

2023 - 2024 Youth Survey Fact Sheet

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/youthsurvey



1 Insights

In 2023, the percentage of youth who reported sexual and physical violence by someone they went out with had declined from 2021.



63%

of students who **were ever verbally abused by their partner also said they felt sad or hopeless** for two or more weeks in a row (vs. 23% of those who were never verbally abused by their partner)



37%

of students who **went out with someone and were subjected to sexual violence seriously considered suicide** (vs. 10% of those who went out with someone but were not subjected to sexual violence)

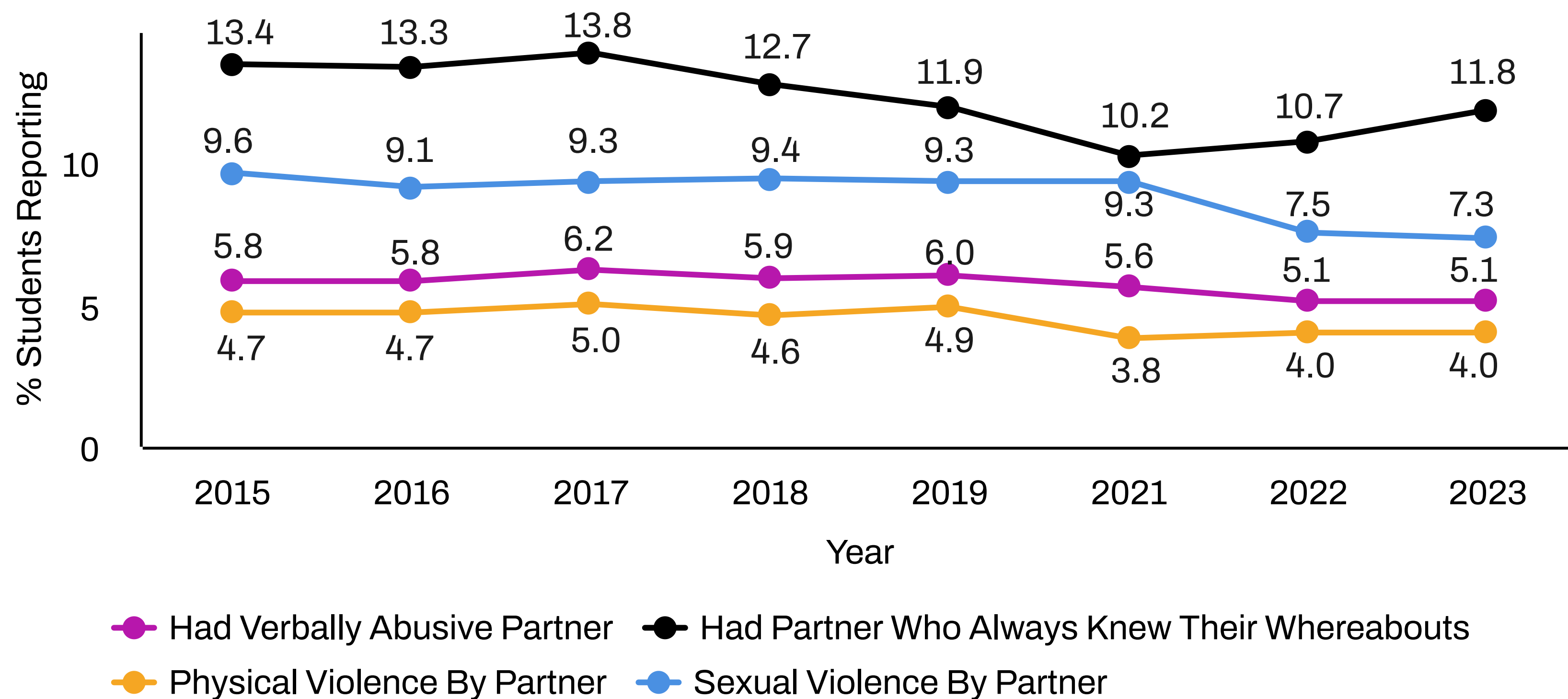


21%

of those who were **physically or emotionally abused at home were also subjected to physical and sexual violence by their partner** (vs. 6% of those who were not abused at home)

