



Epi Data Brief

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

January 2016, No. 67

Dating Violence among New York City Youth

Dating violence occurs when one person uses abusive and/or unhealthy behaviors to exert power and control over his or her partner. It is a serious problem for adolescents and is considered a type of intimate partner violence. Dating violence can have negative effects for people throughout life. Youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at a higher risk for poorer health outcomes and of being victimized later in life.¹⁻²

While dating violence can include multiple forms of abusive behaviors such as verbal abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, and sexual abuse, this brief will focus only on physical abuse and its association with other risk factors and health outcomes. From here on, the use of the term “dating violence” is meant to indicate only physical abuse.

In 2013, among New York City (NYC) public high school students who reported dating in the past year, 10% reported being purposefully hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon by someone they were dating. Nationally, high school students were equally likely to report experiencing physical dating violence compared with NYC students (10% among those who reported dating)³. Compared with NYC students who did not report experiencing dating violence, those who did were also more likely to report a number of other risk behaviors and conditions that could adversely affect their health in the future.

Characteristics of NYC youth who experience dating violence

- There were no significant differences in the likelihood of reporting one or more incidents of dating violence by sex, age, grade, or race/ethnicity.
- However, youth who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or who weren't sure of their sexual orientation were over twice as likely to report experiencing dating violence compared with those who identified as straight (18% vs. 8%).
- Youth who were overweight or obese were also more likely to experience dating violence compared with those who were a 'healthy weight' (13% and 9%, respectively).

Mental health and help-seeking behavior among victims of dating violence

- Youth who experienced dating violence were also more likely to experience poor mental health.
- Students who reported being a victim of dating violence were almost twice as likely as those who did not, to report being persistently sad for at least two weeks in a row (50% vs. 28%); they were also nearly four times as likely to report a suicide attempt (31% vs. 8%) and more than five times as likely to have sustained an injury requiring medical care from a suicide attempt (12% vs. 2%).
- Youth who experienced dating violence were more than twice as likely to report non-suicidal self-harming behavior, compared with those who did not (36% vs. 16%).
- Compared with youth who did not experience dating violence, youth who did were also more likely to get help from a counselor, social worker, or therapist for an emotional or personal problem (32% and 18%, respectively).

Definitions:

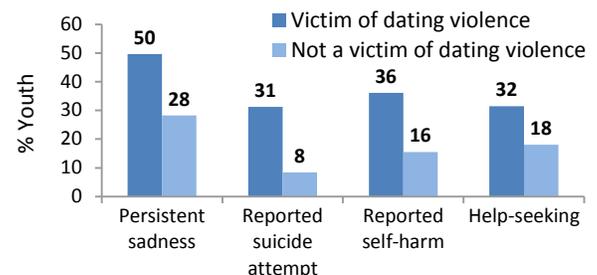
Youth – New York City public high school students in grades 9 through 12, aged 13 years and older.

Persistent sadness is feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that the student stopped doing some usual activities, during the past 12 months.

Self-harm refers to purposely hurting oneself without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning oneself on purpose, during the past 12 months.

Help-seeking is getting help from a professional counselor, social worker, or therapist for an emotional or personal issue that the student could not face alone, during the past 12 months.

Mental health and help-seeking* by dating violence among New York City youth, 2013

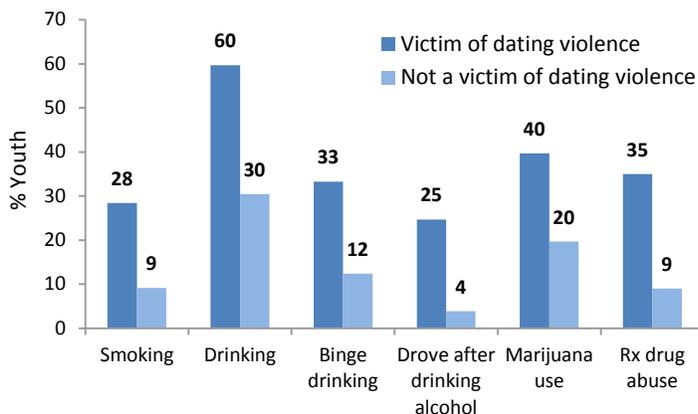


*All behaviors are during the past 12 months
Source: 2013 NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use are associated with dating violence victimization

