

*Healthy Teens:*  
Dating and Dating Violence among  
Ninth Graders:  
Student Survey and Teacher Rating

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# Purpose of this Presentation

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- Describe the prevalence of dating and dating aggression among ninth graders
- Identify the characteristics of psychological and physical dating aggression
- Compare and contrast—using self-reports and teacher reports—students who:
  - Did not date
  - Dated-not victim
  - Dated-victim of psychological aggression
  - Dated-victim of physical aggression

# Description of Healthy Teens, Sample, & Variables

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# Healthy Teens: Understanding Social Competence Development from Middle to High School

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*Healthy Teens is a longitudinal  
study of a cohort of  
approximately 700 Georgia  
students followed from 6<sup>th</sup> to  
11<sup>th</sup> grade.*

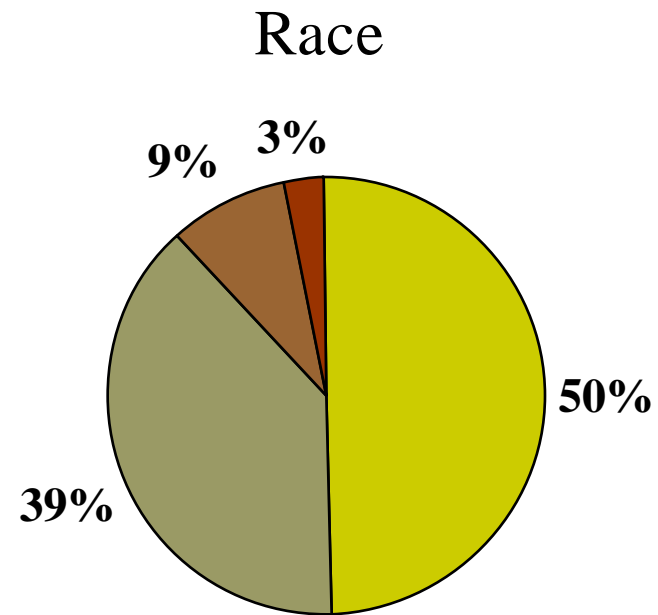
# Healthy Teens

	Study 1			Study 2: Healthy Teens		
Year Grade	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	F - S					
7 <sup>th</sup> grade		F - S				
8 <sup>th</sup> grade			F - S			
9 <sup>th</sup> grade				S		
10 <sup>th</sup> grade					S	
11 <sup>th</sup> grade						S

F = Fall, S = Spring

# Sample

- N = 627 ninth graders
- 47.5% girls
- Location: 6 counties in NE Georgia (primarily)
  - 8 high schools
  - High risk neighborhoods
  - Free/reduced price lunch: mean=49%



■ White ■ Black ■ Latino ■ Other

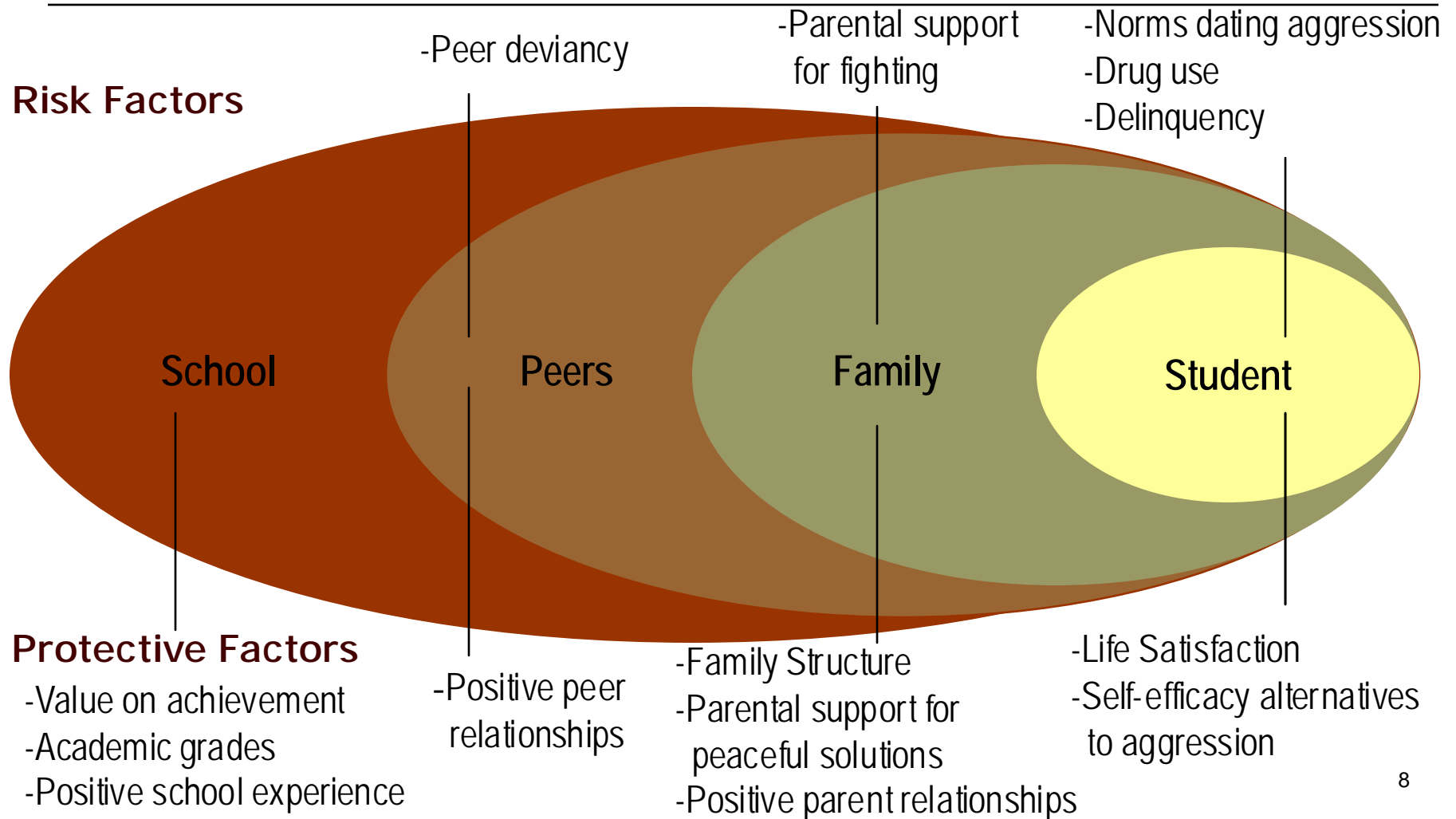
# Outcome Measures – Dating Victimization

