

New York City Statistics: Youth & Dating Violence

In 2017, one in ten teenagers (10%) in New York City high schools report experiencing physical violence in a dating relationship within the last year alone, and 15.4% report experiencing sexual violence in a dating relationship within the last year alone.¹

In 2017, high school students in New York City are more likely to experience physical or sexual violence than students nationwide.²

In 2011, in New York City, 10.4% of male and female high school students reported being hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend/girlfriend within the past year.³

6.5% of high school students in New York City report having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.⁴

Nearly one-quarter of homeless high school students in New York City said that they had been forced to do something sexual that they did not want by someone they were dating in the last year. This was more than twice as high as the rate for housed students.⁵

One survey found that Black & Hispanic/Latino students in New York public schools reported experiencing more relationship violence than non-Black & non-Hispanic/Latino students.⁶

In 2016, 11.6% of all major crimes in New York City were related to domestic violence. This is a 6% increase since 2007. Domestic violence now accounts for one in every five homicides—and two in every five reported assaults—citywide.⁷

In New York City, nearly half of all female homicide victims age 16 or older were killed by their intimate partners, as compared to slightly more than 3 percent of all male homicide victims. 3.1% of these female victims were between ages 16-19.⁸

One study indicated that in New York City, teen survivors of dating abuse are 3x more likely to miss school due to not feeling safe, 3x more likely to carry a weapon to school, and 2x more likely to experience bullying in school.⁹

¹ New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Epiquery: NYC Interactive Health Data System - [Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2017]. <http://nyc.gov/health/epiquery>.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2017 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/>. Accessed on February 10, 2020.

³ NYC High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey. (2011).

⁴ NYC High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey. (2011).

⁵ Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness. *More Than a Place to Sleep: Understanding the Health and Well-Being of Homeless High School Students* (2017).

⁶ Peters, Z., Hatzenbuehler, M., & Davidson L (2017). Examining the Intersection of Bullying and Physical Relationship Violence Among New York City High School Students. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 32(1), 49-75.

⁷ New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence and New York City Criminal Justice. (2017) *NYC Domestic Violence Task Force: 2017 Goals and Recommendations*.

⁸ Fernandez-Lanier, A. (2016). Domestic Homicide in New York State 2015. [Web Page]. Retrieved March 6, 2017, from <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/domestic-homicide-2015.pdf>

⁹ Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. Intimate Partner Violence Traumatizes Children and Teens. Accessed November 21, 2018 from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/ocdv/downloads/pdf/ocdv-doe-fact-sheet.pdf>

National Statistics: Youth & Dating Violence

Prevalence of Violence

1 in 3 teens nationally report experiencing some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse.¹⁰

Approximately 1 in 5 female students and 1 in 10 male students have been victims of physical and/or sexual dating violence during the past 12 months. This includes being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon and/or sexual violence, such as unwanted kissing, touching or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.¹¹

A CDC survey indicated that a majority of women (71.1%) and over half of men (55.8%) who have experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner first experienced these or other forms of violence before the age of 25. About 1 in 4 female survivors (25.8%) and 1 in 7 male survivors (14.6%) first experienced intimate partner violence before the age of 18.¹²

Of college students that had been in abusive relationships, 70% did not know they were in an abusive relationship at the time.¹³

Nationally, 7.3% of students aged 10-24 had been physically coerced into having sexual intercourse.¹⁴

Gender-Based Violence

In 2015, a national youth risk behavior survey found that, among students who had been in a dating relationship in the past 12 months, the prevalence of physical dating violence was higher among female (11.7%) than male (7.4%) students.¹⁵

In a study of young women seeking family planning services, 53% of young women reported experiencing physical or sexual partner violence.¹⁶

Globally, about 1 in 3 women (30%) who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime.¹⁷

¹⁰ Vagi, K. J., Olsen, E. O. M., Basile, K. C., & Vivolo-Kantor, A. M. (2015). Teen dating violence (physical and sexual) among US high school students: findings from the 2013 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 169(5), 474-482.

¹¹ Vagi, K. J., Olsen, E. O. M., Basile, K. C., & Vivolo-Kantor, A. M. (2015). Teen dating violence (physical and sexual) among US high school students: findings from the 2013 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 169(5), 474-482.

