

DATING VIOLENCE AND FORCED SEX AMONG TEENAGERS –
Results from the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

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Based on the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) which monitors six categories of priority health risk behaviors among youth, dating violence is a serious issue for teens. The YRBSS includes a national school-based survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as state and local school-based surveys conducted by education and health agencies. The 2009 report summarizes results from the national survey, 42 state surveys, and 20 local surveys conducted among students in grades 9-12 during September 2008 to December 2009. For the national YRBSS, 16,460 questionnaires were completed in 158 schools.

Percentage of high school students who experienced dating violence¹ and who were physically forced to have sexual intercourse, by sex, race/ethnicity – United States, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2009

Dating Violence

	Female	Male	Total
White	7.2%	8.8%	8.0%
Black	14.8%	13.8%	14.3%
Hispanic	11.4%	11.7%	11.5%
TOTAL	9.3	10.3	9.8

Forced to Have Sexual Intercourse

	Female	Male	Total
White	10	3.2	6.3
Black	12.0	7.9	10.0
Hispanic	11.2	5.7	8.4
TOTAL	10.5	4.5	7.4

Dating Violence

During the 12 months preceding the survey, 9.8% of students nationwide had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (i.e., dating violence). This is slightly down from 9.9% of students in 2007.

Overall, the prevalence of dating violence was higher among male (10.3%) than female high school students (9.3%). This has consistently been the case over the last few years. In 2007, male high school students also reported higher dating violence rates than their female peers (11.0% vs. 8.8%).

The prevalence of dating violence was higher among black (14.3%) and Hispanic (11.5%) than white (8.0%) students; higher among black female (14.8%) than Hispanic

¹ Hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend during the 12 months preceding the survey.

female (11.4%) and white female (7.2%) students; and higher among black male (13.8%) than Hispanic male (11.7%) and white male (8.8%) students.

Prevalence of dating violence ranged from 7.4% to 17.8% across state surveys (median: 11.1%) and from 8.0% to 18.5% across local surveys (median: 12.0%).

Forced Sexual Intercourse

Nationwide, 7.4% of students had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to. This is down from 7.8% in 2007. Overall, the prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse was higher among female (10.5%) than male (4.5%) students.

Overall, the prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse was higher among black (10.0%) and Hispanic (8.4%) than white (6.3%) students; higher among black female (12.0%) than Hispanic female (11.2%) and white female (10%) students; and higher among black male (7.9%) and Hispanic male (5.7%) than white male (3.2%) students.

Prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse ranged from 6.4% to 13.2% across state surveys (median: 8.8%) and from 6.0% to 12.0% across local surveys (median: 7.9%).

LOCAL FINDINGS: CHICAGO

Dating Violence

1292 surveys were collected from students in Chicago.

During the 12 months preceding the survey, 18.5% of students in Chicago had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (i.e., dating violence). This is significantly up from 13.4% in 2007.

Overall, the prevalence of dating violence was higher among female (18.9%) than male (17.2%) students. At this time, there was no specific information regarding racial differences in dating violence.

Prevalence of dating violence ranged 8.0% to 18.5% across local surveys (median: 12.0%). This suggests that at 18.5% Chicago youth find themselves at the highest levels of experiencing dating violence. In fact, out of the 20 local communities surveyed, Chicago has the highest percentage of reported dating violence.

Forced Sexual Intercourse

In Chicago, 9.0% of students had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to. This is down from 11.3% in 2007.

The prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse was higher among male (9.1) than female (8.0%) students. There was no data available about racial differences in forced sexual intercourse at this time.

Prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse ranged from 6.0% to 12.0% across local surveys (median: 7.9%). Chicago youth were above the median though not at the highest reported rate of forced sexual intercourse.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Surveillance Summaries*, June 4, 2010. MMWR 2010:59 (No.SS-5).