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- **Psychological Victimization:**  
Self-reports of boyfriend/girlfriend having...
  - Damaged something of own, said something to hurt, refused to let them do something with others, done something to make them jealous
  
- **Physical Victimization:**  
Self-reports of boyfriend/girlfriend having...
  - Scratched, slapped, slammed against a wall, kicked, pushed or shoved, thrown something to hurt, punched or hit with something to hurt

Time frame = 3 months prior to survey

# Ecological Model

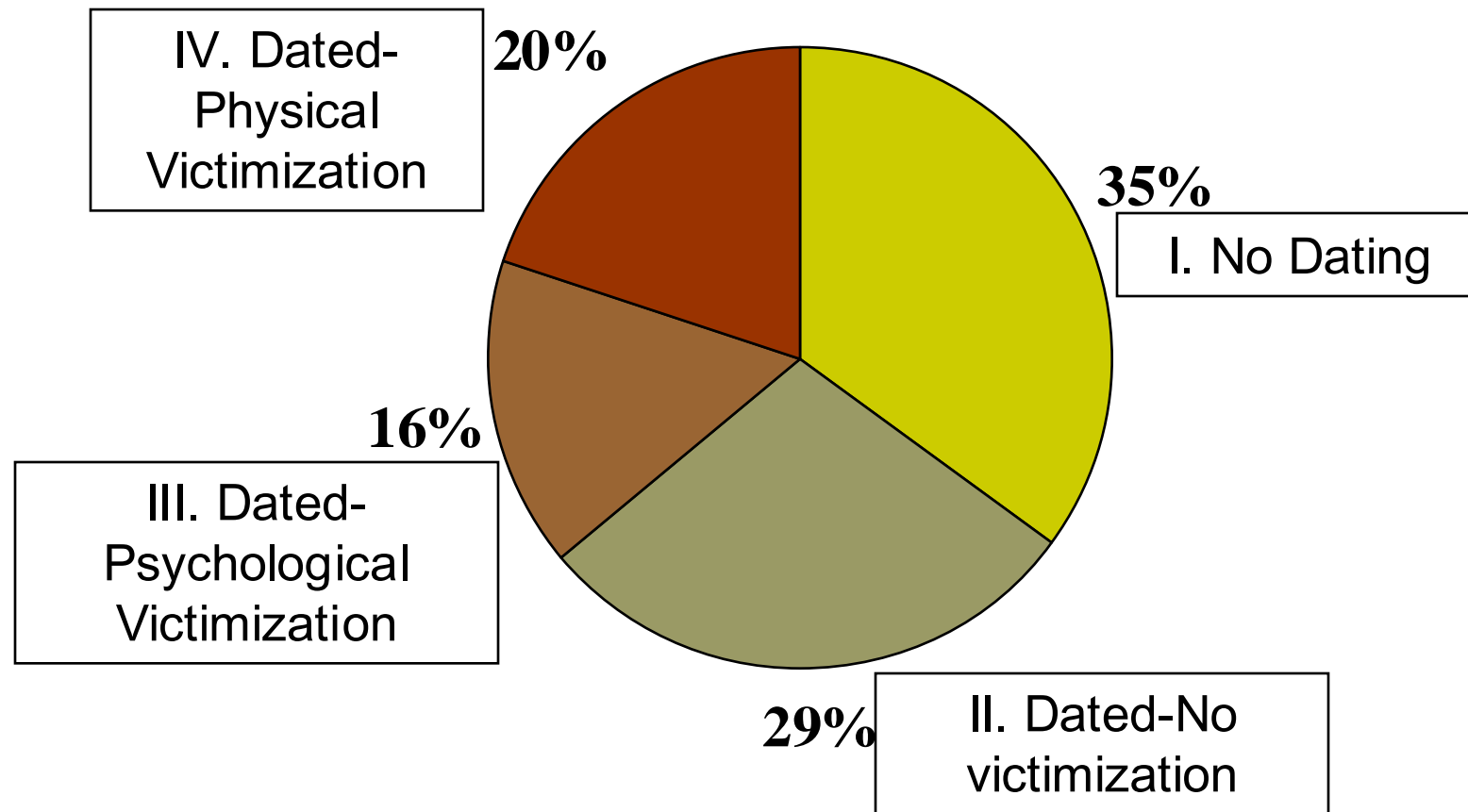




# Results

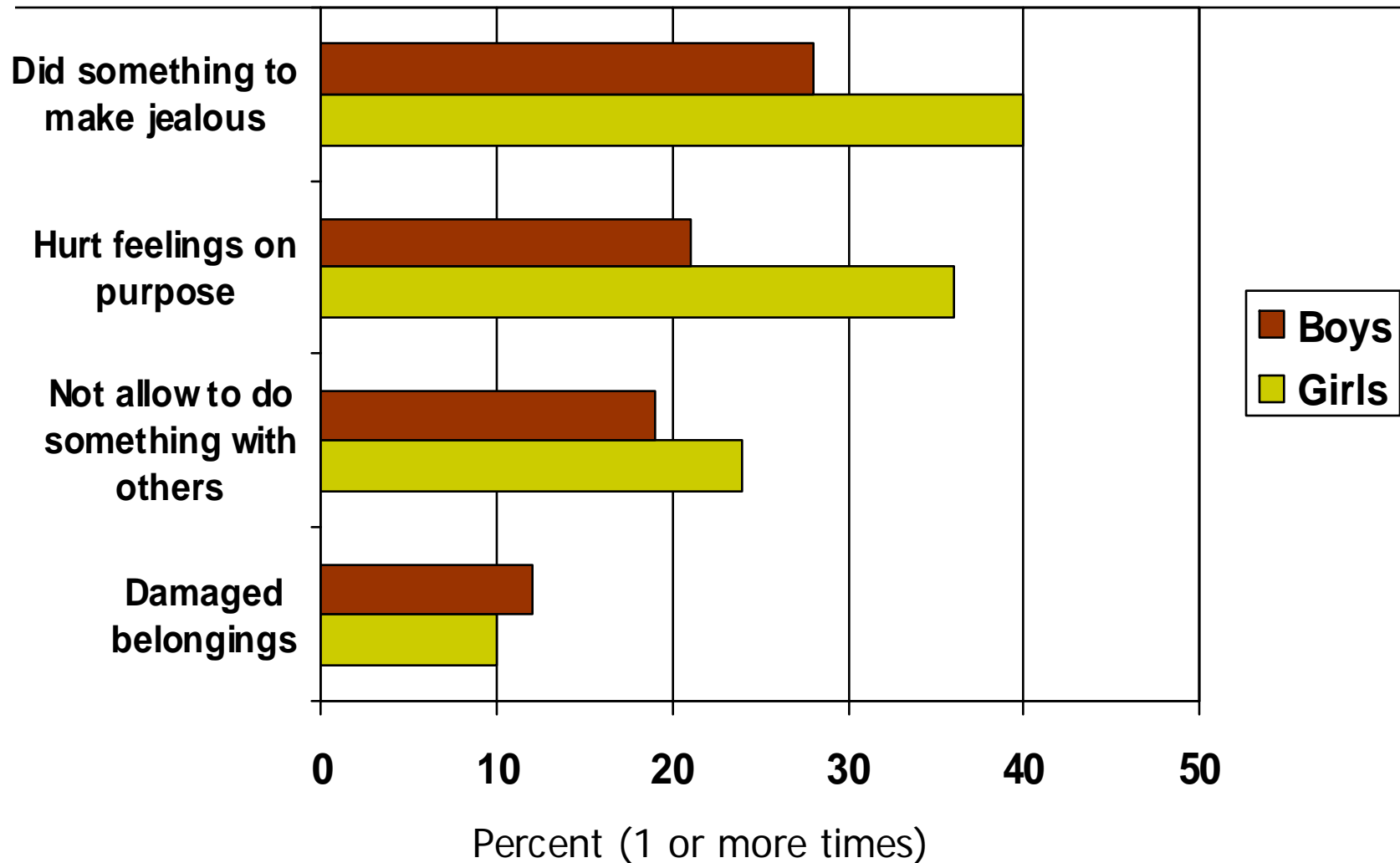
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# Dating Groups Based on Dating & Victimization

