

20% of female students cite abuse

Kyodo News

One in five female high school and college students has experienced verbal, sexual and other abuse from people they date, a citizens' group says.

Aware, a Tokyo-based group that assists victims of partner abuse, said a poll it conducted also found that 8.9 percent of male students considered themselves to be victims of an abusive romantic partner.

"The survey shows that many young people mix up violent acts with expressions of affection and have ambiguous perceptions of violence," Aware representative Noriko Yamaguchi said.

The survey covered 2,494 students, presumably aged from their teens to their 20s, who attended its lectures from 2006 to 2007, the group said.

Of the 535 female and 314 male students who said they had been in romantic relationships, 121 females (22.6 percent), and 28 of the males (8.9 percent), said they had been abused by their partners in some way, including sexually.

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