- Youth who experienced dating violence reported more use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs compared with those who did not experience dating violence.
- Compared with those who did not experience dating violence, victims of dating violence
 - were three times as likely to report smoking in the past 30 days (28% vs. 9%);
 - were also much more likely to report having a drink of alcohol (60% vs. 30%) or binge drinking in the past 30 days (33% vs. 12%);
 - were six times as likely to report driving a car or other vehicle after drinking alcohol in the past 30 days (25% vs. 4%);
 - were twice as likely to report smoking marijuana in the past 30 days (40% vs. 20%);
 - were four times as likely to have taken a prescription painkiller (such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, Hydrocodone, or Oxycodone) or other prescription medication (such as Xanax, Adderall, or Ritalin) without a doctor's prescription in the past 12 months (35% vs. 9%); and,
 - were four times as likely to report ever using hard drugs including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy, or injecting drugs (32% vs. 8%).

Tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use by dating violence among New York City youth, 2013*



*All behaviors are within the past 30 days, except for taking prescription pain relievers and other medications without a doctor's prescription (past 12 months)
Source: 2013 NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Safety issues among victims of dating violence

- Aside from the physical and emotional effects of dating violence, youth who experienced dating violence were more likely than others to have other safety issues.
- Dating violence victims were three times as likely to carry a weapon in the past 30 days compared with others (29% vs. 9%) and 13% of dating violence victims carried a gun in the past 30 days (compared with 2% of those who were not victims of dating violence).
- Compared with those who did not experience dating violence, those who did were more than three times as likely to miss at least one day of school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school (25% vs. 7%).

Weapon carrying, missed school* by dating violence among New York City youth, 2013



*All behaviors are within the past 30 days
Source: 2013 NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey

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Data Source: The NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2013 is a self-administered, anonymous survey conducted in NYC public high schools by the Health Department and NYC Department of Education. For more survey details, visit nyc.gov/html/doh/html/data/youth-risk-behavior.shtml

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Harassment and other issues among victims of dating violence

- Compared with those who did not experience dating violence, youth who did were five times as likely to be threatened or injured with a weapon at school in the past 12 months (29% vs. 6%).

Bullying and threatening* by dating violence among New York City youth, 2013



*All behaviors are during the past 12 months
Source: 2013 NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey

- Bullying is a problem that also disproportionately affects those who have been a victim of dating violence. Thirty-six percent of dating violence victims also reported being bullied (either at school or electronically), compared with 17% for those who did not experience dating violence.
- Victims of dating violence were also seven times more likely to report being forced to do sexual things they did not want to do in the past 12 months by someone they were dating (44% vs. 6%), compared with those who were not.
- Victims of dating violence were also more likely to have been in a physical fight in the past 12 months compared with others (58% vs. 32%).

Resources and information about dating violence among youth

Additional information about dating violence is available on the Center for Disease Control website:
cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen_dating_violence.html

Hotlines:

Emergencies	911
Information and Services	311
NYC Domestic Violence Hotline	800-621-HOPE (4673)
NYC Domestic Violence Hotline TTY	866-604-5350
NYPD Sex Crimes Report Hotline	212-267-7273
NYC Rape and Sexual Assault Hotline	212-227-3000
Dept. of Youth and Community Development's Youth Connect	800-246-4646
NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence	212-788-3156
National Suicide Prevention Hotline	800-273-TALK
LIFENET	800-543-3638
LIFENET (Spanish)	877-298-3373
LIFENET (Mandarin/Cantonese)	877-990-8585

Websites:

www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence (more information on where to find help in NYC)
www.loveisrespect.org
www.athinline.org

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Epi Data Tables

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Data Tables

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Data Source

New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYC YRBS) 2013: The NYC YRBS is a self-administered survey conducted in NYC public high schools by the Health Department and the NYC Department of Education. For more details visit:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/data/youth-risk-behavior.shtml>

Analyses were restricted to youth in the ninth through 12th grades, ages 13 years or older.



