

# Youth Risk Behaviors: Dating Violence



ILLINOIS YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR, ISSUE 5, OCTOBER 2010

Teen dating violence can affect any teen regardless of their race, gender or socioeconomic status. It has been shown that teens are more likely than their adult counterparts to suffer from intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence can lead to negative behaviors among victims such as substance use, inappropriate weight loss methods and risky sexual behaviors.

This data brief reports relationship violence among Illinois and Chicago youth. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey asks high school students whether they have ever been forced to have sex and whether they have been hit, slapped or hurt by a girlfriend or boyfriend in the past 12 months.

## Chicago Youth More Likely to Experience Dating Violence

Chicago youth are statistically more likely to report being forced to have sexual intercourse compared to U.S. youth: 11.3% compared to 7.8% (Table 1). Similarly, although not statistically significant, Chicago youth were marginally more likely to report being hit, slapped or hurt on purpose by a partner compared to U.S. Youth (13.4% compared to 9.9%).

Illinois youth, excluding Chicago, had similar rates of both dating violence items compared to U.S. youth.



Table 1. Prevalence of Dating Violence Among High School Students, 2007

	U.S.*	Illinois	Illinois excluding Chicago	Chicago
	% (95% C.I.)	% (95% C.I.)	% (95% C.I.)	% (95% C.I.)
<b>Physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to, ever</b>	7.8 (7.0-8.8)	8.0 (6.3-10.1)	7.4 (5.4-10.1)	11.3 (9.0-14.1)
<b>Hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by a girlfriend or boyfriend, past 12 months</b>	9.9 (8.9-11.1)	10.3 (8.0-13.1)	9.5 (6.9-12.9)	13.4 (10.8-16.4)

\*United States prevalence from National Youth Risk Behavior Survey

### THE BOTTOM LINE

- Chicago youth are more likely to have been forced to have sex compared to U.S. youth.
- Almost 16% of Chicago 11th graders report being forced to have sex.
- Female youth report being forced to have sex more, while males report being hit, slapped or physically hurt more.

### WARNING SIGNS FOR RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE:

Relationship violence may occur when a partner:

- tries to control friendships, how their partner dresses or other elements of their partner's life or relationships
- gets jealous when there is no reason
- drinks heavily, uses drugs or tries to get their partner to get drunk
- berates their partner for not wanting to get drunk, high, have sex or go with him/her to an isolated or personal place
- refuses to let their partner share any of the expenses of a date and gets angry when the partner offers to pay
- is physically violent with their partner or others, even if it's "just" grabbing and pushing to get his/her way

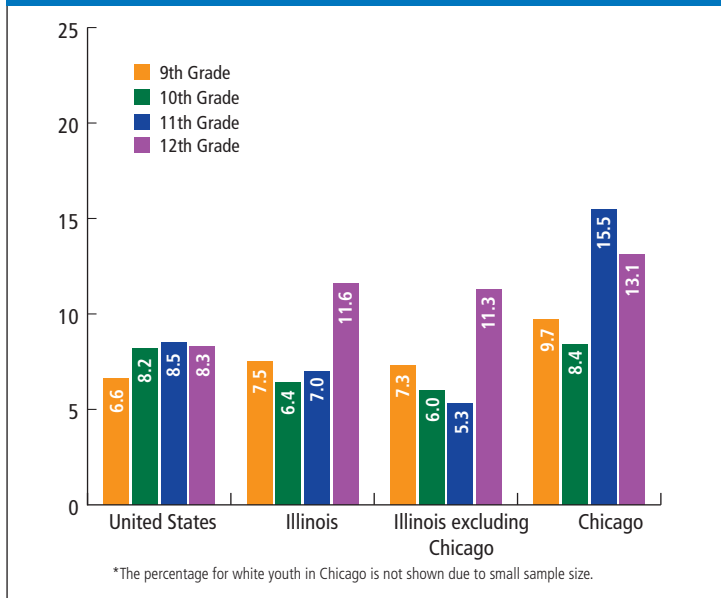
Full list available at <http://ub-counseling.buffalo.edu/warnings.shtml>

