



Health, sexual behaviors and teen dating violence: California youth, 2015

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Introduction

- Teen dating violence (TDV) is related to adolescents' well-being and engagement in risky sexual behaviors, and may have lasting behavioral effects and implications later in life[†]
- The focus of this poster is to assess the prevalence of TDV, identify students who are at greatest risk, and evaluate TDV as a predictor of behaviors related to adolescent sexual and general health risks

Data Source

- California Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
 - Administered by California Department of Education in 2015, YRBS includes a representative sample of high school students in grades 9-12 and monitors six types of health-risk behaviors contributing to leading causes of death and disability among youth
 - Data are weighted to represent high school students in California

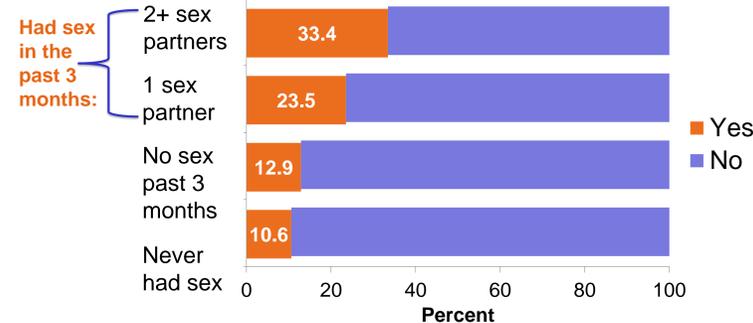
Methods

- Descriptive analyses of TDV based on two YRBS questions:
 - During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with:
 - Physically hurt you on purpose
 - Force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do
- Bivariate analyses of TDV including: (1) all students; and (2) sexually active students by type of sexual behavior (e.g., types of birth control method used)
- Chi-square (χ^2) tests to compare distributions according to TDV and differences in contraceptive use and risk behaviors
- Multiple logistic regression predicting selected adolescents' health risk behavior (e.g., bullying, felt sad, attempted suicide, drank alcohol, used marijuana, and smoked tobacco) and adjusted for students' age, sex, race/ethnicity and school performance

[†] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention, Teen Dating Violence https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen_dating_violence.html
 Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11476659>

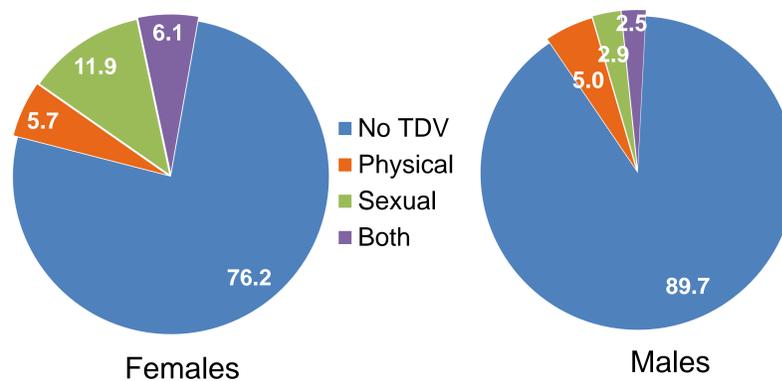
Results

Experienced TDV in the past 12 months by sexual behavior status



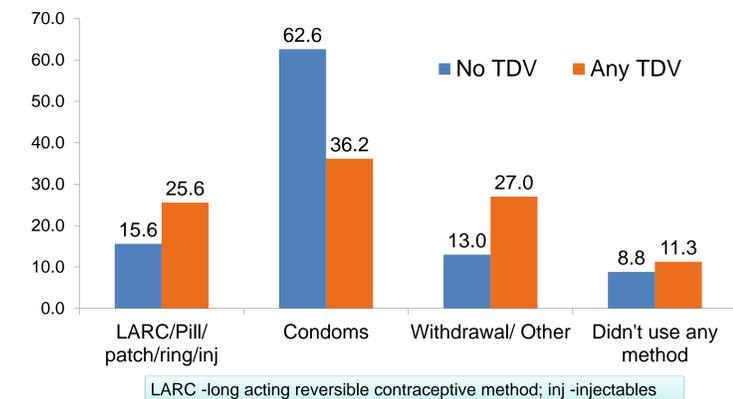
Students with multiple sexual partners were more likely to experience TDV than those with one sexual partner
 $\chi^2(3, n=994)=30.9, p< .0001$

Experienced TDV in the past 12 months by sex



Females were more likely to experience TDV than males
 $\chi^2(3, n=1049)=24.5, p< .0001$

Contraceptive use among students sexually active in the last 3 months by TDV experience



Students were more likely to use condoms than any other method; however, condom use was significantly lower among those who experienced TDV (36.2%) versus non-TDV students (62.6%)
 $\chi^2(3, n=439)=18.3, p< .001$

Adjusting for students' age, sex, race/ethnicity and school performance, selected odds ratio results:

- No condom use was 2.6 times higher among students who experienced TDV compared with non-TDV students
- Being bullied in school or electronically was more than 7 times higher among sexually active students who experienced TDV compared with non-TDV students
- Having drank alcohol during the past 30 days before the survey was nearly 3 times higher among non-sexually active students who experienced TDV compared with non-sexually active who did not experience TDV

Discussion

TDV is a public health concern. YRBS data suggests that there were significant associations between TDV experience and students' general health and sexual behaviors as demonstrated by our findings

- The California Department of Public Health is committed to implementing effective, evidence-based violence prevention programs to stop TDV before it happens, end the cycle of violence, and prevent adverse health outcomes
- The California Healthy Youth Act passed in 2015 ensures that students in middle school and high school receive sex education that includes instruction for students to gain the "knowledge and skills they need to form healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection, and are free from violence, coercion, and intimidation."
- By ensuring that such sex education curricula includes information on healthy relationships, schools can encourage positive relationships on and off-campus

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