

# SEXUAL & DATING VIOLENCE

Among High School Youth in Lakewood, Wheat Ridge & Edgewater

## Overview

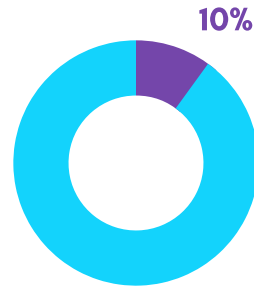
Sexual and dating violence can be physical, sexual or psychological harm, and it can happen to anyone. Youth who experience this type of violence often experience long-lasting effects that have an impact on their daily lives.

## By the Numbers



**1 in 14**

high school students responded they have been physically forced to have sex when they did not want to.



Among youth who dated in the past year, **10%** responded that physical violence took place in their dating relationship.

## What Youth Had to Say

*At a young age we're not taught, like, this is not okay. Not even taught about it in sex-ed. We're taught how it works, not what consent is.*

*It's more common than physical abuse, but it's just not talked about as much. It's not validated like physical abuse.*

*A lot of high school relationships are not healthy. We're young, learning how to grow up, sometimes people get emotionally abused. It's pretty common.*

## What's Next

The Communities That Care coalition is conducting a resource assessment to better understand what is already working, and to identify gaps in the services that we can address, so we can prevent this problem from becoming worse. If you are willing to support this process, please contact [pgould@jeffco.us](mailto:pgould@jeffco.us).

Sources: Healthy Kids Colorado Survey 2017; Jefferson County High School Report prepared for Jefferson County CTC by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; Focus group results from a Youth Researchers Project conducted in Spring 2018 by Jefferson County Public Health.