# Nearly 16% of Chicago 11th Graders Report Being Forced to Have Sex

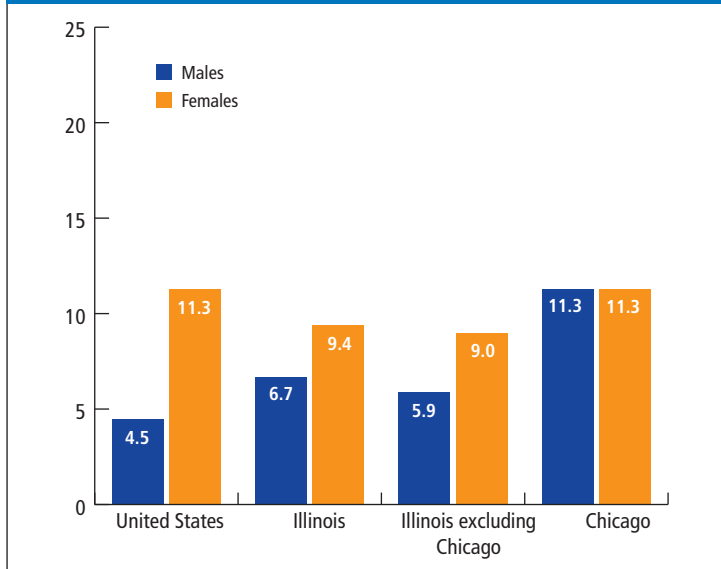
In general, the percentage of youth reporting that they have been forced to have sexual intercourse is stable as youth increase in age, except among Chicago 11th graders who were statistically significantly more likely to report being forced to have sex compared to both U.S. and Illinois youth (Figure 1).

Females appear to be forced to have sex more than males, except in Chicago, where males and females are equally as likely (Figure 2). Males are more likely to report being hit, slapped or hurt by a partner and in Chicago, youth were significantly more likely to report being hit, slapped or hurt compared to U.S. youth (Figure 3).

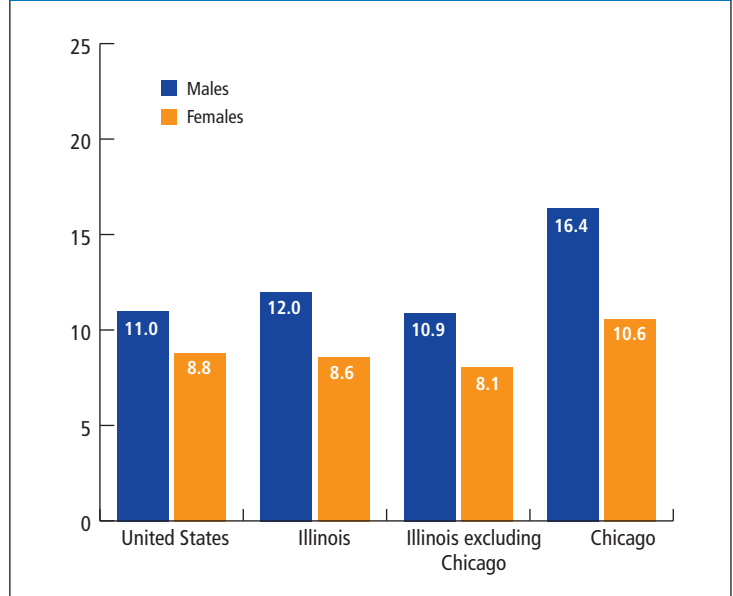
**Figure 1. Percentage of students reporting being forced to have sexual intercourse by grade in school, 2007**



**Figure 2. Percentage of students reporting being forced to have sexual intercourse by gender, 2007**



**Figure 3. Percent of students hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by a girlfriend or boyfriend by gender, 2007**



## ABOUT THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

The Illinois Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and the Chicago YRBS were completed in randomly selected public high schools in Illinois and Chicago during the spring of 2007. The survey focuses on priority health-risk behaviors that result in the most significant mortality, disability, and social problems during both youth and adulthood. Questions cover nutrition, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, physical activity, injuries, and sexual behavior resulting in sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. YRBS is one component of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with representatives from state and local departments of education and health, other federal agencies, and national education and health organizations. For more information visit [cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrebs/](http://cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrebs/).

## CONTRACT INFORMATION

### Child Health Data Lab

Jenifer Cartland, PhD, Director | Tracie L. Smith, MPH, Epidemiologist

Children's Memorial Research Center  
2300 Children's Plaza, Box 157 | Chicago, IL 60614

312.573.7772

[jcartland@childrensmemorial.org](mailto:jcartland@childrensmemorial.org)

[www.chdl.org](http://www.chdl.org)



## HELPFUL RESOURCES

**Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Teen Dating Violence On-Line Resource Kit**

[illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/communities/youthadvocacy/teendatekit.html](http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/communities/youthadvocacy/teendatekit.html)