¹² Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., Chen, J. (2018). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief – Updated Release. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

¹³ Fifth & Pacific Companies, Inc. (Formerly: Liz Claiborne, Inc.), Conducted by Knowledge Networks. (June 2011). College Dating Violence and Abuse Poll. Retrieved March 6, 2017, from <https://www.breakthecycle.org/surveys>.

¹⁴ Frieden, T. R., Jaffe, H. W., Cono, J., Richards, C. L., Iademarco, M. F. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2013. *MMWR* 2014;63(No. SS-4): 10

¹⁵ Kann, L., McManus, T., Harris, W.A., et. al. (2015) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2015. *MMWR* Surveill Summ 2016;65.

¹⁶ Miller, E. et. al.(2010). Pregnancy coercion, intimate partner violence and unintended pregnancy. *Contraception*, 81(4).

¹⁷ World Health Organization. (2011, January 5). *Violence against women*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

Violence against women not only affects physical health, but also their mental, sexual, reproductive health, and may even increase their chances of contracting HIV.¹⁸

Women aged 16-24 experience the highest per capita rate of intimate partner violence, triple the national average.¹⁹

A nationally representative study of adolescents found that 19% of girls ages 12-18 experienced sexual violence and 10% reported perpetrating such violence.²⁰

LGBTQ+ Relationships

One US study found that 43% of LGBT youth reported being survivors of physical dating violence, compared to 29% of heterosexual youth. 59% of LGBT youth reported experiencing emotional abuse, compared to 46% of heterosexual youth.²¹

Among US high school students who dated in the past year, the prevalence of physical dating violence was higher among gay, lesbian, and bisexual students (17.5%) and students who identified as 'not sure' (24.5%) than heterosexual students (8.3%).²²

Technology and Dating Abuse

40% of teens and young adults aged 14-24 have experienced technologically abusive dating behavior.²³

59% of U.S. teens have personally experienced at least one of type of abusive online behavior.²⁴

19% of people aged 14-24 in dating relationships say they feel like their partner checks up on them too often.²⁵

A 2013 study found that the most frequent form of harassment or abuse was tampering with a partner's social networking account without permission. Nearly 1 in 10 teens in relationships report having this happen to them in the past year.²⁶

¹⁸ World Health Organization. (2011, January 5). *Violence against women*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

¹⁹ Breiding, M.J., Chen J., & Black, M.C. (2014). *Intimate Partner Violence in the United States — 2010*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

²⁰ Miller, E. (2018). Reclaiming Gender and Power in Sexual Violence Prevention in Adolescence. *Violence Against Women*, 24(15), 1785-1793. doi:10.1177/1077801217753323

²¹ Dank, M., Lachman, P., Yahner, J., Zweig, J.M. (2013). Dating Violence Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth. *Urban Institute*. Retrieved March 6, 2017, from <http://www.urban.org/research/publication/dating-violence-experiences-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-youth>

²² US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. MMWR. (2016). Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Related Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12-United States and Selected Sites, 2015. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 65(9).

²³ Tompson, T., Benz, J., & Agiesta, J. (2013). *The Digital Abuse Study: Experiences of Teens and Young Adults*. AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

²⁴ Anderson, M. (2018). *A Majority of Teens Have Experienced Some Form of Cyberbullying*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2018/09/27/a-majority-of-teens-have-experienced-some-form-of-cyberbullying/>.

²⁵ Tompson, T., Benz, J., & Agiesta, J. (2013). *The Digital Abuse Study: Experiences of Teens and Young Adults*. AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

²⁶ Zwieg, J. & Dank, M. (2013). Teen dating abuse and harassment in the digital world. *Urban Institute*.

In the same survey, 7.4% of teens reported that their partner sent them texts/emails/etc. to engage in unwanted sexual acts. 6.8% reported being pressured to send a sexual or naked photo of themselves.²⁷

21% of teens who have dated reported that a current or past partner has read their text messages without their consent.²⁸

11% of teens who have dated reported that a current or past partner has contacted them through the internet or on the phone to send physical threats.²⁹

Young people, ages 15-29, are more likely to be victims of nonconsensual nude image sharing (revenge porn) than other age groups, with young women especially at risk.³⁰

As many as 1 in 12 Americans has been targeted by revenge porn.³¹

14.8% of youth are sending sexts and 27.4% are receiving sexts, with 12.5% of youth non-consensually forwarding sexts.³²

