

PREVENTING SEXUAL AND DATING VIOLENCE AMONG DISTRICT STUDENTS

Sexual violence is sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), consequences of sexual violence include depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. Further, survivors of sexual violence are more likely to smoke, abuse alcohol, use drugs and engage in risky sexual activity.¹ In the District, students who have been kicked out, abandoned, or have run away from home are at greater risk of exchanging something of value for sex². Exchange sex may also include commercial sexual exploitation or sex trafficking.

AMONG STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT:

18%

of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) high school students have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

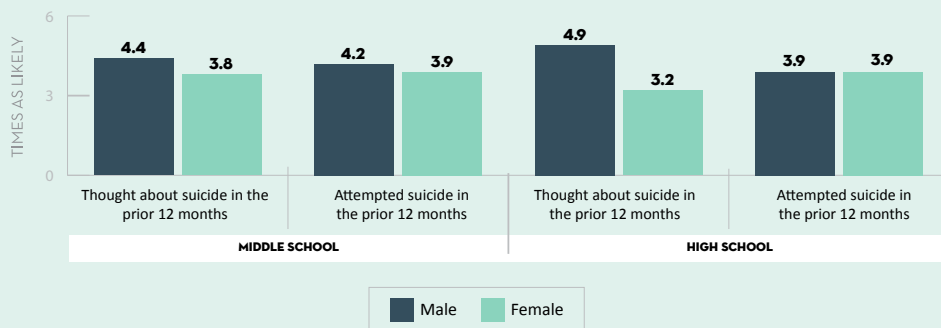
10%

of middle school students were physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with during the prior 12 months.

6%

of high school students have been given money, food or something else of value in exchange for sex.

Students in the District who have ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse (raped) were more likely than their peers to have:



All data in this section are from the 2019 DC Youth Risk Behavior Survey. For the report, please visit www.osse.dc.gov/service/dc-youth-risk-behavior-survey-yrb

Among female middle school students who reported ever being physically forced to have sexual intercourse, **44 percent** reported at least one suicide attempt during the prior 12 months.

Transgender youth were **3.8 times as likely** to experience dating violence and **twice as likely** to have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse than non-transgender youth.

HOW CAN WE TAKE ACTION TO KEEP STUDENTS SAFE AND PREVENT AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

The School Safety Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018 (SSOAA)

SSOAA requires all District schools to take steps to prevent and address student sexual abuse by school staff and student-on-student acts of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and dating violence. School leaders and staff should ensure that their school policies are current. Requirements, resources, and trainings are available at: osse.dc.gov/page/school-safety-omnibus-amendment-act-2018-ssoa

The **Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Training** is a child sexual abuse prevention training in alignment with SSOAA requirements. It is available through OSSE's Supporting Mental Health in Schools page. Schools can direct their staff members to the portal to complete the self-paced training for free: osse.dc.gov/page/supporting-mental-health-schools

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

DC Rape Crisis Center

(202) 333-RAPE | dcrcc.org/

DCRCC is the designated District State Sexual Assault Coalition, providing a 24-hour crisis hotline, and survivor-centered advocacy through therapy, training and technical assistance, community education, public policy, and volunteer opportunities.

DC Victim Hotline

844-4HELPDC | ovsjg.dc.gov/service/dc-victim-hotline

The DC Victim Hotline is available 24/7 by telephone, text, or online chat. It provides local information, resources, and referrals.

The Trevor Project

www.thetrevorproject.org

The Trevor Project believes that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning young people deserve a welcoming, loving world. Suicide prevention and crisis intervention is available 24/7 by phone, text or chat.

1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preventing Sexual Violence. Violence Prevention. www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/fastfact.html

2 Head, S., Eaton, D., Lloyd, P., McLaughlin, A. (2017). Exchange Sex Among High School Students. 68th ANNUAL EIS CONFERENCE. www.cdc.gov/eis/downloads/eis-conference-2019-508.pdf#page=60