



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY



Prevalence of Teen Dating Violence (TDV)

TDV can include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression. Repeated texting to threaten, stalk someone and/or posting sexual pictures online without the consent of the partner are actions that also fall under the umbrella of teen dating violence (Breiding et al., 2015).

About 8% of high school students reported experiencing physical dating violence where they were purposely hurt (including being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon) by someone they dated (Basile et al., 2020).

For both physical and sexual violence, the prevalence was higher among girls than boys. 9.3% of girls and 7% boys experience physical dating violence. As for sexual dating violence the gap is even wider with girls experiencing sexual violence at three times the rate of boys, 12.6% of girls compared to 3.8% of boys experienced sexual violence (Basile et al., 2020).

About 8% of youth reported experiencing sexual dating violence where they were forced to do sexual acts such as kissing, touching, and sexual intercourse by someone they dated and about 7% reported being forced to have sex in their lifetime (Basile et al., 2020).

Youth who identified as LGBTQIA+, or were questioning their gender identity, experienced higher rates of physical and sexual dating violence compared to the teens who identified as heterosexual (Basile et al., 2020).

For both physical and sexual violence, the prevalence was higher among girls than boys. 9.3% of girls and 7% boys experience physical dating violence.



Prevalence of Teen Dating Violence in the Black Community

Rates of TDV in the Black community were similar to that of the larger population of adolescents in the same age range. About 8% of Black youth reported experiences of physical dating violence and about 6% experienced sexual dating violence (Basile, et al., 2020).

African American youth are more likely than White or Latino teens to be hit, slapped or hurt by the person they are dating (Kann et al., 2016).

Being both Black and female compounded the risk for TDV and produced specific negative outcomes in terms of societal perceptions and reporting options (Roberts, Tamene, & Orta, 2018).

In a study conducted over a 12-year period (1999-2011) among high school students across the U.S., dating violence among Black (12.9%) and Multiracial (12.2%) youth was significantly greater than among Hispanic (10.5%), White (8.0%), or Asian (8.0%) youth (Rothman & Xuan, 2014).

Black youth are less likely to seek support for TDV from formal sources such as school counselors due to concerns about confidentiality and a preference for seeking trusted sources of support such as friends and family (Love & Richards, 2013).

Consequences of Teen Dating Violence in the Black Community

Revictimization is likely to occur with early experiences of TDV - 22% of adult women experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and 15% of adult men experienced some form of dating violence between the ages of 11 to 17, prior to their experiences of victimization as adults (Breiding, 2014).

TDV is more likely to occur in public settings and youth are more likely to experience public humiliation, be negatively

evaluated by their peers, and avoid attending school (IDVAAC, 2014). Teens who are exposed to physical dating violence are more likely to smoke, use drugs, engage in unhealthy diets, engage in risky sexual behaviors, and consider/attempt suicide compared to their peers (IDVAAC, 2014).

African American female survivors of TDV are more likely to: contract sexually transmitted infections, have non-monogamous partners, and get pregnant. (IDVAAC, 2014).



References

Basile, K. C., Clayton, H. B., DeGue, S., Gilford, J. W., Vagi, K. J., Suarez, N. A., & Lowry, R. (2020). Interpersonal violence victimization among high school students—youth risk behavior survey, United States, 2019. *MMWR supplements*, 69(1), 28.

Black, B. M., & Weisz, A. N. (2003). Dating violence: Help-seeking behaviors of African American middle schoolers. *Violence Against Women*, 9, 187–206. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801202239005>

Breiding, M. J. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization—National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011. *Morbidity and mortality weekly report. Surveillance summaries (Washington, DC: 2002)*, 63(8), 1.

Breiding, M., Basile, K. C., Smith, S. G., Black, M. C., & Mahendra, R. R. (2015). Intimate partner violence surveillance: uniform definitions and recommended data elements. Version 2.0.

Centers for Disease Control (2011). The National intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report. Atlanta: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

Child Trends. (2014). *Dating violence*. Available at: <https://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=dating-violence>

Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (2014). *Teen Dating*

Violence in the African American Community – IDVAAC Fact Sheet

Johns, M. M., Lowry, R., Haderxhanaj, L. T., Rasberry, C. N., Robin, L., Scales, L., ... & Suarez, N. A. (2020). Trends in violence victimization and suicide risk by sexual identity among high school students—Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2015–2019. *MMWR supplements*, 69(1), 19.

Kann, L., McManus, T., Harris, W. A., et al. (2016). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2015. *MMWR*, 65(6).

Love, S. R., & Richards, T. N. (2013). An exploratory investigation of adolescent intimate partner violence among African American youth: A gendered analysis. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 28(17), 3342–3366. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260513496898>

Roberts, L., Tamene, M., & Orta, O. R. (2018). The intersectionality of racial and gender discrimination among teens exposed to dating violence. *Ethnicity & Disease*, 28(Suppl 1), 253.

Rothman, E. F., & Xuan, Z. (2014). Trends in physical dating violence victimization among US high school students, 1999–2011. *Journal of school violence*, 13(3), 277–290.



This publication is supported by Grant No. 09EV0527-01-00 awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, Family Violence Prevention and Services Administration. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.