

Cache County School District Teen Dating Violence

Introduction

Teen dating violence (TDV) is physical, sexual, or psychological/emotional violence within a dating relationship, as well as stalking. It can occur in person or electronically and may occur between current or former dating partners.

TDV includes four types of behavior :

- **Physical Abuse:** a pattern of harassing or threatening tactics used by a person that is both unwanted and causes fear in the victim.
- **Emotional Abuse:** threatening a partner or harming his or her sense of self-worth. Examples include name calling, shaming, bullying, embarrassing on purpose, or keeping him/her away from friends and family.
- **Sexual Abuse:** forcing a partner to engage in a sex act when he or she does not want to or cannot consent.
- **Stalking:** a pattern of harassing or threatening tactics used by a person that is both unwanted and causes fear in the person they are dating.



Health Effects of Dating Violence

Dating violence can have a negative effect on health throughout life. Teens who experience dating violence are more likely to be depressed and do poorly in school. They may engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using drugs and alcohol, and are more likely to have eating disorders. Some teens even think about or attempt suicide. Teens who experience dating violence in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.¹

Utah and U.S.

Among adult victims of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, **22.4%** of women and **15.0%** of men first experienced some form of partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age.¹

In Utah, **11.8%** of high school students reported they had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend, compared to the U.S. reporting **9.4%**.²

In Utah, **7.9%** of high school students reported they had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse by their boyfriend or girlfriend, compared to the U.S. reporting **8.0%**.²

In Utah, **16.6%** of high school students reported they had been electronically bullied by their boyfriend or girlfriend, compared to the U.S. reporting **16.6%**.²

¹ CDC, Understanding Teen Dating Violence Fact Sheet 2012

² U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (Youth online) [ONLINE]. (2011) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC (producer). [cited 2012 July]



Figure 1 : Percentage of Reported Type of Abuse by Cache County High School Students, 2012, Utah

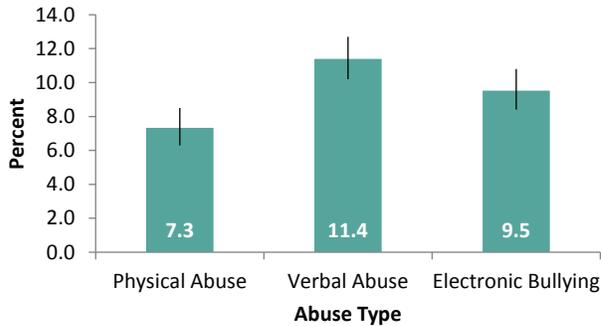


Figure 2: Percentage of reported type of abuse by age group

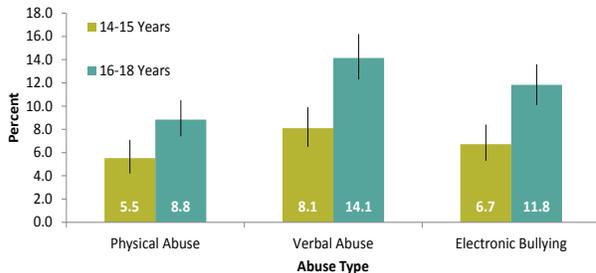
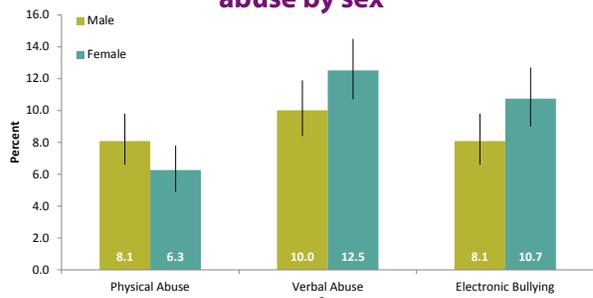


Figure 3: Percentage of reported type of abuse by sex



Cache County School District

Cache County high school students have a higher rate of reporting verbal abuse and electronic bullying than physical abuse (**Figure 1**).

- **7.3%** of students reported physical abuse
- **11.4%** of students reported verbal abuse
- **9.5%** of students reported electronic bullying

Students 14 to 15 years of age have a lower rate of reporting abuse compared to students 16 to 18 years of age. Students 16 to 18 years of age have a significantly higher prevalence of reported physical abuse, verbal abuse, and electronic bullying compared to 14 to 15 year olds (**Figure 2**).

Among males, there were no significant differences in the type of abuse reported. Males reported physical abuse at a higher rate compared to females (8.1% and 6.3%). Among females, verbal abuse (12.5%) and electronic bullying (10.7) were reported at a significantly higher rate than physical abuse (6.3%) compared to males (**Figure 3**).

If your life has been affected by teen dating violence, the Utah Department of Health wants to hear from you. Share your story at the Utah Health Story Bank at www.health.utah.gov/bhp/sb/.

Hotlines

- Utah Domestic Violence Link Line
1-800-897-LINK (5465)
- Utah Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Line
1-888-421-1100
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline
www.thehotline.org **1-800-799-SAFE (7233) 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)**

Our Mission

We are a trusted and comprehensive resource for data related to violence and injury. Through education, this information helps promote partnerships and programs to prevent injuries and improve public health.

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