

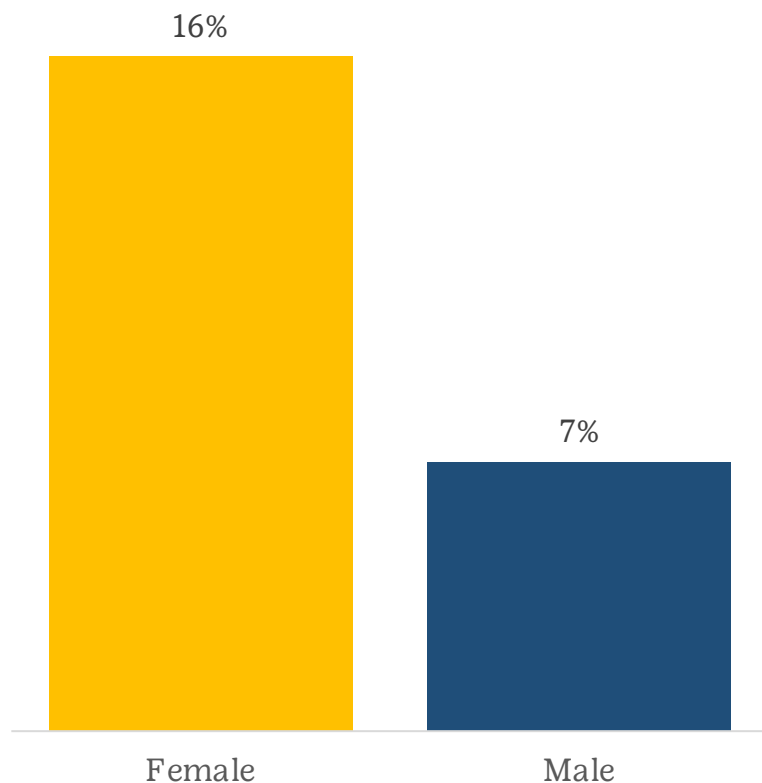


Physical & Psychological Safety

Commissioned by the Girl Scout Councils Serving Alabama

One in six high school girls in Alabama will experience sexual violence this year.

Experienced Sexual Violence
in the Last Year



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, CDC, Alabama, 2021

High school girls in Alabama are twice as likely to experience sexual violence compared to boys. In a survey among high school youth across the state, 1 in 10 also reported experiencing sexual dating violence - a trend that is especially concerning considering that multiple studies find that acts of sexual violence are often under-reported by survivors.

Girls who experience sexual violence are at risk of long-term health consequences:

- 90% presented with post-traumatic stress symptoms shortly after the assault and 72% continued to show symptoms a year later.
- 47% of survivors report experiencing long absences from school and 25% report starting self-harm behaviors after the assault.

77%

of girls agree that their troop leader creates a safe space in Girl Scouts and fosters positive mental health.

Finding a Supportive Community

Research shows that a supportive, caring adult is one of the most important factors in working through a traumatic childhood event. In 2020, the Girl Scout Research Institute found that girls hesitate to reach out for support in a mental health crisis based on perceived stigma. When asked what aspect of their life has a positive view of mental health, the #1 answer was Girl Scouts.