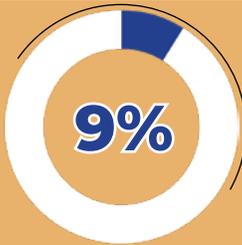


# Dating Violence Among Oklahoma Public High School Students

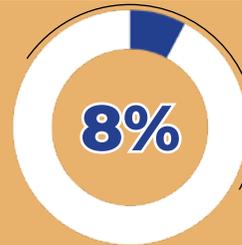


Almost 1 in 10 public high school students have experienced dating violence<sup>1</sup>



9% experienced sexual dating violence<sup>2</sup>

- 15% of females experienced sexual dating violence
- 2% of males experienced sexual dating violence



8% experienced physical dating violence<sup>3</sup>

- 10% of females experienced physical dating violence
- 6% of males experienced physical dating violence

## What is Dating Violence?

**Dating Violence is a pattern of coercive, intimidating, or manipulative behaviors used to exert power and control over a current or former romantic partner<sup>4</sup>.** While this survey specifically focuses on physical and sexual violence, dating violence often includes other behaviors such as emotional abuse, digital abuse, and stalking.

Dating violence is connected to other forms of violence including bullying, youth violence, and suicide. By addressing root causes and focusing on the risk and protective factors shared across multiple forms of violence, communities can create safer and healthier environments for youth to thrive in.

When working to prevent dating violence, it is important that we go beyond looking at only a community's needs and consider the larger picture, including its strengths, its history, and the structural and social determinants of health that contribute to its current conditions. Working in partnership with teens and community members is key to creating meaningful and successful prevention efforts.

## 3 Recommendations to Help Prevent Dating Violence

### Individual/Relationship Level:



**Teach safe and healthy relationship skills**

Implement social-emotional learning programs for youth.



**Engage influential adults and peers**

Empower bystanders through education, engage men & boys as allies, and offer family-based programming.

### Community Level:



**Create protective environments**

Improve school climate and safety, strengthen organizational policies and workplace climate, and modify the physical and social environments of neighborhoods.

## Resources

If you or someone you know has experienced dating violence, help is available:

**Oklahoma SafeLine**  
1-800-522-SAFE (7233)

**StrongHearts Native Helpline**  
1-844-762-8483  
strongheartshelpline.org

**love is respect**  
Hotline | Textline | Online Chat  
loveisrespect.org



For more information about prevention resources, visit [oklahoma.gov/health/svp](http://oklahoma.gov/health/svp)

For more about the YRBS, contact us at 405.426.8092 • [oklahoma.gov/health/yrbs](http://oklahoma.gov/health/yrbs) • [MCHAssessment@health.ok.gov](mailto:MCHAssessment@health.ok.gov)

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<sup>1</sup>Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Oklahoma 2021. MCH Assessment, Maternal and Child Health Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health.

<sup>2</sup>Sexual dating violence is defined as being forced by someone they were dating or going out with to do sexual things, such as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse, that they did not want to do, among students who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey.

<sup>3</sup>Physical dating violence is defined as being physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with, such as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, among students who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey.

<sup>4</sup>Adapted from love is respect