

# Family Violence

Family violence includes child abuse and intimate partner violence. Abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, or economic. Existing data are helpful in understanding the prevalence of abuse, but more data are needed to understand possible disparities in family violence. For more information, see the Health of Washington state chapter on Child Abuse and Neglect. <sup>1</sup>

## Key Findings

### Child Abuse

#### Child Protective Services Referrals

- Only a portion of child abuse is reported to Child Protective Services (CPS). Referrals are accepted for investigation following an initial screening. In 2013, 48,250 Washington children were in accepted referrals to CPS for a rate of 31 per 1,000 children under age 18. The rate of children in accepted referrals has been stable since at least 1998, which was the first year CPS data were available that counted each child only once regardless of the number of referrals. <sup>2</sup>

### History of Child Abuse

- On the 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), about 21 percent of both men and women reported a history of childhood physical abuse by a parent or other adult in the home. <sup>3,a</sup>
- On the 2011 BRFSS, women were more likely than men to report a history of childhood sexual abuse. About 22 percent of adult Washington women and 9 percent of men reported a history of childhood sexual abuse. <sup>3,b</sup>

**Family Violence:** Violence or abuse of any type, perpetrated by one family member against another family member. This includes both child abuse and intimate partner violence.

- In 2014, about 21 to 26 percent of Washington 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported that they had been physically abused by an adult at some point in their lives. 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls were more likely than boys to report abuse. <sup>4,c</sup> There is no difference by sex for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade in this measure. <sup>4,c</sup>

### Intimate Partner Violence Crime in Washington

- In 2014, there were 49,360 domestic violence offenses (including 59 homicides) reported in Washington State. Domestic violence offenses accounted for about 51 percent of all crimes against persons reported in the state. <sup>5</sup>
- From 1997-2014, 678 people were killed by domestic violence abusers, or an individual associated with the abuser, in Washington State. <sup>6</sup>
- Looking at Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality reviews between 1997-2010, a report found that almost a third of the abusers who committed homicides during this time also committed suicide. Over half of the victims killed by current or former partners had children living in the home with them at the time they were murdered. <sup>7</sup>

### Youth Dating Violence

- In 2014, about 4 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 8 percent of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 8 percent of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported that someone they were dating or going out with limited their activities or made them feel unsafe. Females were more likely than males in grades 10 and 12 to report that their activities had been limited or the person

they were dating or going out with had made them feel unsafe.<sup>4,d</sup>

- In 2014, about 11 percent of Washington 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, 10 percent of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported that they were physically hurt on purpose more than once by the person they were dating or going out with in the past 12 months.<sup>4,e</sup>
- Nationally in 2013, about 10 percent of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 12 percent of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported a boyfriend or girlfriend had hit or physically hurt them in the past 12 months.<sup>8,d</sup> In 2013, about 13 percent females and 8 percent males nationally reported a boyfriend or girlfriend had hit or physically hurt them in the past 12 months.<sup>8,d</sup>

### Pregnancy Violence

- In 2010-2012, about 4 percent of Washington women reported that they were physically abused by their husband or partner before or during pregnancy. Women under age 20 were more likely than older women to report that their husband or partner had physically abused them before or during pregnancy.<sup>9,f</sup>
- In 2010-2012, about 75 percent of pregnant Washington women reported that their healthcare provider asked them during their pregnancy whether someone was hurting them physically or emotionally.<sup>9,g</sup>

### Healthy People 2020<sup>10</sup>

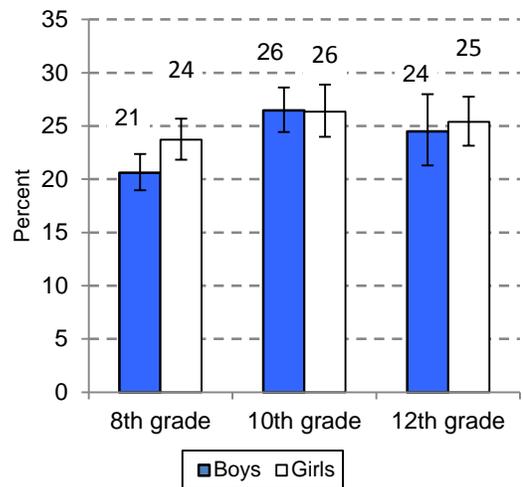
- Healthy People 2020 has a goal of reducing physical violence by current or former intimate partners, but there is no target objective.<sup>10</sup>
- The Healthy People 2020 objective is to reduce child maltreatment to 8.5 per 1,000 children under age 18 years. In 2012 Washington Child Protective Services

(CPS) reported 4.1 children with CPS-verified maltreatment per 1,000 children, suggesting that Washington has continued to meet this Healthy People 2020 goal.<sup>10,2</sup>

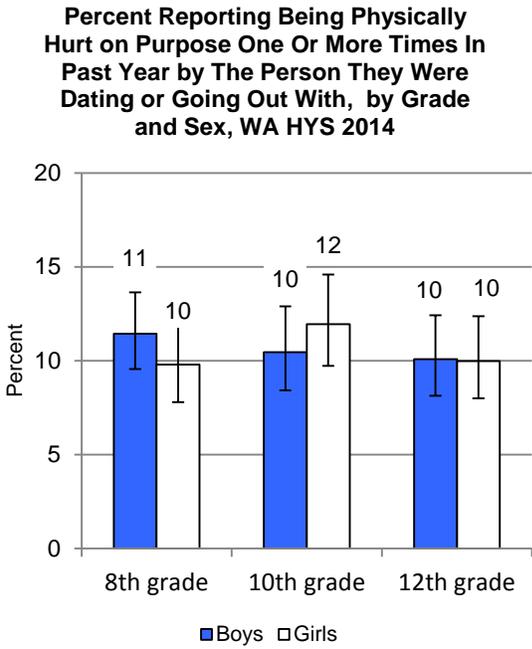
- The Healthy People 2020 objective is to reduce maltreatment fatalities of children to 2.2 per 100,000 children under the age of 18 years. In 2013, Washington CPS reported 1.69 fatalities per 100,000 children, suggesting that Washington has continued to meet Healthy People 2020 goal.<sup>10,2</sup>

