

TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Teen Dating Violence (TDV): unhealthy actions or threats that occur in a teenage dating relationship with a current or previous partner. TDV is a type of **intimate partner violence (IPV)** [see Data Brief] and can occur in several ways:

Digital- using technology to track, bully, or control a partner.

Financial- controlling or abusing a partner's money or job.

Physical- using physical force to harm a partner on purpose.

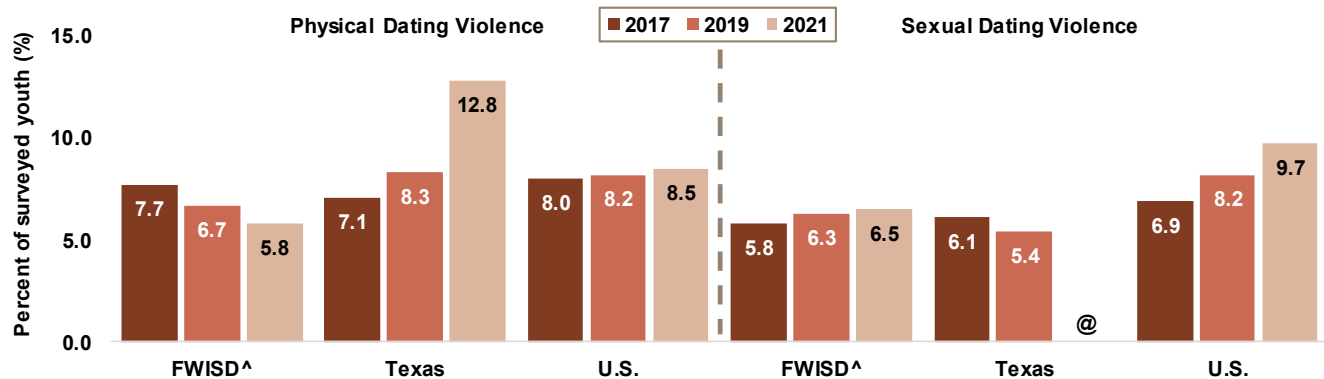
Psychological- verbal and non-verbal communication that harms a partner's mental and emotional health.

Sexual- forcing sex and related acts (kissing, sexting, touching, etc.) without a partner's consent.

Stalking- undesired contact or attention causing a partner to experience fear, anxiety, and feeling unsafe.

These forms of TDV can occur in-person and electronically. TDV happens in heterosexual and same-sex relationships and among all gender identities. TDV is considered an adverse childhood experience (ACE).

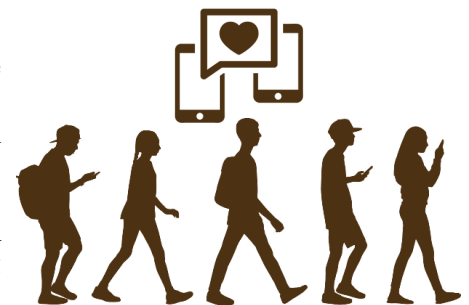
Teen dating violence reported by high school students in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) by type of dating violence and geographic location, 2017-2021*



Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Dating Violence Questions

Among high school students who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey:

- **Being physically hurt on purpose** (hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon) by someone they were dating or going out with, one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.
- **Being forced to do sexual things** (kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse) they did not want to do by someone they were dating or going out with, one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.



In 2021, a significantly higher percentage of Texas students reported physical dating violence (12.8%) compared to Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) (5.8%) and U.S. (8.5%) students. The percentage of Texas students who reported physical dating violence was significantly higher in 2021 (12.8%) compared to 2019 (8.3%) and 2017 (7.1%).

In 2019, a significantly higher percentage of U.S. students reported sexual dating violence (8.2%) compared to Texas students (5.4%). The percentage of U.S. students who reported sexual dating violence was significantly higher in 2021 (9.7%) compared to 2017 (6.9%).

* Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data are collected every two years; ^ Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) is the only North Texas school district participating in the YRBS; @ data unavailable due to low response rate; All significant differences detected at the 95% confidence level; Data sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, love is respect, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; Data Brief provided by: Office of Health Informatics

TDV that Texas victims reported to the ‘love is respect’ hotline in 2023:



42%

Emotional or Verbal Abuse



19%

Physical Abuse



12%

Economic or Financial Abuse



11%

Digital Abuse



9%

Sexual Abuse

Teen Dating Violence *increases* the risk of:



Antisocial Behavior



Depression and Anxiety



Eating Disorders



Intimate Partner Violence in Adulthood

Risky Sexual Behaviors



Substance Use



Thinking about Suicide

From October 2022 - September 2023, 11,974 Tarrant County students attended violence prevention classes from SafeHaven of Tarrant County

Education and Prevention

- Break the Cycle [breakthecycle.org]
- Dating Matters [cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/datingmatters/index.html]
- Green Dot [alteristic.org/services/green-dot/]
- love is respect [loveisrespect.org]
- One Love [joinonelove.org]
- Safety Net Project [techsafety.org]
- Smartphone applications [domesticshelters.org/resources/mobile-apps-for-victims-and-survivors]
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Action Guide [loveisrespect.org/get-involved/tdvam/]
- That's Not Cool [thatsnotcool.com]
- Young Hearts Matter [tcfv.org/program-resources/youth-adult-allies/]

Resources and Support

- love is respect (Teen Dating Abuse Hotline)
Call 1-866-331-9474 TTY 1-800-787-3224
Text 'LOVEIS' to 22522 [loveisrespect.org]
- SafeHaven of Tarrant County
Call 1-877-701-7233 [safehaventc.org]
- The Trevor Project (LGBTQ+ youth)
Call 1-866-488-7386 Text 'START' to 678-678
[thetrevorproject.org]
- National Domestic Violence Hotline
Call 1-800-799-7233 TTY 1-800-787-3224
Text 'START' to 88788 [thehotline.org]
- National Sexual Assault Hotline
Call 1-800-656-4673 [rainn.org]