

DATING VIOLENCE AND FORCED SEX AMONG TEENAGERS –
Results from the 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

By the Rogers Park Young Women’s Action Team (June 9, 2006)

Based on the 2005 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 2005 report summarizes results from the national survey, 40 state surveys, and 21 local surveys conducted among students in grades 9-12 during October 2004-January 2006. For the national YRBSS, 13,953 questionnaires were completed in 159 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, 2005

Dating Violence

	Female	Male	Total
White	8.5%	8.0%	8.2%
Black	12.0%	11.8%	11.9%
Hispanic	9.0%	10.9%	9.9%

Forced to Have Sexual Intercourse

	Female	Male	Total
White	10.8	3.1	6.9
Black	11.5	7.1	9.3
Hispanic	9.4	6.4	7.8

Dating Violence

During the 12 months preceding the survey, 9.2% of students nationwide had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (i.e., dating violence). This is up from 8.9% of students in 2003.

Overall, the prevalence of dating violence was higher among black (11.9%) than white (8.2%) and Hispanic (9.9%) students; higher among black female (12.0%) than Hispanic female (9.0%) and white female (8.5%) students; and higher among black male (11.8%) than Hispanic male (10.9%) and white male (8.0%) students.

Prevalence of dating violence ranged from 6.0% to 16.3% across state surveys (median: 10.6%) and from 7.3% to 20.8% across local surveys (median: 11.4%).

Forced Sexual Intercourse

Nationwide, 7.5% of students had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to. Overall, the prevalence of having been

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

forced to have sexual intercourse was higher among female (10.8%) than male (4.2%) students; higher among 9th grade female (8.7%), 11th grade female (11.6%), and 12th grade female (12.7%) than 9th grade male (3.5%), 11th grade male (4.2%), and 12th grade male (5.3.%) students, respectively.

Overall, the prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse was higher among black (9.3%) and Hispanic (7.8%) than white (6.9%) students; higher among black female (11.5%) than Hispanic female (9.4%) and white female (10.8%) students; and higher among black male (7.1%) and Hispanic male (6.4%) than white male (3.1%) students.

Prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse ranged from 5.1% to 11.2% across state surveys (median: 8.4%) and from 5.0% to 13.1% across local surveys (median: 8.5%).

LOCAL FINDINGS: CHICAGO

Dating Violence

942 surveys were collected from students in Chicago.

During the 12 months preceding the survey, 15.4% of students in Chicago had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (i.e., dating violence).

Overall, the prevalence of dating violence was higher among female (17.2%) than male (13.5%) students. There was no specific information regarding racial differences in dating violence.

Prevalence of dating violence ranged 7.3% to 20.8% across local surveys (median: 11.4%). This suggests that at 15.4% Chicago youth find themselves at the highest levels of experiencing dating violence. In fact, out of the 21 local communities surveyed, Chicago has the second highest percentage of dating violence after New Orleans (20.8%).

Forced Sexual Intercourse

In Chicago, 9.4% of students had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

The prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse was higher among female (11.4%) than male (7.2%) students. There was no data available about racial differences in forced sexual intercourse.

Prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse ranged from 5.0% to 13.1% across local surveys (median: 8.5%). Chicago youth were above the median.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Surveillance Summaries*, June 9, 2006. MMWR 2006:55 (No.SS-5).