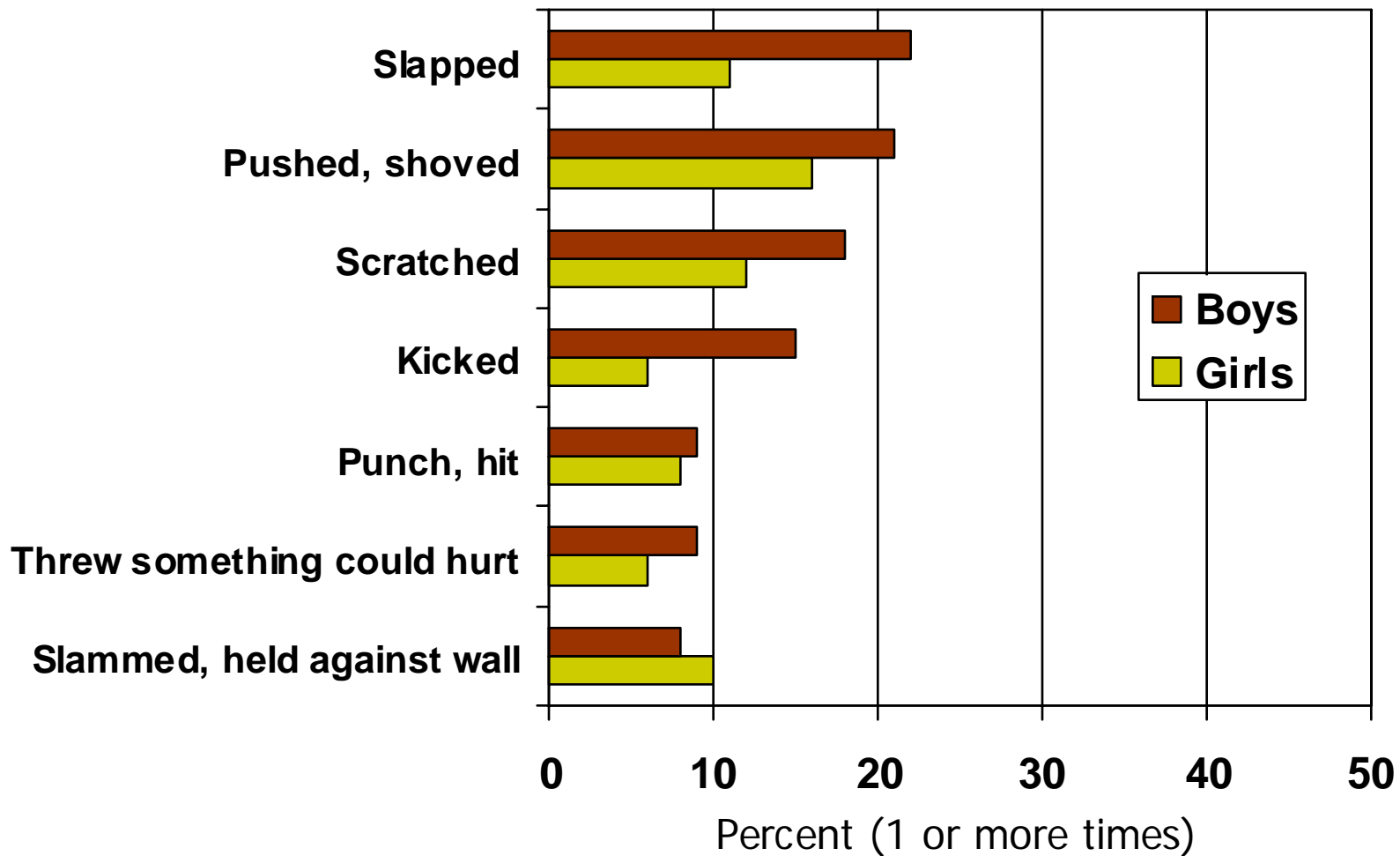


Time Frame: 3 months prior to survey

# Prevalence of Psychological Victimization by Gender-Students who Dated



# Prevalence of Physical Victimization by Gender-Students who Dated



# Demographic Characteristics

	I. No date	II. Dated- Not Victim	III. Dated- Psych. Victim	IV. Dated- Physical Victim	Total Sample
Boys	57%	53%	32%	61%	53%
White	56%	54%	52%	32%	50%
Living w/both parents	55%	48%	51%	39%	49%

# Students' Self Reports: Individual Level

## Variables

- Drug and alcohol use
- Delinquency
- Norms supporting dating aggression
- Life satisfaction
- Self-efficacy for alternatives to aggression