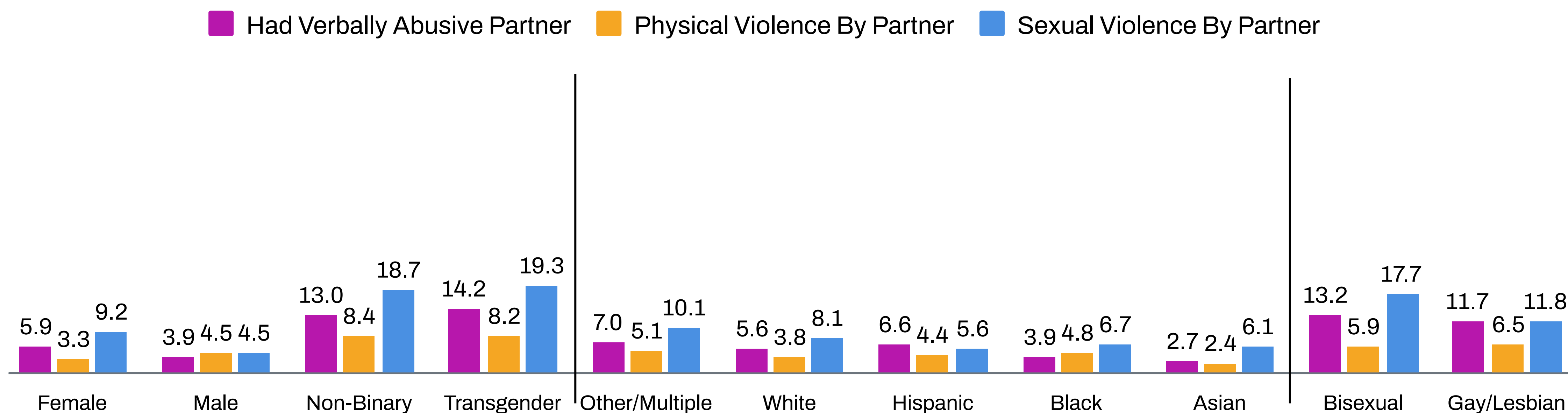
2 Trends

The reported rates of experiencing verbal, physical, and sexual violence among those dating, are similar to last year's rates.



