

PART 1: TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Teen dating violence (TDV) refers to any form of abuse or violence within a romantic relationship among teens. It can have lasting impacts on a young person's mental, emotional and physical health.

Future Implications

Teens who experience dating violence are at higher risk for:

- Entering unhealthy relationships in adulthood
- Increased risk of intimate partner violence and sexual victimization
- Developing mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety
- Engaging in unhealthy behaviors including substance use
- Exhibiting antisocial behaviors like lying, theft, bullying, or aggression
- Suicidal thoughts or self-harm

Risk Factors for Teen Dating Violence

Certain factors can increase a teen's likelihood of experiencing or perpetrating dating violence

- A history of childhood abuse or exposure to family violence
- Substance use, including alcohol and drug use
- Low self-esteem and poor self-worth
- Economic stress or living in high-crime areas

Types of Teen Dating Violence

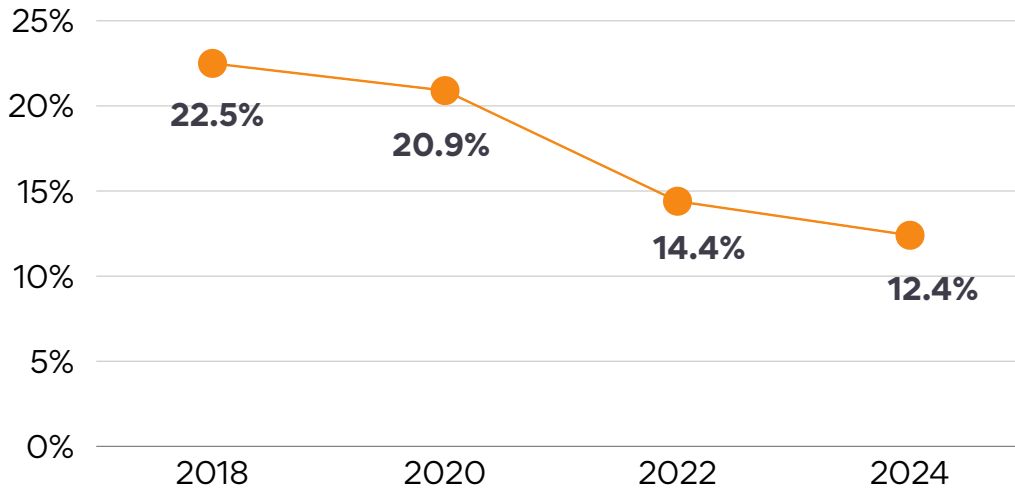
Teen dating violence includes any behavior by a partner that harms, manipulates, or controls the other person. It can take many forms, including:

Type	Description
Physical Violence	Hitting, pushing, restraining, or any form of physical harm.
Emotional Abuse	Manipulation, humiliation, or persistent criticism meant to diminish self-worth.
Sexual Violence	Coercing or forcing unwanted sexual activity.
Verbal Abuse	Naming-calling, yelling, or making threats.
Digital Abuse	Controlling social media activity, excessive texting, or sharing private images without consent.
Psychological Aggression	Using verbal and non-verbal tactics to inflict emotional harm or exert control over a partner.
Stalking	Repeated, unwanted attention or contact from a current or former partner that causes fear or concerns for safety.



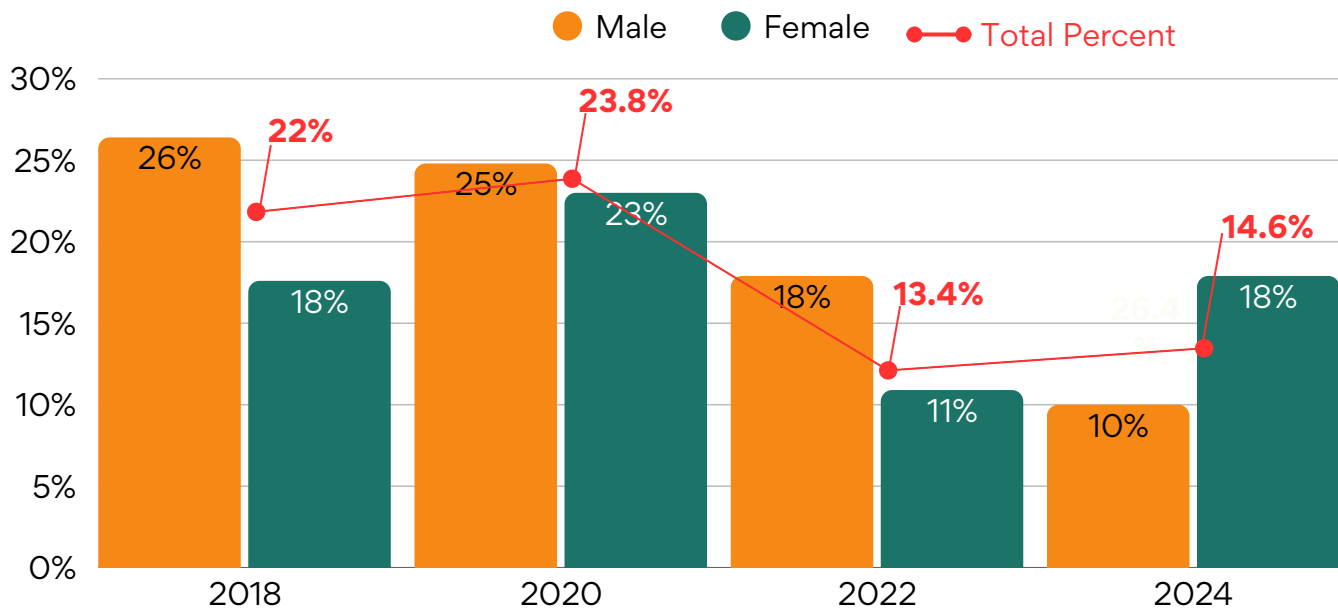
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE EATON COUNTY