## □ Results

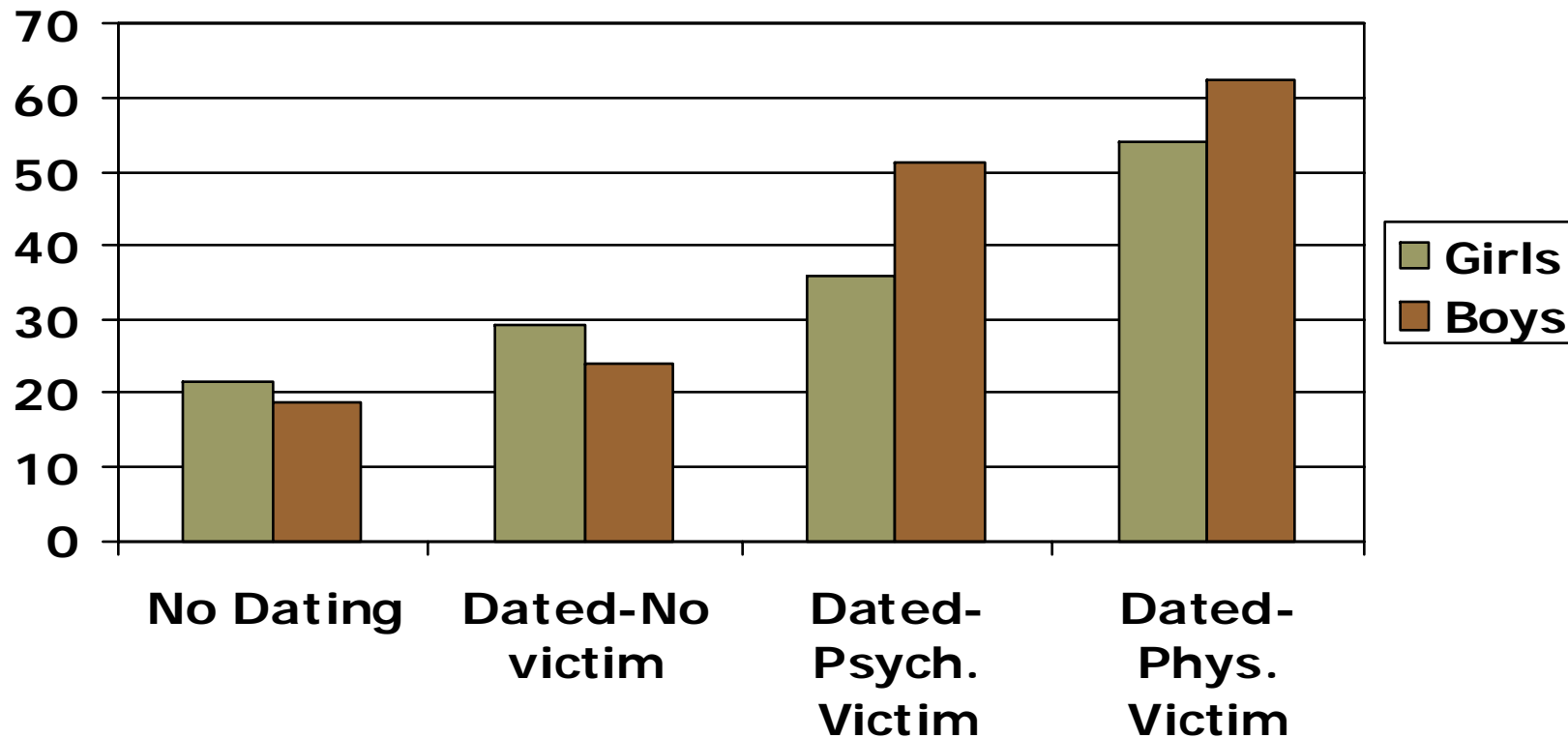
- No differences among students who
  - Did not date
  - Dated-no victim
  - Dated-psychological victim
- Students in physical victimization group scored significantly worse

# Frequency of Self-reported Drug Use

Alcohol and Drug Use (prior month)	Did not date	Dated- No Victim	Dated- Psych. Victim	Dated- Physical Victim
Drunk wine	11%	<b>20%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>42%</b>
Drunk beer	13%	15%	<b>27%</b>	<b>49%</b>
Drunk liquor	9%	12%	<b>22%</b>	<b>35%</b>
Been drunk	11%	12%	<b>22%</b>	<b>31%</b>
Smoked cigarettes	9%	10%	10%	<b>31%</b>
Used marijuana	6%	4%	6%	<b>28%</b>

# Prevalence of Self-reported Alcohol & Drug Use by Dating Status

Percent\*



\* Percent of students who reported using alcohol or drugs one or more times.

