

UNDERSTANDING POWER-BASED VIOLENCE IN K-12 SCHOOLS

NATIONAL STATISTICS ON POWER-BASED VIOLENCE AMONG K-12 STUDENTS

- Of High school students who reported dating during the 2019 Center for Disease and Control (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Survey: ¹
 - 1 in 12 experienced physical dating violence.
 - 1 in 12 experienced sexual dating violence.
 - Female students experienced higher rates of physical and sexual dating violence than male students.
 - LGBTQ students experienced higher rates of physical and sexual dating violence compared to heterosexual students.
- 70% of student survivors who reported to their schools experienced adverse effects on their safety and privacy. ²
 - 39% of survivors of sexual violence that reported to their schools experienced disruption to their education.
 - 27% of those survivors took a leave of absence, 20% transferred schools and nearly 10% withdrew from school.

FINDINGS FROM NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER REPORT: *100 SCHOOL DISTRICTS A CALL TO ACTION FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO ADDRESS SEXUAL HARASSMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES* ³

- In any given school year, 56% of girls in grades 7-12, 40% of boys in grades 7-12, and 58% of LGBTQ youth ages 13-21 are sexually harassed.
- one in 16 girls ages 14-18 have been raped, including one in 10 Black and Native girls and one in seven LGBTQ girls, and more than half of all pregnant or parenting girls.
- Among girls ages 14 to 18, one in five have been kissed or touched without their consent, including more than one in three LGBTQ girls.
- Fewer than one in four students in grades 7-12 who are sexually harassed report the incident to a teacher, guidance counselor, or other school employee.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Teen Dating Violence*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html>

² National Women's Law Center. 2023. *The SAFER Act: Students' Access to Freedom & Educational Rights*. Retrieved from:

https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SAFERact-KYIX_NWLC.pdf

³ National Women's Law Center and Girls for Gender Equity. April 2021. *100 SCHOOL DISTRICTS: A CALL TO ACTION FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO ADDRESS SEXUAL HARASSMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES*. Retrieved from: <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/100SD-report-5.3.21-vF.pdf>

- A minuscule two percent of girls ages 14-18 who are kissed or touched without their consent report it to their schools.
- Common reasons students choose not to report:
 - Shame or self-blame
 - Fear that no one will help them
 - Fear of retaliation
 - Fear of being disciplined by their school
 - Fear of police or immigration officials
 - Other students do not report sexual harassment because they simply do not know that their schools can help them.
- When students do summon the courage to report sexual harassment, they are often ignored, disbelieved, or even punished by their schools, based on administrators' conclusions that they engaged in "consensual" sexual activity or premarital sex or that they made a false accusation.
- Other students who experience sexual harassment are punished for physically defending themselves against their harassers, for acting out in age-appropriate ways after the harassment due to trauma, for missing school in order to avoid their harasser, or for merely talking about their harassment with other students.