

“National Rates of Adolescent Physical, Psychological, and Sexual Teen-Dating Violence,” Michele Ybarra PhD, MPH, Center for Innovative Public Health Research; Dorothy L. Espelage, PhD University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, PhD, **University of South Alabama**; Josephine D. Korchmaros, PhD, **University of Arizona**; Danah Boyd, PhD, **New York University**; and Kathleen Basile, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Abstract

Background: Comprehensive national rates of adolescent dating violence (ADV), which are critical to understanding the scope of the problem as well as benchmarking for ongoing investigation into the behavior, are lacking.

Purpose: Report prevalence rates of physical, psychological, and sexual ADV perpetration and victimization.

Methods: Data are from the national, online Growing up with Media study. Data were collected in 2011 and 2012 from 1,058 adolescents 14-20 years of age; and analyzed in 2013.

Results: Two in five (41%) females and one in three (37%) males reported experience with ADV as a victim; and almost one in three (35%) females and males (29%), as a perpetrator at some point in their lifetime. Overlap was common: 29% of females and 24% of males reported both victimization and perpetration experiences (these experiences could be in the same or different relationships). Females were significantly more likely than males to report physical ADV perpetration and sexual ADV victimization. Males were significantly more likely than females to report sexual ADV perpetration. Rates were similar for physical ADV victimization, and psychological ADV perpetration and victimization. Prevalence generally increased with age but were similar across race, ethnicity, and income levels.

Conclusions: ADV experiences are common among young people. Overlaps between victimization and perpetration, and across different forms of dating abuse also appear to be typical. Efforts to reduce ADV might benefit from consideration of dynamics within relationships that may result in non-defensive retaliatory behavior, as well as the extent to which ADV may occur in different relationships.