

Questions Related to Dating/Sexual Violence

QUESTION(S):

- Q1. [MS+HS] Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?
- Q2. [HS ONLY] During the past 12 months, how many times did anyone force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)

Middle School Version (Y/N)

Has anyone ever forced you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)

- Q3. [HS ONLY] During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)

Middle School Version (Y/N)

Has anyone you ever dated or gone out with forced you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)

- Q4. [HS ONLY] During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with physically hurt you on purpose? (Count such things as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.)

Middle School Version (Y/N)

Has anyone you ever dated or gone out with physically hurt you on purpose? (Count such things as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.)

RATIONALE: These questions measure the frequency of sexual violence and dating violence experienced by students. Sexual and dating violence victimization are associated with a range of negative consequences,(1-3) including suicide ideation and attempts, major depressive episodes,(4,5) increased alcohol and tobacco use, eating disorders, and risky sexual behavior.(6,7)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2011 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 19.3% of women have been raped in their lifetime, including 8.8% of women who were raped by an intimate partner.

An estimated 44% of women and 23% of men have experienced other forms of sexual violence by any perpetrator and 15.8% of women and 9.5% of men have experienced other sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.(8)

About 1 in 4 women (22.3%) and 1 in 7 men (14.0%) have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner (e.g., hit with a fist or something hard, beaten, slammed against something) at some point in their lifetime.(8) Among adults who ever experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, 23% of women and 14% of men first experienced some form of partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age.(8)

All three sexual violence questions are important for understanding the public health burden of sexual violence against young people, guiding prevention strategies, and monitoring changes over time. These data are particularly useful for monitoring changes in trends and the effects of prevention efforts such as CDC's Rape Prevention Education Program.(9) Data on forced sexual activity by any perpetrator — not just a dating partner — provides a better understanding of the burden of sexual violence among high school students because studies have shown that perpetrators can include current or former friends, acquaintances, family members, and other adults.(8,10) Preventing sexual violence by any perpetrator is a focus area for CDC. Also, understanding the full extent of the burden of sexual violence among adolescents is a high priority for the Office of the Vice President.(11)

Knowing the proportion who are sexually and physically victimized by a dating partner is also crucial because it provides a more complete measure of teen dating violence and prevention strategies often focus specifically on violence in dating relationships. These estimates are critically important for monitoring progress in this area.

In 2015, 7% of high school students nationwide had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.(12) The percentage of high school students who had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to decreased significantly during 2001–2015 (8%–7%).(12) Among the 69% of students who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey, 10% experienced physical dating violence by a dating partner, and 11% experienced sexual dating violence by a dating partner.(12)

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