

"Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power—threatened or actual—against oneself, another person, or against a group or community—that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation" (Veto Violence)

## Types of violence:

|                          |                                  |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Youth Violence</u>    | <u>Mass Violence</u>             | <u>Elder Abuse</u>         |
| <u>Firearm Violence</u>  | <u>Sexual Violence</u>           | <u>Structural Violence</u> |
| <u>Polyvictimization</u> | <u>Intimate Partner Violence</u> |                            |

## Sexual & Dating Violence



In the year prior to the survey...

**8% of DE HS Students** reported experiencing **sexual violence by anyone**

**5% of DE HS Students** reported experiencing **sexual dating violence**

**10% of DE HS Students** experiencing **physical dating violence**

Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

## Home

**5% of DE 5th grade** students reported being **hit by an adult** with intentions to hurt them in the past month

**15% of DE 8th** & **14% of DE 11th** grade students reported ever being **hit by an adult** with the intention of hurting them

**More than 20% of 8th & 11th** grade students reported hearing/seeing **violence between people in their home.**

Delaware School Survey, 2021



\*Data Note: All Youth Risk Behavior Survey data included in this infographic were obtained through the CDC's publicly available portal and can be accessed here.

## Community

**83% of 8th** & **85% of 11th grade** DE students report feeling safe in their neighborhood often or most of the time

**21% of 8th** & **26% of 11th grade** DE students report knowing someone who had been the victim of **gun violence**



Delaware School Survey, 2021



## School

**13% of DE 5th grade** students reported being in a **fight at school** in the past year

Delaware School Survey, 2019

In the year prior to the survey...

**6% of DE HS Students** reported being injured or threatened with a **weapon** on school property

**8% of DE HS Students** reported being in a **physical fight** on school property

Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

## Interpreting Data - lower reported rates do not always reflect less experienced violence

"The closures of schools and other critical community organizations has limited key community partners in their ability to detect and report abuse (during the Covid-19 pandemic). In the United States, 67% of substantiated child abuse or neglect reports come from victim-serving professionals and 19 % of these reports come from education personnel" (Campbell, 2020).

Funding through 2019 for the Delaware Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey was provided by Nemours Children's Health System.

Funding for the Delaware High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey was provided through the Delaware Division of Public Health by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Center for Drug & Health Studies. (2019). Delaware School Survey: Secondary [Annual Survey]. University of Delaware. <https://www.cdhs.udel.edu/seow/school-surveys/delaware-school-survey-%28dss%29>

Center for Drug & Health Studies. (2019). Delaware School Survey: 5th Grade [Annual Survey]. University of Delaware. <https://www.cdhs.udel.edu/seow/school-surveys/delaware-school-survey-%28dss%29>

Campbell, A. M. (2020). An increasing risk of family violence during the Covid-19 pandemic: Strengthening community collaborations to save lives. Forensic Science International: Reports, 2(100089).

It is important to note that violence is not experienced at equal rates across diverse groups of people.

Women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people with disabilities, & people of color are more likely to report experiencing intimate partner violence.

[Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan](#)

"A 2009 review of victimization studies reported: 'Rates of victimization among severely mentally ill persons were 2.3–140.4 times higher than in the general population'."

[Treatment Advocacy Center](#)

"In 2017, the FBI reported 7,175 hate crimes nationwide, up 17 percent from 6,121 hate crimes the previous year. Further, 60 percent of the incidents were based on race, ethnicity or ancestry."

[American Bar Association](#)

## Polyvictimization

"Some children suffer several different kinds of such victimization even over a relatively brief timespan. These children and youth are at particularly high risk for lasting physical, mental, and emotional harm."

Source: (Finkelhor, 2011)  
Resource: [Polyvictimization](#)

## Prevention

### Violence Interruption

#### Gun Violence

- "In recent years, the growth in Delaware's homicide rate...has outpaced that of every other state. Adolescents 12-17 years old in Wilmington have a 3.4/1,000 risk of being a victim of firearm violence (compared to 1.8/1,000 in Chicago) making it the highest in the nation" (Chen, 2018).

#### Implement Interventions

- Cure Violence - a model for violence prevention that incorporates violence interrupters who actively de-escalate street conflicts during perpetration.

Source: [Firearm Violence in Wilmington](#)

### Educational Settings

#### Preventing Youth Violence

- Create protective community environments
- Strengthen youth's skills
- Provide quality education early in life
- Connect youth to caring adults and activities

#### Education

- Restorative justice & conflict resolution curricula
- Sexual violence: consent and body autonomy curriculum.

Source: [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention](#)

### Child Abuse & Neglect

#### Risk Factors

- Caregivers who were abused or neglected as children
- Communities with unstable housing
- Caregivers with attitudes accepting of or justifying violence or aggression

#### Protective Factors:

- Caregivers who practice nurturing parenting skills and provide emotional support
- Families where caregivers are present and interested in the child
- Communities where families have access to nurturing and safe childcare

Source: [CDC - Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention](#)

## Local & National Organizations



### [Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(DCADV\)](#)

"is the statewide, nonprofit coalition of agencies and individuals working to stop domestic violence in Delaware."



### [Urban Peace Institute \(UPI\)](#)

"The Urban Peace Institute believes violence is a symptom of many risk factors. Gang violence can result from living in a poor neighborhood, attending a low performing school, exposure to child abuse or neglect, or facing widespread social inequities. We believe there are ten root conditions that can lead to community violence."



### [Child, Inc.](#)

"CHILD, Inc.'s mission is to be the leading advocate for Delaware's children. We provide creative prevention and treatment programs that meet the changing needs of families. By protecting the victims and treating those responsible for acts of domestic violence we help children heal."



### [Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence \(DECAGV\) Education Fund](#)

"Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence Education Fund is dedicated to ending gun violence in Delaware and nationwide through education and advocacy."



### [Delaware Alliance Against Sexual Violence \(DAASV\)](#)

"The mission of the DAASV is to address Sexual Violence in Delaware by creating an inclusive community that supports survivors through advocacy, intervention and awareness."



### [The Children's Advocacy Project \(CAP\)](#)

"to help bridge the gap between the many quality social service agencies in the Wilmington area and the families that need their help the most."

Funding for this project has been provided by the Delaware Department for Health and Social Services, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).