Table 1: Dating violence victimization¹ among New York City youth, by selected characteristics, 2013

Source: 2013 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	p-value
Overall	10.2	(8.5 - 12.2)	~
Sex			
Girls	10.0	(8.5 - 11.8)	0.771
Boys	10.2	(8.2 - 12.7)	referent
Grade			
9	10.6	(7.9 - 14.1)	referent
10	9.9	(7.2 - 13.5)	0.660
11	11.2	(8.7 - 14.5)	0.700
12	9.0	(6.6 - 12.3)	0.429
Race/ethnicity			
White, non-Hispanic	8.8	(5.8 - 13.2)	referent
Black, non-Hispanic	11.4	(8.1 - 16.0)	0.298
Hispanic	10.3	(8.7 - 12.2)	0.374
Asian, non-Hispanic	5.8	(3.7 - 9.1)	0.123
Other	14.9	(9.0 - 23.7)	0.122
Sexual identity			
Lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning	18.3	(15.0 - 22.1)	<0.001
Straight	7.8	(6.5 - 9.3)	referent
Weight			
Underweight	6.9*	(3.3 - 13.8)	0.359
Healthy weight	9.1	(7.3 - 11.3)	referent
Overweight/obese	13.4	(10.4 - 17.1)	0.004

¹Dating violence victimization is when a student has been physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with during the past 12 months, including being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.

*Estimate should be interpreted with caution. Estimate's Relative Standard Error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, or the 95% Confidence Interval half-width is greater than 10 or the sample size is too small, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

95% confidence intervals are a measure of estimate precision. The wider the interval, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A p-value less than 0.05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group. Bold p-values are significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 2: Mental health and help-seeking behavior by dating violence¹ among New York City Youth, 2013

Source: 2013 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	Overall		Victim of dating violence			Not a victim of dating violence		
	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	p-value	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	p-value
Persistent sadness ²	30.3	(27.8 - 32.9)	49.7	(42.5 - 56.9)	<0.001	28.2	(25.7 - 30.9)	referent
Considered suicide ³	13.7	(12.0 - 15.7)	31.5	(26.3 - 37.2)	<0.001	11.8	(10.1 - 13.8)	referent
Attempted suicide ³	10.7	(9.1 - 12.6)	31.2	(25.1 - 38.1)	<0.001	8.4	(7.1 - 10.0)	referent
Injury with treatment among youth who attempted suicide ⁴	3.3	(2.5 - 4.4)	11.6	(8.2 - 16.1)	<0.001	2.4	(1.7 - 3.5)	referent
Self-harm ⁵	17.6	(16.2 - 19.1)	36.1	(31.2 - 41.4)	<0.001	15.5	(14.0 - 17.1)	referent
Help-seeking behavior from a professional ⁶	19.4	(16.9 - 22.1)	31.5	(25.2 - 38.6)	<0.001	18.1	(15.9 - 20.5)	referent

¹Dating violence is when a student has been physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with during the past 12 months, including being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.

²Persistent sadness is defined as feeling so sad or hopeless almost everyday for two weeks or more in a row that a student stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months.

³Considered suicide, attempted suicide in the past 12 months.

⁴Injury refers to any injury, poisoning or overdose resulting from a suicide attempt that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse, among those who attempted suicide during the past 12 months.

⁵Self-harm refers to purposely hurting oneself without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning oneself on purpose, during the past 12 months.

⁶Help-seeking is getting help from a professional counselor, social worker or therapist for an emotional or personal issue that the student could not face alone, during the past 12 months.

95% confidence intervals are a measure of estimate precision. The wider the interval, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A p-value less than 0.05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group. Bold p-values are significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 3: Tobacco, alcohol and other drug use by dating violence¹ among New York City Youth, 2013