### History of Child Abuse: Youth Reported<sup>4,c</sup>

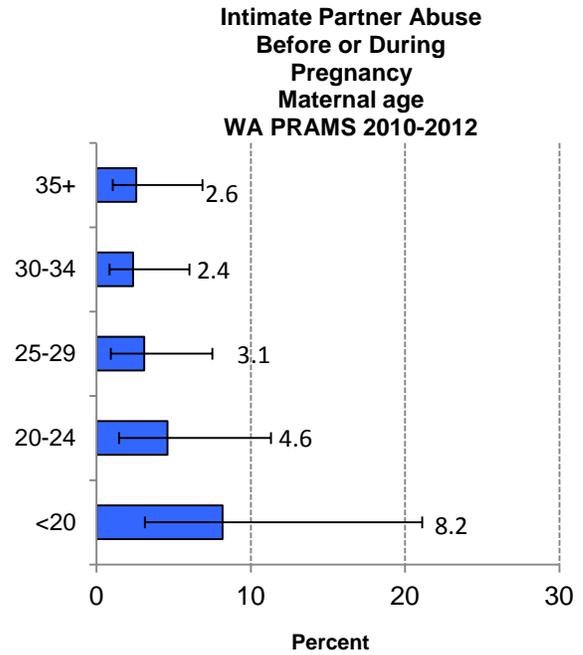
**Percent Youth Reporting History of Being Physically Hurt on Purpose by an Adult, by Grade and Sex, WA HYS 2014**



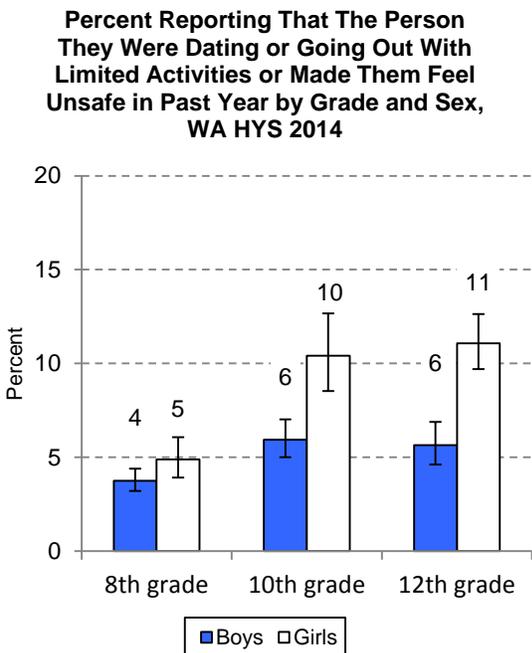
**Dating Violence: Youth Reported**<sup>4, e</sup>



**Abuse before or during pregnancy**<sup>8, f</sup>



**Person they were dating or going out with Limiting Activities or Making Feel Unsafe: Youth Reported**<sup>4, d</sup>



### **Data Sources**

1. Washington State Department of Health, Health of Washington State Child Abuse and Neglect Chapter (2012). Available from <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5500/IV-ABU2012.pdf>. Accessed Nov 27, 2012.
2. *Child Maltreatment Annual Report 2013*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau; 2011. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats\\_research/index.htm#can](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#can). Reviewed on June 17, 2015. Accessed Dec 21, 2015.
3. *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2011* [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health.
4. Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (2014). Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Health, Department of Social and Health Services, the Liquor Control Board, the Department of Commerce and Looking Glass Analytics. Website: <http://www.askhys.net/Home/About>
5. Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. *Crime in Washington 2014 Annual Report*. Retrieved Oct 28, 2015, from <http://www.waspc.org/assets/CJIS/ciw%202014%20small.pdf>
6. 2014 Domestic Violence Fatalities in Washington State. Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Retrieved December 18, 2015, from <https://fatalityreview.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/2014-washington-domestic-violence-fatalities.pdf>
7. Fawcett, J. *Up to US: Lessons learned and goals for change after thirteen years of the Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review*. Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Retrieved December 14 2012, from <http://www.wscadv.org/docs/FR-2010-Report.pdf>
8. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavioral Survey Online data query accessed at: <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>
9. *Washington Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) 2010-2012* [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health.
10. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Healthy People 2020*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved December 2012, from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicId=24#6378>

### **Endnotes**

- a. Based on the question "Before age 18, how often did a parent or adult in your home ever hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt you in any way? Do not include spanking."
- b. Based on the question "How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, ever touch you sexually," "How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, ever try to make you touch them sexually" and "How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, force you to have sex?"
- c. Based on the question "Has an adult ever physically hurt you on purpose (like pushed, slapped, hit, kicked or punched you), leaving a mark, bruise or injury?"
- d. Based on the question "During the past 12 months, did someone you were dating or going out with ever limit your activities, threaten you, or make you feel unsafe in any other way?"
- e. Based on the question "In the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with physically hurt you on purpose? (Count such things as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.)"
- f. Based on the questions "During the 12 months before you got pregnant with your new baby, did your husband or partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke or physically hurt you in any other way?" and "During your most recent pregnancy, did your husband or partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke or physically hurt you in any other way?"
- g. Based on the question "During any of your prenatal care visits, did a doctor, nurse or other health care worker ask if someone was hurting you physically or emotionally?"

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