A 2015 study found that girls are more likely than boys to report being the recipient of explicit images they did not ask for (29% vs. 20%). Additionally, 35% of girls ages 15 to 17 say they have received unwanted explicit images, compared with about one-in-five boys in this age range and younger teens of both genders.³³

In 2019, the National Domestic Violence Hotline reported a 101% increase in the number of calls about digital abuse.³⁴

Settings

In a survey of high school guidance counselors in 2012, 81% said their school had no protocol for responding to a report of dating violence. And while 61% said they had had occasion to advise a survivor of dating violence in the previous two years, 90% said there had been no staff training in the previous two years regarding students experiencing dating abuse.³⁵

²⁷ Zweg, J. & Dank, M. (2013). Teen dating abuse and harassment in the digital world. *Urban Institute*.

²⁸ Pew Research Center. (2015). *Teens, Technology and Romantic Relationships*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2015/10/01/teens-technology-and-romantic-relationships/>.

²⁹ Pew Research Center. (2015). *Teens, Technology and Romantic Relationships*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2015/10/01/teens-technology-and-romantic-relationships/>.

³⁰ Data and Society. (2016). *Nonconsensual Image Sharing* [PDF file]. Retrieved from https://datasociety.net/pubs/oh/Nonconsensual_Image_Sharing_2016.pdf

³¹ Ruvalcaba, Y. & Eaton, A. (2019). Nonconsensual Pornography Among US Adults: A Sexual Scripts Framework on Victimization, Perpetration, and Health Correlates for Women & Men. *Psychology of Violence, American Psychological Association*. Retrieved from <https://www.cybercivilrights.org/2019-publication/>.

³² Madigan, S., Ly, A., Rash, C., Van Ouytsel, J., & Temple, J. (2018). Prevalence of Multiple Forms of Sexting Behavior Among Youth: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 172(4), 327–335. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2017.5314>

³³ Anderson, M. (2018). *A Majority of Teens Have Experienced Some Form of Cyberbullying*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2018/09/27/a-majority-of-teens-have-experienced-some-form-of-cyberbullying/>.

³⁴ National Domestic Violence Hotline (2019). *2019: A Year of Impact*. Retrieved from <https://www.thehotline.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/04/Impact-Report-2019.v1.pdf>

³⁵ Khubchandani, J., Price, J., Thompson, A., Dake, J.A., Wiblehauser, M. & Telljohann, S.K. (2012) Adolescent Dating Violence: A National Assessment of School Counselors' Perceptions and Practices. *Pediatrics* doi:10.1542/peds.2011-3130.

Bystander Issues

Teens with friends who perpetrate dating violence are significantly more likely to perpetrate dating violence themselves.³⁶

US high school students who self-report being hit by friends are about 169 percent more likely to perpetrate dating violence.³⁷

A national teen survey found that 84% of teen dating abuse survivors also reported perpetrating abuse.³⁸

Rate of Disclosures/Seeking Support

Of US teens that were in a violent relationship, 86% were more likely to confide in a friend rather than an adult.³⁹

Pursuing a protective order reduces the likelihood of a physical attack by 80%.⁴⁰

4 in 5 parents (81%) either don't believe that or don't know if teen dating violence is an issue.⁴¹

In a 2019 study of middle schoolers and high schoolers, only 9% of survivors reported seeking help after their experience of dating abuse, and girls were more likely to seek help than boys.⁴²

In the same 2019 study, 17% of students who did reach out for help contacted school counselors and 13% asked teachers.⁴³

Effective Prevention: Teen Education

One 2018 study found that high school students who are educated on refusal skills before college have a lower risk of experiencing penetrative sexual assault.⁴⁴

³⁶ Giordano PC, Kaufman A, Manning WD, Longmore MA. TEEN DATING VIOLENCE: THE INFLUENCE OF FRIENDSHIPS AND SCHOOL CONTEXT. *Sociol Focus*. 2015;48(2):150-171.

³⁷ Giordano PC, Kaufman A, Manning WD, Longmore MA. TEEN DATING VIOLENCE: THE INFLUENCE OF FRIENDSHIPS AND SCHOOL CONTEXT. *Sociol Focus*. 2015;48(2):150-171.