PERCENTAGE OF EATON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO HAD SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH ONE OR MORE PEOPLE DURING THE PAST 3 MONTHS



The percentage of Eaton County high school students who report to have had sexual intercourse with one or more people in the past 3 months has **decreased each year** from 22.5% in 2018 to 12.4% in 2024.

AMONG EATON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO HAD SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH ONE OR MORE PEOPLE DURING THE PAST 3 MONTHS, PERCENTAGE WHO DRANK ALCOHOL OR USED DRUGS BEFORE LAST SEXUAL INTERCOURSE



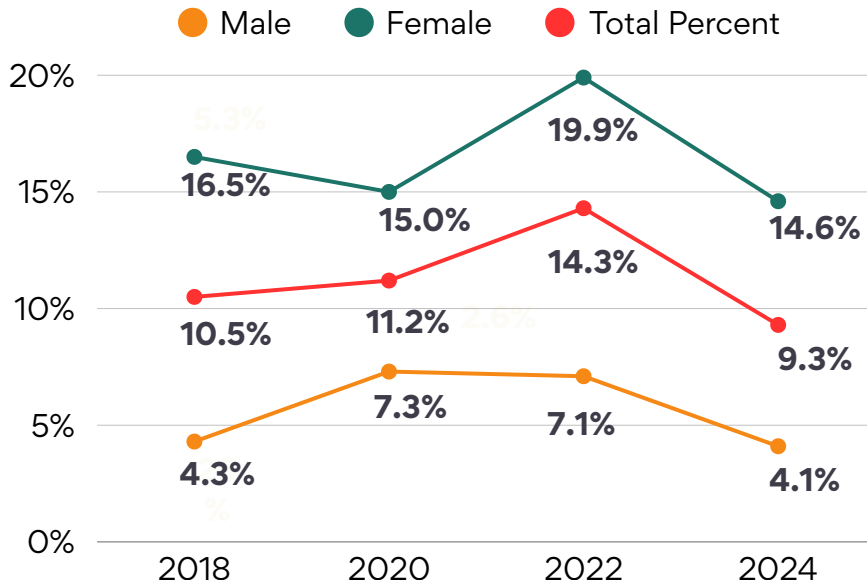
Among the students to report to have had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months in 2024, **14.6% reported to have drank alcohol or used drugs before their last sexual intercourse.**

- Rates were higher among female students (17.9%) versus male students (10.0%).

Studies show that teens in violent relationships are more likely to use alcohol or drugs before sex, leading to impaired decision-making and unsafe sexual practices.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE EATON COUNTY

PERCENTAGE OF EATON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WERE FORCED TO DO SEXUAL THINGS THEY DID NOT WANT TO DO BY SOMEONE THEY WERE DATING OR GOING OUT WITH DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS



In 2024, **Eaton County high school females were over 3 times as likely** to report being forced to do sexual things they did not want to do by someone they were dating or going out with.

NATIONAL DATA

Data from CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2021 indicated that among U.S. high school students who reported dating during the 12 months before the survey:

About **1 in 12** experienced physical dating violence



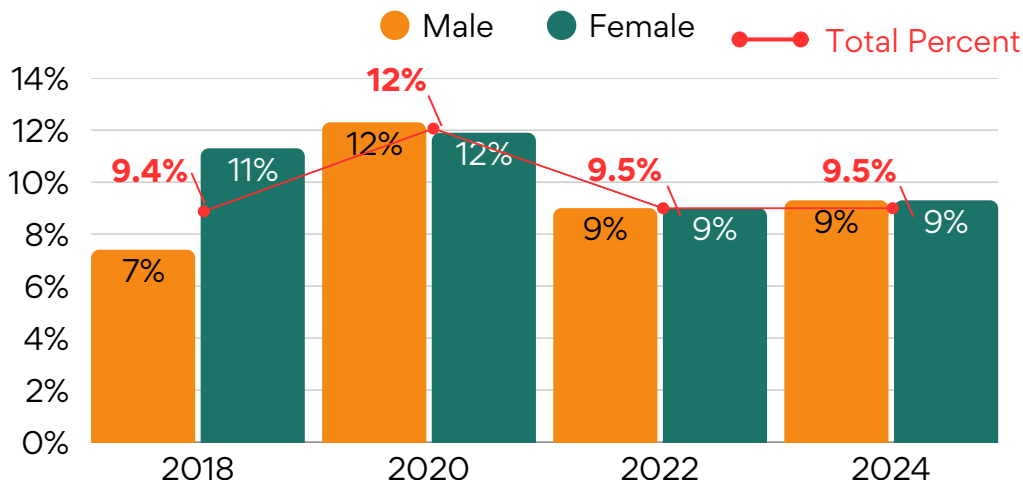
About **1 in 10** experienced sexual dating violence



Female students experience higher rates of physical and sexual dating violence than male students.

LGBTQ students experienced higher rates of physical and sexual dating violence than heterosexual students.

PERCENTAGE OF EATON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WERE PHYSICALLY HURT ON PURPOSE BY SOMEONE THEY WERE DATING OR GOING OUT WITH THE PAST 12 MONTHS



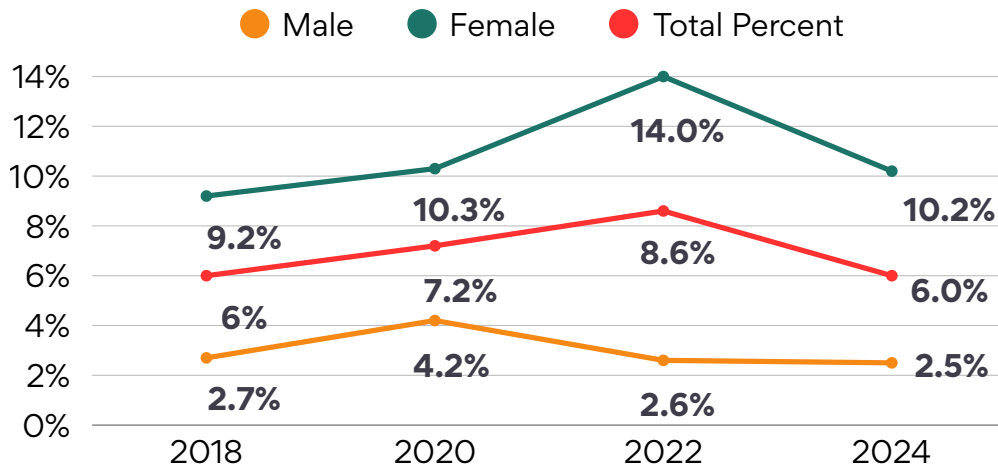
Research shows that experiencing dating violence can influence sexual risk taking and negative health outcomes.

In 2024, Eaton County high school males (9.3%) and females (9.9%) reported nearly equal rates of being physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

**EATON
COUNTY**

PERCENTAGE OF EATON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY FORCED TO HAVE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WHEN THEY DID NOT WANT TO



In 2024, Eaton County high school **females were over four times as likely than men** to report they have ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF ABUSE

Teens may not always feel comfortable telling a parent they're experiencing abuse or report unhealthy behaviors, which is why it's important to look for potential warning signs, such as:

- Sudden changes in mood or behavior
- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Unexplained injuries
- Losing interest in hobbies or activities

PREVENTING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

- Comprehensive Sex Education: teaching teens about healthy relationships, consent and setting boundaries
- Screening & Early Intervention: healthcare providers and schools can play a role identifying at-risk teens
- Empowerment & Safe Dating Skills: equipping teens with assertiveness, self-respect, and knowledge of red flags in relationships

SOURCES

- Eaton County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 1. (BRFSS), 2014-2022
- High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2021
- Michigan Department of Education, 2022, Michigan school health survey system. <https://bit.ly/3T3OMvV>
- Talking to Your Teen About Safe Relationships | Pillars Community Health
- Foshee VA, McNaughton Reyes HL, Gottfredson NC, Chang LY, Ennett ST. (2013). A longitudinal examination of psychological, behavioral, academic, and relationship consequences of dating abuse victimization among a primarily rural sample of adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*; 53(6):723-729.
- Roberts TA, Klein JD, Fisher S. (2003). Longitudinal effect of intimate partner abuse on high-risk behavior among adolescents. *Archives of Pediatric Adolescent Medicine*; 157(9):875-881.
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