DV and who mainly publish their journals such as the Journal of Interpersonal Violence together with the Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma with high impact rates (Trivedi et al., 2022)

As a result of the clusters analyzed, dating violence is mainly related to terms of young adults and adolescents, since its manifestation occurs in this context; in addition, they are linked to both physical and psychological health conditions, the latter two being more prevalent regardless of the context (Ayu et al., 2022; Matud et al., 2023; Temple et al., 2016) In this sense, having a comprehensive view of how dating violence affects the health and mental and physical well-being of the people involved is of vital importance for the development of mitigation strategies in more demanding contexts. On the other hand, dating violence is related to sociodemographic factors such

as sex, with men reporting a higher prevalence of physical and psychological violence (Matud et al., 2023) which translates into the need to address new approaches and perspectives to establish prevention policies. It is also important to state that in the study the search to clarify or characterize the risk factors for DV has been frequent, because it is considered a main element of violence in adulthood, mainly in women (Domingos & de Lira, 2024)

The study has not been without limitations, mainly due to the time of exploration of the date range (2014-2024), where the latter has not been completed, so the results must be carefully analyzed. Similarly, the selection of databases was only proposed two, a necessary result so that in future scenarios they can be grouped in greater number and achieve a greater generalization with respect to the data found. Despite the reported limitations, the study contributes greatly to the understanding of DV within the scientific literature; However, there is a need to address more data systematization and make use of a greater number of keywords to concretize search processes.

This study plays a crucial role in characterizing studies on DV in the global setting by disseminating information on severity and prevalence. In addition, in the field of public policies and social intervention, the results of the study may influence the formulation of more effective and specific strategies to combat dating violence. With a better understanding of the dynamics and risk factors associated with this type of violence, decision-makers can develop more realistic prevention and awareness programs, as well as more appropriate support and treatment services for victims. Even more so in the Latin American context, where DV has peaked above the global average (Osorio et al., 2021)

Regarding the main practical implications of the study, the finding that DV predominantly affects young women and adolescents suggests the need to develop and implement prevention and education programs specifically aimed at these groups. Interventions should focus on early identification of signs of abuse and the promotion of healthy relationships. In addition, the emphasis on risk factors and mental health in middle-aged people highlights the importance of psychological and therapeutic support services for this population, considering the long-term effects of violence on mental well-being. It also underlines the relevance of international collaboration in research, which can foster the creation of more effective public policies adapted to the cultural and social realities of different regions. Likewise, the notable participation of the United States in scientific production and the role of leading journals such as the Journal of Interpersonal Violence indicate that researchers and practitioners should be attentive to emerging developments and trends in these contexts. Finally, the diversification of topics in the last year, such as student victimization and the impact of HIV, suggests that future studies should adopt a multidisciplinary approach, integrating aspects of physical and mental health, to comprehensively address dating violence and its multiple dimensions. This comprehensive analysis provides a solid basis for the design of effective interventions and policies that mitigate the adverse effects of violence on early intimate partner relationships.

4. Conclusions

In summary, 3077 publications from 735 journals were included in the study, 10499 authors participated, and the research focused on original articles. The most prominent authors were Miller E., Gibbs A., Decker M.R., and Silverman J.G., with the United States leading in production (49.89%). The Journal of Interpersonal Violence was the most prolific journal with 403 papers and thematic axes such as violence in young couples, risk factors and interpersonal relationships and aggression linked to violence were found. The areas of study evolved from the understanding of sexual relations, violence in women and human relationships, sexuality and victimization of students. The collaborative network showed strong connections between key authors such as Silverman, Miller, McCauley, Campbell, Stockman, Jewkes, and Gibbs, indicating a centralized structure and close collaborations. In that sense, the knowledge generated has the potential to significantly influence policies, educational interventions, and public health strategies to combat and prevent intimate partner violence.

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