More Than One in Eight Boys Report Abuse

Percent of boys reporting ever being abused, grades 9-12

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Most Physical Abuse Happens at Home, It Happens More Than Once, and the Abuser Is Usually a Family Member

Percent of physically abused boys

- Abuser was a family member: 68%
- Abuse happened more than once: 61%
- Abuse happened at home: 66%

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Most Sexual Abuse Happens Outside the Home, It Usually Happens More Than Once, and the Abuser Is Often Not a Family Member

Percent of sexually abused boys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abuse happened at home</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuse happened more than once</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuser was a family member</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Boys with Less-Educated Mothers Are at Higher Risk of Abuse

Percent of boys reporting abuse, by mother’s education*

- **Less than high school**: 23 (Physical abuse), 21 (Sexual abuse)
- **High school graduate**: 10 (Physical abuse), 2 (Sexual abuse)
- **Some college**: 11 (Physical abuse), 2 (Sexual abuse)
- **College graduate**: 7 (Physical abuse), 2 (Sexual abuse)

* Mother’s education used as a proxy for socioeconomic status.

_The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997_  
Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Asian American and Hispanic Boys Are Most at Risk of Abuse

Percent of boys reporting abuse

- **Physical abuse**
- **Sexual abuse**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Physical Abuse</th>
<th>Sexual Abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997*

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Abused Boys Are More Likely to Have Symptoms of Poor Mental Health

*Boys who said they thought about or wanted to kill themselves.

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.*
Half of Boys Tell No One About Their Abuse

Percent of sexually and physically abused boys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whom did you talk to about the abuse?</th>
<th>48</th>
<th>29</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No one</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best friend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor or nurse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997*
Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Older Abused Boys Are More Likely to Put Their Health at Risk

Percent of boys in grades 9-12

- Smoke: Abused - 27, Non-abused - 10
- Drink: Abused - 30, Non-abused - 16
- Use drugs: Abused - 34, Non-abused - 15

*Smoke = smoke several cigarettes or a pack or more in the past week
Drink = drink at least once a month or once a week
Use drugs = used illegal drugs in the past month

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Abused Boys Are More Likely to Engage in Bingeing or Purging

Percent of boys who reported bingeing or purging

- Ever binged or purged
  - Abused: 23
  - Non-abused: 6

- Binged or purged more than once a week
  - Abused: 16
  - Non-abused: 2

*The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997*

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Minority Boys Often Feel Unsafe at School or in Their Neighborhoods

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Frequent Exercise Rates Are High Among Younger and Older Boys

Percent of boys exercising at least three times a week

- All boys: 83%
- Younger boys: 86%
- Older boys: 80%

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.*
Asian American and Hispanic Boys Are Less Likely to Engage in Organized Sports

Percent of boys engaging in organized sports

- White: 66%
- Black: 67%
- Hispanic: 56%
- Asian American: 55%

*The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997*
Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Older Boys and Girls Report Similar Rates of Smoking, Drinking, and Using Drugs

Percent in grades 9-12

- **Smoke**
  - Boys: 15
  - Girls: 14

- **Drink**
  - Boys: 20
  - Girls: 15

- **Use Drugs**
  - Boys: 20
  - Girls: 18

*Smoke = smoke several cigarettes or a pack or more the past week
Drink = drink at least once a month or once a week
Use drugs = used illegal drugs in the past month

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.*
Younger Boys Are More Likely Than Younger Girls to Engage in Risky Behaviors

Percent in grades 5-8

- **Smoke**: 5 (Younger boys) vs. 3 (Younger girls)
- **Drink**: 6 (Younger boys) vs. 3 (Younger girls)
- **Use drugs**: 9 (Younger boys) vs. 6 (Younger girls)

*Smoke = smoke several cigarettes or a pack or more the past week
Drink = drink at least once a month or once a week
Use drugs = used illegal drugs in the past month

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.*
Leading Reasons Given by Boys for Engaging in Risky Behaviors

Percent of boys giving reason for behavior

- **Smoke**: 49 (Relieve stress), 45 (Around people who do it), 14 (Wanted to try/experiment), 7 (Fun)
- **Drink**: 60 (Relieve stress), 27 (Around people who do it), 22 (Wanted to try/experiment), 4 (Fun)
- **Use drugs**: 34 (Relieve stress), 37 (Around people who do it), 21 (Wanted to try/experiment), 6 (Fun)

*Smoke = smoke several cigarettes or a pack or more the past week
Drink = drink at least once a month or once a week
Use drugs = used illegal drugs in the past month

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.*
**Boys’ Risky Behavior Rates Are High Across Race and Ethnic Groups**

Percent of boys grades 9-12

- **White**
- **Hispanic**
- **Black**
- **Asian American**

### Smoke*

- 17
- 23
- 14
- 15

### Drink*

- 21
- 27
- 16
- 16

### Use drugs*

- 20
- 33
- 21
- 9

*Smoke = smoke several cigarettes or a pack or more in the past week
Drink = drink at least once a month or once a week
Use drugs = used illegal drugs in the past month

*The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997*
Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.*
Uninsured Boys Are More Likely to Go Without Needed Care

Percent of boys saying “yes” they had a time when they did not get needed care

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Abused Boys Are at Higher Risk of Access Barriers

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Minority Boys Are Less Likely to Have a Regular Physician

Percent of boys with no regular doctor

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
One-Quarter of Older Boys Face Access Barriers

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
A Gap Exists Between What Boys Believe Doctors Should Discuss and What Doctors Have Discussed

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Boys Are Less Likely Than Girls to Have a Source of Support

Whom do you usually talk to when you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed, or depressed?

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Boys Are More Likely Than Girls to Talk to Their Fathers When Feeling Stressed

Percent of adolescents living with two parents

- Talk to mother when feeling stressed
- Talk to father when feeling stressed

**Girls**
- Grades 5-8: 66%
- Grades 9-12: 49%

**Boys**
- Grades 5-8: 61%
- Grades 9-12: 49%

*The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997*  
Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Boys Are More Likely Than Girls to Exercise or Spend Time on a Computer When They Are Stressed

What do you do when you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed, or depressed?

*The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997*
Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Older Boys and Girls Differ on Sources of Information About Birth Control

Where have you learned about birth control?

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Older Boys Would Use a Variety of Sources to Obtain Birth Control

If you wanted to get condoms, spermicides, or birth control pills, where would you go?

*The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997*
Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.
Boys’ Attitudes Toward Sexual Behavior Change Over Time

Percent of boys saying it is “very or somewhat important” to “not have sex during my teen years”

Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.