

Facts and Stats: Sexual Violence and Teenagers

Overview

1. More than 1 in 6 high school girls (16.6% White, 11.7% Black, and 14.2% Hispanic) experienced sexual dating violence in 2015. ¹
2. Girls are from 1.5 to more than 4.5 times more likely than their same-race male counterparts to experience sexual dating violence. ²
3. One in 10 White, Black, and Hispanic high school girls have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to at some point during their lifetime. ³
4. Hispanic, Black, and White boys were all less than likely to ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse compared with their same-race female counterparts. White boys had the lowest rate at 2%. ⁴
5. In 2015, 6% of all female high school students were absent from school at least one day due to concerns for their safety, with higher rates for Black (6.4% or 1 in 16) and Hispanic (7.4% or 1 in 13) female students and White female students with the lowest rate of 1 in 20. ⁵

Digital Harassment: ⁶

- 25% of dating teens report they've been digitally victimized by their partners. Only 9% seek help and rarely from their parents or teachers.
- 84% of digital abuse victims said they were also psychologically abused.
- 52% of digital abuse victims said they were also physically abused.
- 33% of digital abuse victims said they were also sexually coerced.
- 1 in 6 youth report being the victims of cyber bullying, which is abuse and harassment from someone other than a romantic partner.
- 90% of cyber bullying victims said they were also psychologically abused.
- Two-thirds to three-quarters of cyber bullying victims said they were also physically abused.
- Victims of cyber bullying were almost three times as likely to also experience digital dating abuse or harassment.

¹ Institute for Women's Policy Research, High School Girls and Violence 2015: A Chartbook

² Institute for Women's Policy Research, High School Girls and Violence 2015: A Chartbook

³ Institute for Women's Policy Research, High School Girls and Violence 2015: A Chartbook

⁴ Institute for Women's Policy Research, High School Girls and Violence 2015: A Chartbook

⁵ Institute for Women's Policy Research, High School Girls and Violence 2015: A Chartbook

⁶ Teen Dating Abuse in the Digital Age. Urban Institute. www.urban.org/features/teen-dating-abuse-digital-age, Teen Dating Abuse and Harassment in the Digital Age. Urban Institute. www.urban.org/digitizingabuse February 2013

- LGBTQ youth reported much higher rates of digital dating abuse and cyber bullying than heterosexual youth.
- Nearly 1 in 10 teens in relationships have reported having their social media accounts tampered with, without permission by a partner.
- Only 1 in 5 victims say they experienced digital abuse or harassment at school and during school hours.
- In a 2013 study done by the Urban Institute, 7.4% of teens reported being sent texts/e-mails/etc. to engage in unwanted sexual acts.
- 6.8% of teens reported being pressured to send a sexual or nude photo of themselves.
- 6.1% of teens reported being sent threatening messages, of which 5.5% felt unsafe after receiving the message.
- 5.5% have had embarrassing photos of them posted online.
- 5.1% said they've had nasty things posted about them on others' profile pages.
- 5% have had rumors spread about them using a cell phone/e-mail/ a networking site.
- 4.2% have felt afraid after not answering a text or call.
- 3.8% of teens have been sent unwanted sexual or naked photos.
- 2.6% of teens have had video taken of them and sent to others, without permission.
- 2.6% reported being threatened after not sending sexual or naked photos of themselves.
- 1.3% of teens reported having an unwanted profile page created about them.