³⁸ Taylor, B. G., Mumford, E. A., & Liu, W. (2016). *The National Survey of Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence (STRiV)* (Document No. 250292). Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/250292.pdf>

³⁹ Safe Horizon. (n.d.). Retrieved March 6, 2017, from <http://bit.ly/1HbBd0P>

⁴⁰ Logan, T.K., et. al., United States Department of Justice. (2009) *The Kentucky Civil Protective Order Study: A Rural and Urban Multiple Perspective Study of Protective Order Violation Consequences, Responses, & Costs*: Washington, DC.

⁴¹ Loveisrespect. (2019). *UNDERSTANDING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT* [PDF file]. Retrieved from <https://www.loveisrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Teen-Survivors.pdf>

⁴² Lachman, P., Zweig, J., Dank, M., & Yahner, J. (2019). Patterns of Help-Seeking Behavior Among Victims of Teen Dating Violence and Abuse: Variations Among Boys and Girls. *Journal of School Health*, 89(10), 791–799. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josh.12816>

⁴³ Lachman, P., Zweig, J., Dank, M., & Yahner, J. (2019). Patterns of Help-Seeking Behavior Among Victims of Teen Dating Violence and Abuse: Variations Among Boys and Girls. *Journal of School Health*, 89(10), 791–799. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josh.12816>

⁴⁴ Santelli, J., Grilo, S., Choo, T., Diaz, G., Walsh, K., Wall, M., ... Mellins, C. (2018). Does sex education before college protect students from sexual assault in college? (Research Article). *PLoS ONE*, 13(11), e0205951. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0205951>

Current evidence suggests that acceptance of partner violence, poor emotional regulation and conflict management, and poor communication skills put individuals at risk for both perpetration and victimization of IPV. Therefore, promoting expectations for healthy, non-violent relationships and building skills in these areas can reduce risk for perpetration and victimization of IPV.⁴⁵

A study of one educational program in high school and middle school classrooms found that students exposed to the program reported between 56% and 92% less perpetration and victimization, respectively, at four-year follow-up.⁴⁶

Evidence suggests that advocacy and empowerment counselling interventions can prevent or reduce intimate partner violence against women.⁴⁷

Dating Abuse & Pregnancy

Women who are exposed to IPV by the man who got them pregnant are more likely than non-abused women to have a second-trimester abortion.⁴⁸

Females who have experienced IPV are considerably more likely to experience reproductive coercion, by pregnancy coercion or contraception sabotage, from male partners than those who have not experienced IPV.⁴⁹

Dating Abuse & Suicide

Nationally, youth who are survivors of dating violence are more likely to experience symptoms of depression and anxiety, engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using tobacco, drugs, or alcohol, or exhibit antisocial behaviors and think about suicide.⁵⁰

Among American high school students who have experienced sexual and physical abuse by a dating partner, 9 out of 10 have seriously contemplated suicide, and over 80% have attempted suicide.⁵¹

⁴⁵ Niolon, P. H., Kearns, M., Dills, J., Rambo, K., Irving, S., Armstead, T., & Gilbert, L. (2017). Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

⁴⁶ Niolon, P. H., Kearns, M., Dills, J., Rambo, K., Irving, S., Armstead, T., & Gilbert, L. (2017). Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

⁴⁷ World Health Organization. (2011, January 5). *Violence against women*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

⁴⁸ Jones, R., & Finer, L. (2012). Who has second-trimester abortions in the United States? *Contraception*, 85(6), 544–551. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2011.10.012>

⁴⁹ Silverman, J. G., & Raj, A. (2014). Intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion: global barriers to women's reproductive control. *PLoS medicine*, 11(9), e1001723. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001723

⁵⁰ Exner-Cortens D, Eckenrode J, Rothman E. (2013). Longitudinal associations between teen dating violence victimization and adverse health outcomes. *Pediatrics*. 71, 71-78.

⁵¹ Vagi, K. J., Olsen, E. O. M., Basile, K. C., & Vivolo-Kantor, A. M. (2015). Teen dating violence (physical and sexual) among US high school students: findings from the 2013 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 169 (5), 474-482.