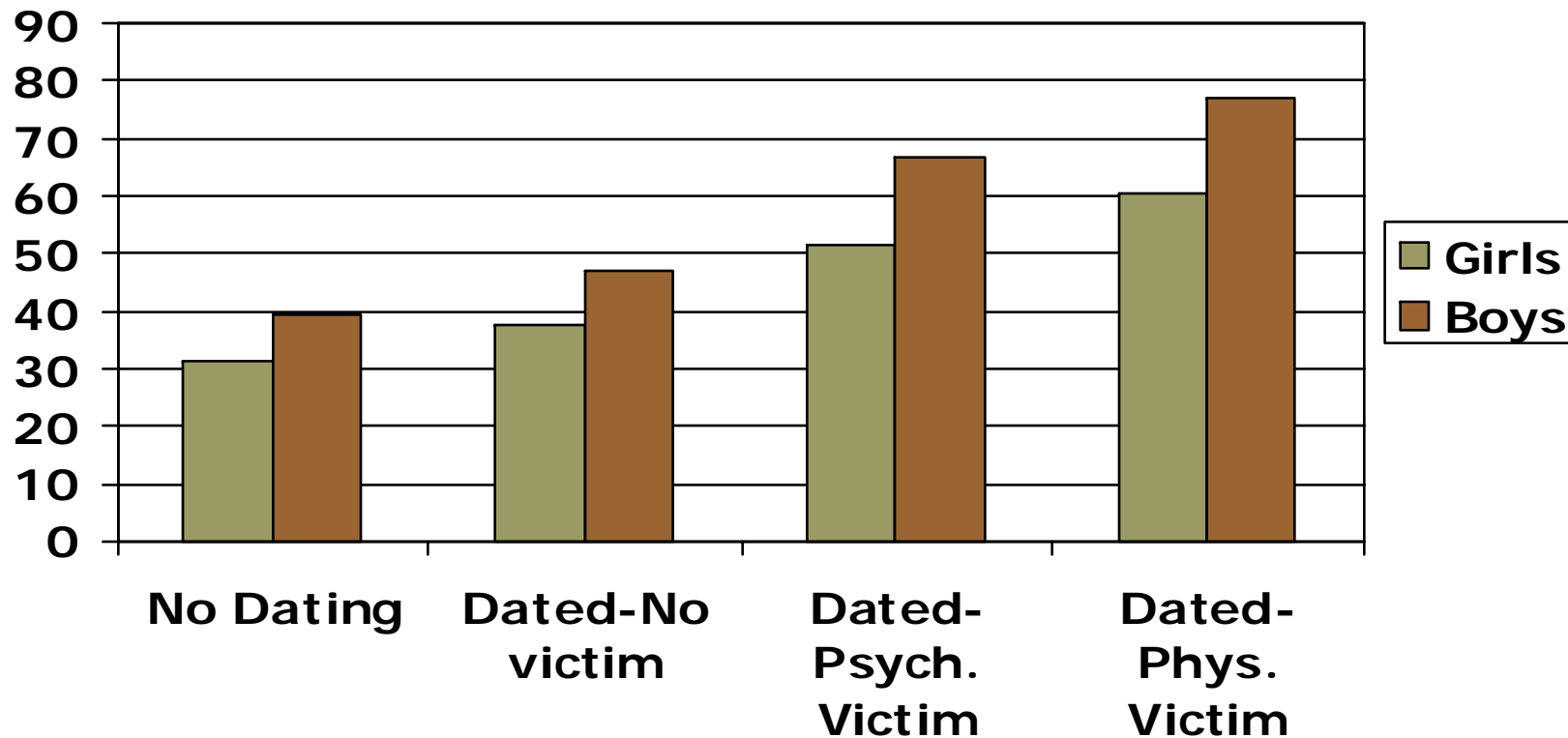


# Frequency of Self-reported Delinquent Behaviors

Delinquent Behaviors (prior month)	Did not date	Dated- No Victim	Dated- Psych. Victim	Dated- Physical Victim
Cheated on test	23%	26%	<b>37%</b>	<b>43%</b>
Suspended	11%	20%	12%	<b>38%</b>
Skipped school	11%	14%	19%	<b>32%</b>
Damaged school property	8%	6%	8%	<b>27%</b>
Stole from student	12%	10%	15%	<b>27%</b>
Snuck in w/o paying	8%	9%	9%	<b>26%</b>
Shoplifted	7%	5%	9%	<b>25%</b>
Sprayed paint walls, cars	6%	2%	6%	<b>17%</b>

# Prevalence of Self-reported Delinquent Behavior by Dating Status

Percent\*

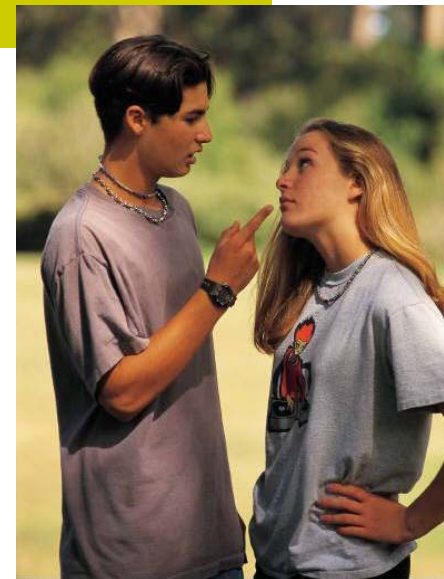


\* Percent of students who reported using alcohol or drugs one or more times.

# Dating Aggression Norms

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Overall support for dating aggression from girls to boys much stronger than boys to girls.



