

TABLE 4. Percentage distribution of adolescents, by dating patterns at ages 13–14 and 15–16, according to grade level of close friends at age 11–12, gender and race

Dating pattern	Most friends in lower/same grade					Most friends in higher grade				
	All	Male	Female	Black	Non-black	All	Male	Female	Black	Non-black
Weekly dating	(N=1,143)	(N=531)	(N=601)	(N=403)	(N=740)	(N=193)	(N=91)	(N=102)	(N=96)	(N=97)
At neither age	70.4*	73.8*,†	67.2	81.7*,‡	67.8	60.9	61.8	60.0	64.2	59.2
At age 13–14 only	3.7*	3.5*	3.9	4.5*	3.5	8.5	11.9	5.2	14.7‡	5.4
At age 15–16 only	21.0	18.0†	23.8	11.8*,‡	23.1	25.8	21.5	29.9	20.5	28.4
At both ages	4.9	4.7	5.1	2.0*,‡	5.6	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.6‡	7.0
Steady dating	(N=1,072)	(N=513)	(N=559)	(N=374)	(N=698)	(N=184)	(N=88)	(N=96)	(N=92)	(N=92)
At neither age	55.7	60.0†	51.7	63.0*,‡	54.1	51.3	53.0	49.6	43.8	55.3
At age 13–14 only	14.8	18.0†	11.7	6.8*,‡	16.5	16.3	21.2	11.2	13.3	17.8
At age 15–16 only	20.8	13.8†	27.6	24.5	20.0	20.8	18.8	23.0	33.1‡	14.4
At both ages	8.7	8.3	9.1*	5.8‡	9.3	11.6	7.1	16.3	9.9	12.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Significantly different from percentage for most friends in higher grade at $p < .05$. †Significantly different from percentage for females at $p < .05$. ‡Significantly different from percentage for nonblacks at $p < .05$. Notes: Percentages are weighted, and missing data are excluded. Ns are unweighted.