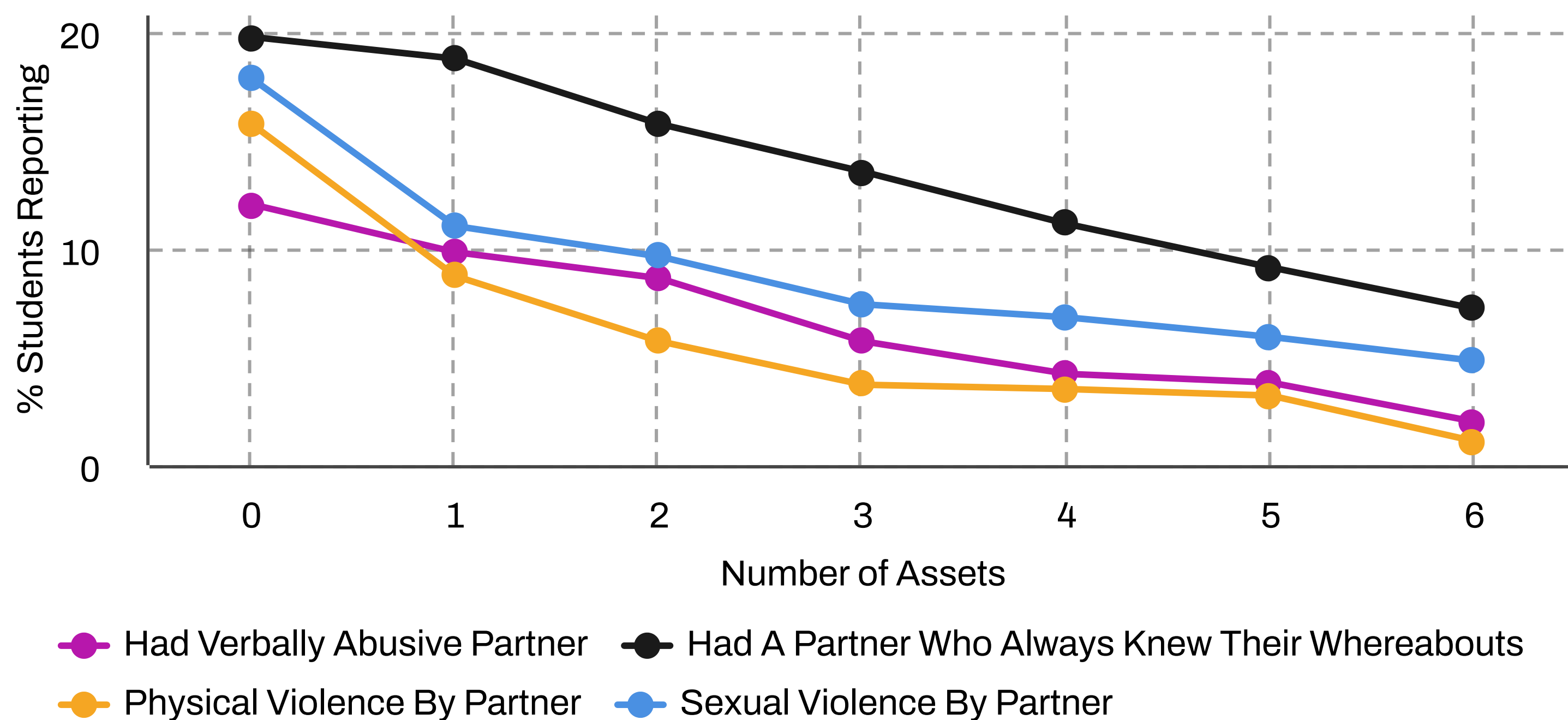
3 Differences by Demographic Factors

Female, Non-binary, and LGBTQ students were more likely to report being physically or sexually abused by their partner in the past year. Hispanic students and students of other or multiple races were more likely to report ever having a verbally abusive partner. (For comparison within the chart below: Heterosexual: Had verbally abusive partner - 4.1%, Physical violence by partner - 3.7%, Sexual violence by partner - 5.6%; Not Transgender: Had verbally abusive partner - 4.7%, Physical violence by partner - 3.8%, Sexual violence by partner - 6.8%.)



About the Youth Survey data: All data are self-reported and are from the 2023 - 2024 Youth Survey for 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students. The survey was not administered in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey asks questions on whether the respondent ever had a partner who always wanted to know their whereabouts and whether they ever had a partner who called them names or put them down verbally. In 2023, about 42% of the respondents said they had gone out with someone in the past year. Among those who said they went out with someone, the experience is considered physical violence if their date physically hurt them on purpose at least once in the past year, and sexual violence if their date forced them to do unwanted sexual things at least once in the past year.

4 Three to Succeed

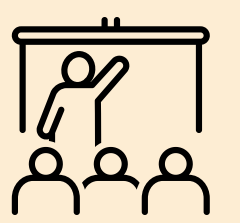


Data shows that having at least three protective factors, or assets, helps to build resilience among youth:

- Accepting responsibility for one's actions
- Having teachers recognize good work
- Participating in extracurricular activities
- Performing community service
- Having community adults to talk to
- Having parents available for help

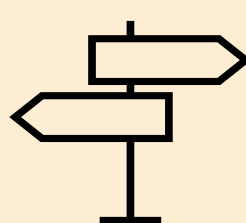
Be an asset in a young person's life and help build a stronger, more positive community for all.

5 What We Can Do



Teach Healthy Relationships

- Teach the meaning and importance of consent
- Explain to your teen that healthy relationships allow all people involved to feel supported and connected, but still feel independent.
- Emphasize that everyone is deserving of healthy relationships, including mutual respect, trust and honesty.
- Engage in conversations related to healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent. Use TV, music, and movies as conversation starters to discuss healthy and unhealthy relationships



The Relationship Spectrum

Healthy: Based on equality and respect. A healthy relationship means you and your partner:

- Make mutual choices together
- Are equal, honest, respectful and trusting
- Communicate
- Enjoy spending personal time away from one another
- Are economic/financial partners

Unhealthy: Based on attempts to control the other person. Your relationship may be unhealthy if your partner:

- Is dishonest or distrustful
- Doesn't communicate/breaks in communication
- Only wants you to spend time with each other
- Pressures you into activities
- Economically unequal

Abusive: Based on an imbalance of power and control. Your relationship may be abusive when your partner:

- Makes all the decisions
- Accuses you of cheating when you're not
- Manipulates you
- Communicates in a threatening or hurtful way
- Controls you
- Denies their abusive actions
- Isolates you from family and friends
- Hurts you physically



If You Are Concerned

- Listen and be supportive, even if you don't agree. Create an environment where youth will reach out for help when they need it. Express to your teen that you are concerned for their safety and you are there to listen. Help them to make their own decisions.
- Let your teen know that abuse is not their fault and never okay.
- If your teen is injured, go to your doctor or the emergency room.
- If your teen is in danger, report the abuse to law enforcement.
- Contact a teen dating abuse hotline to get guidance on how to have the conversation and also provide them with a resource to talk.

Adapted from Love is Respect

6 For Help & Information

Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Services/Hotline

www.bit.ly/DSVS
24 hours/7 days
703-360-7273; TTY 711

Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC)

www.bit.ly/fairfaxDVAC
703-246-4573

love is respect

www.loveisrespect.org
24 hours/7 days
866-331-9474
TTY 800-787-3224
TEXT: LOVEIS to 22522
Live Chat Available

The Trevor Project

www.thetrevorproject.org
1-866-488-7386
Text START to 678-678
Live Chat Available

National Parent and Youth Helpline

www.Nationalparentyouthhelpline.org
(M-F 10am-7pm)
Call or Text: 1-855-427-2736
Live Chat Available

HopeLink Behavioral Health

www.hopelinkbh.org
Crisis Services (24-Hr Response)
Call or Text: 988

Teen Dating Violence | Family Services

www.bit.ly/DFSTeenDatingViolence

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN): www.rainn.org/

One Love Foundation: www.joinonelove.org

Veto Violence: www.bit.ly/3E7f2AL

Fairfax County Prevention Unit: www.bit.ly/FairfaxPrevention

Developmental Assets Framework | Search Institute:

www.searchinstitute.org/resources-hub/developmental-assets-framework