# Students' Self Reports: Family and Peers

## Family

- Parental support for fighting
- Parental support for peaceful solutions
- Parental monitoring and involvement

## Peers

- Peer deviancy
- Positive relationship with friends

## □ Results

- No differences among students who
  - Did not date
  - Dated-no victim
  - Dated-psychological victim
- Students in physical victimization group scored significantly worse



# Students' Self Reports: School Level

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- Academic achievement
  - Students who did not date scored significantly higher than other 3 groups
- Personal value on achievement
  - No differences by victimization groups
- Positive connectedness with school
  - Students in physical victimization group scored significantly worse than other 3 groups

# Teacher Reports

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Behavioral Assessment System for Children  
(BASC)



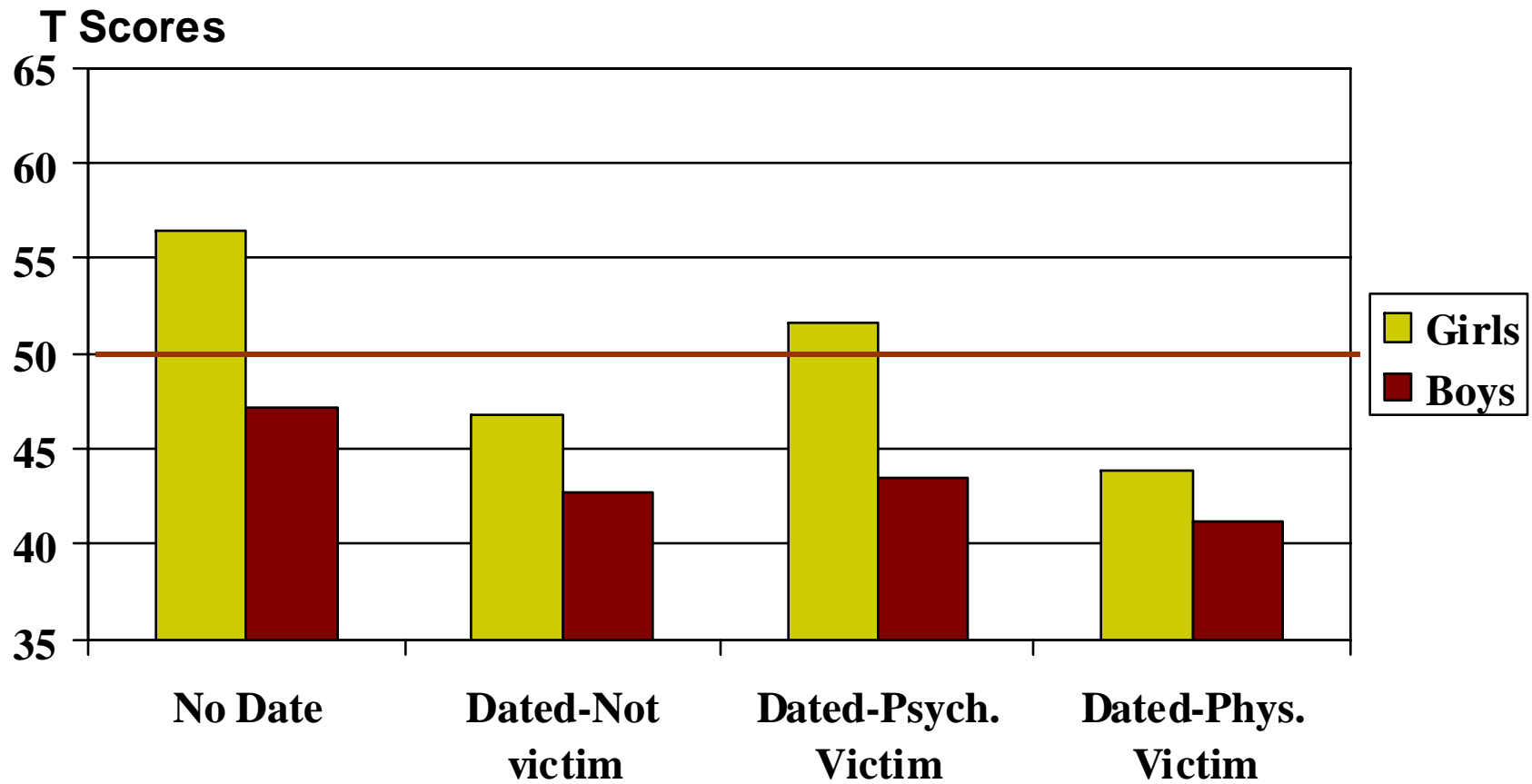
## BASC Assets:

# Leadership, Social, & Study Skills

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- ❑ Girls scored higher than boys
- ❑ No date group had highest scores, dated-physical victimization had lowest scores
- ❑ Unexpected result: Teens in the dated-psychological victimization scored higher than dated-no victimization group

