Adolescent Dating Violence has recently emerged as a significant child health problem.

Adolescent dating violence is defined as the physical, sexual, or psychological and/or emotional violence within a dating relationship, as well as stalking.

Dating violence is associated with substance abuse, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, suicidal ideation, and poor academic outcomes.

In 2012, 10.3% high school students in the United States experienced physical dating violence and 10.4% experienced sexual dating violence.

The following figure shows the rates of victimization for adolescents in Indiana and the US.

On an average, Indiana high school students have consistently reported higher rates of dating violence (compared to the US average rates).

% High School Students Reporting Dating Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: To assess the extent of dating violence, high school students were asked nationwide: “During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?”
Rates of dating violence in Indiana students differed based on race/ethnicity.
The rates were generally higher in racial/ethnic minority students.

Rates of dating violence victimization in Indiana students also differed based on gender.
Overall, the rates have decreased in males and increased in females since 2003.
Differences in rates of victimization between males and females have remained inconsistent.

Rates of dating violence in Indiana students also differed based on grade level in school.
11th & 12th graders were more likely to report dating violence (compared to 9th / 10th graders).

In a national study, a majority of school counselors & nurses reported that they have assisted a victim of teen dating abuse within the past 2 years.

Under state and federal legislations, schools have a legal obligation to prevent teen dating abuse, child maltreatment, and other forms of youth violence.

Heathers Law requires the Indiana department of education to identify/develop model education materials and a model for response policies & reporting.

Dating violence should be prevented early. Children who experience dating violence may experience a greater likelihood of becoming victims or perpetrators of domestic violence in adulthood.
LATEST INDIANA DATA

- The most recent data available for Indiana is YRBSS 2011 (Youth Risk Behavior Survey)
- Results of the descriptive statistical analysis are as follows:
  - 11.3% high school students in Indiana reported experiencing dating violence.
  - The difference between Hispanics (11.2%) vs. Non-Hispanics (11.4%) was not significant.
  - Highest rates of victimization were observed in: Hispanic females (14.1%), White males (12.8%), and Black females (11.4%).
  - 12th Graders had the highest rates (14.9%).
- We assessed the association of various risk factors with dating violence. In Comparison to HS students who were not victims, Indiana students who were victims of dating violence were:
  - 1.96 times more likely to report carrying a weapon in the past 30 days [CI=1.43-2.69]
  - 3.40 times more likely to report carrying a gun in the past 30 days [CI =2.26-5.11]
  - 4.12 times more likely to carry a weapon at school in the past 30 days [CI=2.64-6.43]
  - 4.72 times more likely to miss school in past 30 days due to safety concerns [CI=2.33-9.57]
  - 2.35 times more likely to engage in fighting behavior in the past 12 months [CI =1.78-3.01]
  - 2.56 times more likely to engage in fighting behavior in school last year [CI =1.66-3.93]
  - 5.23 times more likely to be injured in a fight/ treated in the last one year [CI =2.65-10.32]
  - 4.40 times more likely to be forced to have sex when they didn’t want to [CI =2.47-7.81]
  - 2.70 times more likely to have depression symptoms within the last year [CI =2.05-3.56]
  - 2.47 times more likely to have considered suicide in the past 12 months [CI=1.81-3.35]
  - 3.07 times more likely to have attempted suicide in the past 12 months [CI =2.04-4.62]
  - 3.14 times more likely to engage in binge drinking within the last month [CI =2.39-4.11]
  - 2.05 times more likely to have poor academic grades in the past year [CI =1.46-2.87]
  - 4.14 times more likely to report a history of sexually transmitted disease [CI =1.60-10.70]
  - More likely to smoke, use drugs, and engage in other health risk behaviors.

Note: CI= Indicates the 95% Confidence Intervals (i.e. lower and upper probability)

SUMMARY

- Adolescent dating violence rates in Indiana are higher than the national average.
- Student victims in Indiana report high level of psychological and social problems.
- Communities, schools, and policy makers will have to create interventions that address multiple risk behaviors associated with dating violence in youth of Indiana.

Report Sponsors: The Northeast Indiana Area Health Education Center and BSU Office of Institutional Diversity

The Northeast Indiana Area Health Education Center (NEI-AHEC) is part of a state and nationwide network of programs working to enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of health care professionals through community/academic educational partnerships.

The BSU Office of Institutional Diversity promotes opportunities for faculty and students to engage in diversity and health related research in order to nurture a diverse and healthy university community.

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