Dating Violence Reported by High School Students, 2019

Data from the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System provide a detailed look at a range of youth behaviors reported by high school students, including exposure to dating violence.

The prevalence of physical and sexual dating violence reported by students declined between 2013 and 2019.

Female high school students were more likely to report physical or sexual dating violence than their male peers in 2019.

High school freshmen were less likely to report physical dating violence than were sophomores, juniors, or seniors in 2019.

Gay, lesbian, or bisexual students and students not sure of their sexual identity were more likely than heterosexual students to report physical or sexual dating violence in 2019.

Notes

Physical dating violence is defined in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey as being physically hurt on purpose (such as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon) by someone they were dating or going out with in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Sexual dating violence is defined in the survey as being forced to do sexual acts (such as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse) that they did not want to, by someone they were dating or going out with in the 12 months prior to the survey.

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