Dating Abuse & Academic Performance

American high school students who have been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their partner earned grades of C and D twice as often as earning grades A or B.⁵²

Among high school students in the United States, experiencing sexual or physical violence has been linked to earning lower grades.⁵³

Costs of Intimate Partner Violence

A CDC estimate from 2008 theorizes that IPV can cost anywhere between \$2.3 to \$7 billion in healthcare costs “within the first 12 months after victimization.”⁵⁴

The total cost of IPV against women in the United States exceeds \$8.3 billion each year.⁵⁵

The social cost of IPV against women may be isolation, inability to work and earn wages, withdrawal from regular activities, and reduced capability to care for themselves and their children.⁵⁶

Dating Abuse & Gun Violence

More than 50% of female IPV homicides in the US are carried out by guns, and these incidences are increasing.⁵⁷

The fear of being threatened with a gun is strongly associated with PTSD. This link is stronger than the one between physical or sexual abuse and PTSD.⁵⁸

1 in 3 homicides by gun of youth under 13, are connected to IPV or family violence. Additionally, children who witness the death of their parent by IPV suffer long-lasting social, emotional, and behavioral effects.⁵⁹

Compared to all women, women 15 to 29 years old experienced a 30% higher rate of domestic violence gun homicides from 2006 to 2015.⁶⁰

⁵² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2009. Surveillance Summaries, *MMWR*, 59

⁵³ Rasberry CN, Tiu GF, Kann L, et al. Health-Related Behaviors and Academic Achievement Among High School Students — United States, 2015. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2017;66:921–927. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6635a1>.

⁵⁴ Duggan, M. (2018). ‘Idealising’ domestic violence victims. Revisiting the “Ideal Victim”, 159-175.

⁵⁵ Duggan, M. (2018). ‘Idealising’ domestic violence victims. Revisiting the “Ideal Victim”, 159-175.

⁵⁶ World Health Organization. (2011, January 5). *Violence against women*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

⁵⁷ Everytown for Gun Safety (2019). *Guns and Violence Against Women: America’s Uniquely Lethal Intimate Partner Violence Problem*. Retrieved from: <https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-intimate-partner-violence/>

⁵⁸ Everytown for Gun Safety (2019). *Guns and Violence Against Women: America’s Uniquely Lethal Intimate Partner Violence Problem*. Retrieved from: <https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-intimate-partner-violence/>

⁵⁹ Everytown for Gun Safety (2019). *Guns and Violence Against Women: America’s Uniquely Lethal Intimate Partner Violence Problem*. Retrieved from: <https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-intimate-partner-violence/>

⁶⁰ Parsons, c., Thompson, M., Vargas, E. W., & Rocco, G. (2018). *America’s Youth Under Fire*. Retrieved from: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/guns-crime/reports/2018/05/04/450343/americas-youth-fire/>

Dating Abuse & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

IPV can involve physical violence, which can include head injuries and strangulation. These injuries can cause traumatic brain injury, and oftentimes results in disability.⁶¹

One study found that women who experienced IPV were 7 times more likely to have had a head injury resulting in loss of consciousness.⁶²

The effects of TBI from IPV on women's health include anxiety, depression, stomach problems, stroke, STIs, and heart disease.⁶³

In 2014, being hit by or against an object was the second most common cause of hospital visits relating to traumatic brain injury, and rates were highest among the ages between 0 and 24.⁶⁴

⁶¹ Kwako, L. E., Glass, N., Campbell, J., Melvin, K. C., Barr, T., & Gill, J. M. (2011). Traumatic Brain Injury in Intimate Partner Violence: A Critical Review of Outcomes and Mechanisms. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 12*(3), 115–126. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838011404251>

⁶² Anderson JC, Stockman JK, Sabri B, Campbell DW, Campbell JC. Injury Outcomes in African American and African Caribbean Women: The Role of Intimate Partner Violence. *Journal of Emergency Nursing.* 2015;41(1):36-42. doi:10.1016/j.jen.2014.01.015

⁶³ Ivany, A. S., Bullock, L., Schminkey, D., Wells, K., Sharps, P., & Kools, S. (2018). Living in Fear and Prioritizing Safety: Exploring Women's Lives After Traumatic Brain Injury From Intimate Partner Violence. *Qualitative Health Research, 28*(11), 1708–1718. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049732318786705>

⁶⁴ TBI: Get the Facts. (2019, March 11). Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/get_the_facts.html