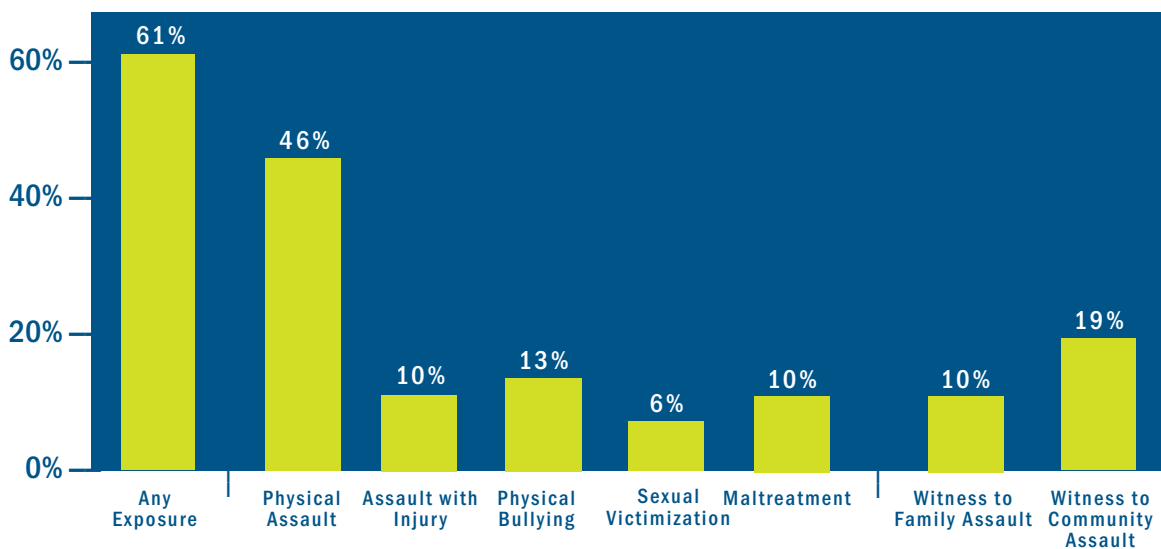




## Three Out of Five Youth Exposed to Violence in Past Year

Three out of five youth aged 17 or younger (61%) across the country were exposed to direct or indirect violence<sup>1</sup> in the past year, according to the National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV).<sup>2</sup> The survey found that 46% of youth were victims of physical assault, 10% were injured in a physical assault, 13% were physically bullied, 6% were sexually victimized,<sup>3</sup> 10% suffered some form of maltreatment,<sup>4</sup> 10% witnessed a family assault, and 19% witnessed a community assault. Additionally, 39% of youth were directly victimized more than once. Research has shown that youth exposed to violence may undergo lasting physical, mental, and emotional harm, experience problem behaviors and increased vulnerability to victimizations, become involved with child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and be adversely impacted in their capacity for partnering and parenting later in life. Researchers highlight the importance of early identification of such exposure, intervention, and continual follow-up to prevent or diminish adverse impacts.

Percentage of Youth Surveyed with Exposure to Selected Categories of Violence in the Past Year



**Source:** Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., Ormrod, O., Hamby, S., and Kracke, K. (2009). "Children’s Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

**Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> As witness to a violent act; by learning of a violent act against a family member, neighbor, or close friend; or from a threat against their home or school.
- <sup>2</sup> Survey interviews conducted between January and May 2008 using a nationally representative sample of 4,549 youth aged 17 and younger.
- <sup>3</sup> Including attempted and completed rape, assault by a known or unknown adult or peer, flashing or sexual exposure by an adult or peer, and statutory sexual offenses.
- <sup>4</sup> Including physical abuse other than sexual assault, psychological/emotional abuse, child neglect, and custodial interference.

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