# BASC: Study Skills





# BASC Externalizing Behaviors & School Problems

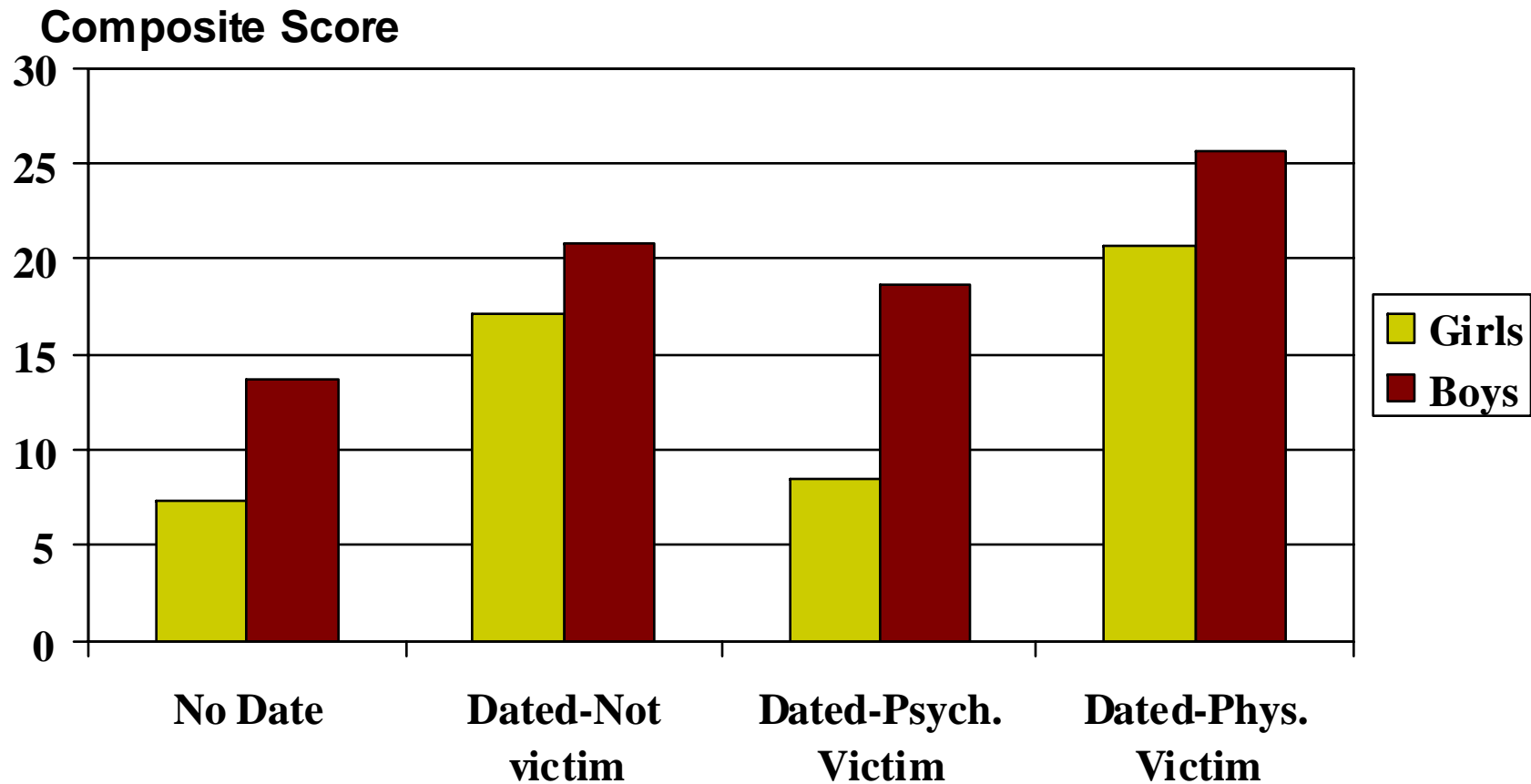
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Externalizing Behaviors:  
Aggression, Hyperactivity, Conduct Problems

School Problems:  
Attention Problems, Learning Problems

- ❑ Girls scored lower than boys
- ❑ No date group had lowest scores, dated-physical victimization had highest scores
- ❑ Same unexpected result: teens in the dated-psychological victimization scored lower than dated-no victimization group

# BASC: Externalizing Behaviors





# Conclusion

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- Dating aggression is a public health concern. Among 9<sup>th</sup> graders, prevalence of dating victimization was high:
  - Over half of those who dated had experienced some victimization
  - 1 in 5 students reported physical victimization in a dating relationship OR 1 in 3 of those who dated
- Many boys reported physical victimization, and support for dating aggression from girls to boys was high. The severity of that aggression is not clear.



## Conclusion (cont.)

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- Based on teacher and student data, students who reported physical victimization are at very high risk. Dating victimization may be part of a more complex cluster of high risk behaviors and environmental circumstances.
- Of students who dated and did not experience victimization, 20% reported being suspended, which may have influenced teachers' worse ratings for this group.

Questions?

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