Source: 2013 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	Overall		Victim of dating violence			Not a victim of dating violence		
	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	p-value	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	p-value
Smoking ²	11.0	(9.1 - 13.2)	28.5	(23.1 - 34.5)	<0.001	9.1	(7.4 - 11.2)	referent
Drinking ²	33.2	(31.0 - 35.5)	59.7	(53.2 - 65.8)	<0.001	30.5	(28.4 - 32.6)	referent
Binge drinking ²	14.5	(13.0 - 16.1)	33.3	(27.5 - 39.6)	<0.001	12.4	(11.1 - 13.9)	referent
Marijuana use ²	21.6	(19.2 - 24.3)	39.7	(35.0 - 44.7)	<0.001	19.7	(17.3 - 22.3)	referent
Ever used hard drugs ³	10.1	(8.3 - 12.3)	31.5	(26.8 - 36.7)	<0.001	7.8	(6.1 - 9.8)	referent
Drove after drinking alcohol ²	6.6	(5.1 - 8.3)	24.7	(16.0 - 36.1)	<0.001	3.9	(2.9 - 5.3)	referent
Prescription drug use (without a prescription) ⁴	11.2	(9.4 - 13.3)	34.8	(29.1 - 41.1)	<0.001	8.6	(6.9 - 10.7)	referent

¹Dating violence is when a student has been physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with during the past 12 months, including being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.

²Smoking, drinking, binge drinking, marijuana use, and driving after drinking alcohol during the past 30 days.

³Ever (lifetime prevalence) past drugs include ever using cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, ecstasy, or injecting drugs.

⁴Taken prescription pain medications (such as Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin, Hydrocodone, or Oxycodone) or other prescription drugs (such as Xanax, Adderall, or Ritalin) without a doctor's prescription in the past 12 months.

95% confidence intervals are a measure of estimate precision. The wider the interval, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A p-value less than 0.05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group. Bold p-values are significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 4: Weapon carrying and missed school by dating violence¹ among New York City Youth, 2013

Source: 2013 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	Overall		Victim of dating violence			Not a victim of dating violence		
	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	p-value	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	p-value
Carried any weapon ²	10.6	(9.0 - 12.3)	29.3	(24.2 - 34.9)	<0.001	8.6	(7.2 - 10.4)	referent
Carried a gun ²	3.2	(2.5 - 4.1)	13.1	(9.2 - 18.2)	<0.001	2.2	(1.6 - 3.1)	referent
Carried a weapon at school ²	3.7	(2.8 - 4.8)	13.3	(9.8 - 17.8)	<0.001	2.7	(1.8 - 4.0)	referent
Missed school for safety reasons ³	9.2	(7.8 - 10.9)	24.8	(18.7 - 32.0)	<0.001	7.5	(6.2 - 8.9)	referent

¹Dating violence is when a student has been physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with during the past 12 months, including being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.

²Carried any weapon (such a gun, knife or club), carried a gun and carried any weapon at school refer to carrying one or more times in the past 30 days.

³Missed school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.

95% confidence intervals are a measure of estimate precision. The wider the interval, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A p-value less than 0.05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group. Bold p-values are significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 5: Bullying and threatening by dating violence¹ among New York City Youth, 2013

Source: 2013 New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey

	Overall		Victim of dating violence			Not a victim of dating violence		
	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	p-value	%	(95% Confidence Interval)	p-value
Threatened or injured with a weapon at school ²	8.1	(6.7 - 9.7)	29.4	(22.6 - 37.4)	<0.001	5.6	(4.6 - 6.9)	referent
Bullied ³	18.9	(17.4 - 20.4)	36.1	(31.2 - 41.3)	<0.001	17.0	(15.5 - 18.7)	referent
Forced to do sexual things ⁴	10.1	(9.0 - 11.4)	43.7	(37.7 - 49.9)	<0.001	6.3	(5.5 - 7.3)	referent
Had a physical fight	34.7	(32.4 - 37.1)	57.8	(51.0 - 64.2)	<0.001	32.1	(29.9 - 34.5)	referent

¹Dating violence is when a student has been physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with during the past 12 months, including being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.

²Being threatened or injured with a weapon at school refers to experiences occurring one or more times in the past 12 months.

³Bullying victimization is when one or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way. Bullying can include victimization either at school and/or cyber-bullying (through email, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites or texting). Students were asked about being bullied in the past 12 months.

⁴Being forced by someone the student was dating to do sexual things the student did not want to do including things such as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse one or more times in the past 12 months.

95% confidence intervals are a measure of estimate precision. The wider the interval, the more imprecise the estimate.

A p-value is a measure of statistical significance. A p-value less than 0.05 means there is a significant difference between that group and the referent (comparison) group. Bold p-values are significant at the 0.05 level.