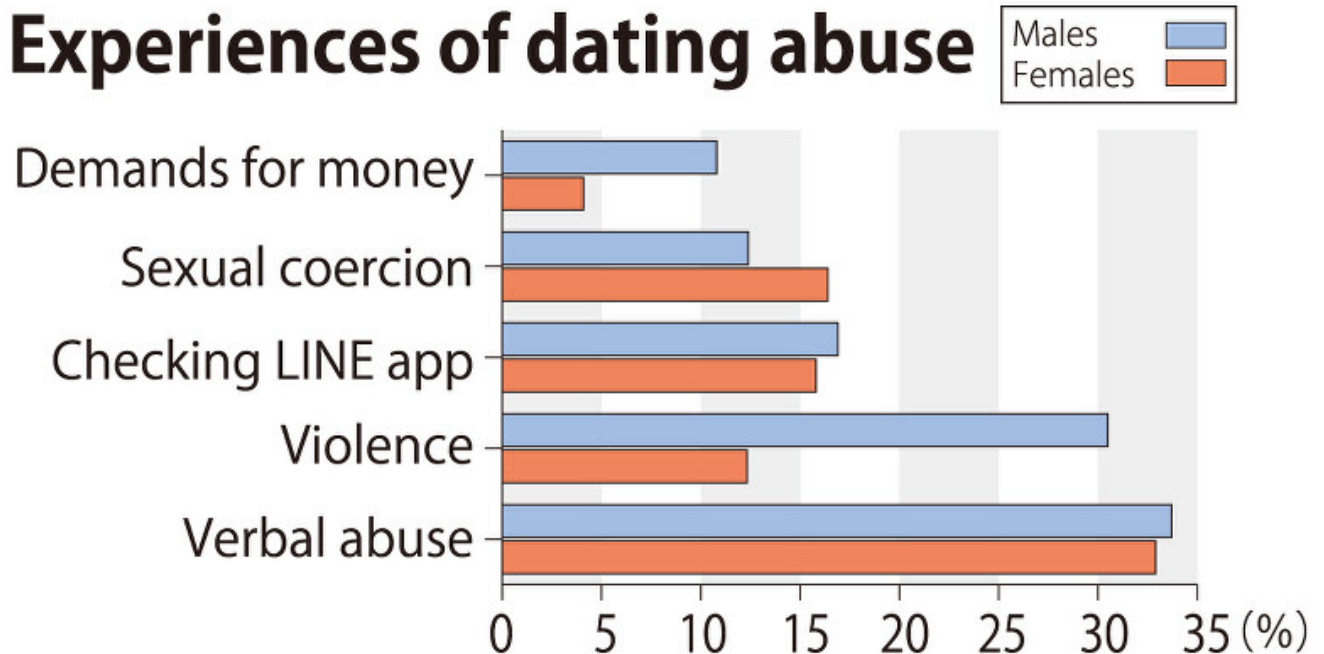


## Survey finds male students in Osaka Pref. suffer more dating violence than females



OSAKA -- Male junior high and high school students in Osaka Prefecture are more likely to suffer from dating violence than their female counterparts, a survey suggests.

A survey on dating abuse conducted by Osaka Prefecture high school students on about 1,000 junior high and high school students in the prefecture found that 12 percent of girls had been subjected to violence. Over 30 percent of male students, meanwhile, said they had been hurt by violence or verbal abuse from partners.

Overall, 30 percent of boys said they couldn't tell their partners that they disliked verbal abuse, compared with 22 percent of girls. When it came to violence, 24 percent of boys and 17 percent of girls said they couldn't tell their partners they were unhappy about it. A total of 23 percent of males and 17 percent of females said they were unable to refuse when asked for a photo showing them in their underwear or naked.

The written survey was conducted between September and November last year. Responses were received from 55 male and 50 female junior high school students, and 300 male and 586 female high school students.

For both male and female students, verbal abuse was the most common reason they were hurt. Thirty-one percent of males reported violence, while 17 percent said their messages on the free communications app LINE had been checked by their partners.

Among female students, 23 percent reported sexual coercion, while 16 percent said their LINE apps had been checked.

One boy reported being told by a girl to "die" and that he was "fat," but said he couldn't break up because he liked her, while another said he disliked being hit but had to endure it as a male. One girl said that she had been pressured to delete all the contact details of her male friends on the app LINE.

Kazuo Takeuchi, an associate professor at the University of Hyogo who is familiar with student guidance and provided advice for the survey, commented, "Male students may be worried as they put on a show, not being able to say they don't like something. There are few students who discuss dating abuse with educators, so it's hard to get an idea of the actual situation. Schools probably need to adopt countermeasures of some kind."