



Teen Dating Abuse Fact Sheet

Teens and Dating Abuse

- In the U.S. alone, approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls (estimates up to 35%) is a victim of interpersonal violence.^{1,2,3}
- 80% of teens say they know someone who has been controlled by a partner, and 60% know someone who has been physically abused. 29% of teens say that they themselves have been physically abused by a dating partner, and 54% report some form of abuse – yet only 37% of parents are aware that their child has been abused in some way.⁴
- 47% of 13-18 year olds who have been in relationships reported that they have personally been victimized by controlling behaviors from a boyfriend or girlfriend.⁴
- Dating violence can have a negative effect on health throughout life. Teens who are victims are more likely to be depressed and do poorly in school.⁵ They may engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using drugs and alcohol,⁵ and are more likely to have eating disorders.⁶ Some teens even think about or attempt suicide.⁷ Teens who are victims in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.⁸
- 1 in 4 teens who have been in a serious relationship say their boyfriend or girlfriend has tried to prevent them from spending time with friends or family; the same number have been pressured to only spend time with their partner.⁹
- Almost one-third of girls who have been in a relationship (29%) said they've been pressured to have sex or to engage in sexual acts when they didn't want to do so.⁹
- Nearly 80% of females reported experiencing at least one incident of physical or sexual aggression by the end of college.¹⁰
- 49% of males (high school to 4th year in college) report using at least one incident of physical or sexual violence against an intimate partner.¹¹

Teens with Disabilities

- More than 1 in 5 young people with disabilities between the ages of 12 and 19 reports experiencing violence, such as physical abuse, rape or sexual assault from a stranger or partner. This is more than twice the rate of youth without a disability.¹²
- People of all ages with disabilities are more likely to face violence from an intimate partner than people without a disability.¹²
- Women and girls with any type of disability, as well as people with a cognitive disability, face the highest rates of violence.¹²

Runaway and Homeless Youth

- 6 in 10 homeless or formerly homeless youth have been in a violent dating relationship.¹³
- 70% of runaway and homeless youth have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime.¹⁴
- 60% of homeless female youth and 25% of males had reported being sexually assaulted prior to leaving home.¹⁵
- Between 100,000 and 300,000 young people are at-risk for sexual exploitation or trafficking.¹⁶

1. Bonomi, A., & Kelleher, K. (2007). Dating violence, sexual assault, and suicide attempts among minority adolescents. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*, 161(6), 609-610.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2006). Physical dating violence among high school students—United States, 2003. *MMWR Weekly*, May 19, 2006. 55(19); 532-535.

3. Marcus, R. (2005). Youth violence in everyday life. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 20, 442-447.

4. *Impact of the Economy and Parent/Teen Dialogue on Dating Relationships and Abuse*. Liz Claiborne, Inc. 2009.

5. Banyard VL & Cross C. Consequences of teen dating violence: Understanding intervening variables in ecological context. *Violence Against Women*. 2008;14(9):998-1013.

6. Ackard DM & Neumark-Sztainer D. Date violence and date rape among adolescents: Associations with disordered eating behaviors and psychological health. *Child Abuse and Neglect*. 2002;26:455-473.

7. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Physical Dating Violence Among High School Students—United States, 2003. *MMWR* 2006;55:532-535.

8. Smith PH, White JW, Holland LJ. A longitudinal perspective on dating violence among adolescent and college-age women. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2003;93(7):1104-9.

9. Liz Claiborne Inc. Topline Findings Teen Relationship Abuse Survey (Conducted March 2006)

10. White, Jacquelyn and Paige Hall Smith. "Covariation in the Use of Physical and Sexual Intimate Partner Aggression Among Adolescent and College-Age Men: A Longitudinal Analysis." *Violence Against Women*. 2009.

11. Ibid

12. Rand, M. & Harrell, E. (2009). Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2007. U.S. Department of Justice—National Crime Victimization Survey. NCJ 227814.

13. Tyler, K. & Melander, L. Poor Parenting and Antisocial Behavior Among Homeless Young Adults. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Vol 27, Issue 7, pp. 1357 – 1373. 10.1177/0886260511425244

14. Kipke MD, Simon TR, Montgomery SB, Unger JB, Iversen EF. Homeless youth and their exposure to and involvement in violence while living on the streets. *Journal of Adolescent Health* 1997; 20:360-7

15. Tyler KA, Hoyt DR, Whitbeck LB, Cauce AM. The impact of childhood sexual abuse on later sexual victimization among runaway youth. *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 2001; 11:151-76.

16. Estes, R. J., & Weiner, N. A. (2005). The Commercial sexual exploitation of children in the United States. In S. W. Cooper, R. J. Estes, A. P. Giardino, N. D. Kellogg & V. I. Vieth (Eds.), *Medical, legal, and social science aspects of child sexual exploitation: A comprehensive review of pornography, prostitution, and internet crimes* (pp. 95-128). St. Louis: GW Medical Publishing.

Tweens (11 years old-14 years old)

- 62% of tweens say they know friends who have been verbally abused: called stupid, worthless, ugly, etc. by a boyfriend or girlfriend.¹
- 2 in 5 tweens know friends who have been called names, demeaned or insulted via text, Tweet, Facebook or Instagram.¹
- More than 1 in 3 tweens know friends and peers their age who have been pressured by a boyfriend or girlfriend to do things they didn't want to do.¹
- Half of all tweens claim to know the warning signs of a bad or hurtful tween-dating relationship.¹
- 1 out of 3 tweens who have had sex by age 14 say they have been physically abused – hit, kicked or strangled – by an angry partner.¹

Pregnant and Parenting Youth

- 1 in 4 young women reported that their abusive male partners were actively trying to get them pregnant; one in three of these women became pregnant.²
- More than half of young women who became pregnant within an abusive relationship reported that those pregnancies were unwanted.²
- Adolescent girls in physically abusive relationships were three times more likely to become pregnant than non-abused girls.³
- 20 - 25% of pregnant teens reported physical or sexual abuse during pregnancy.⁴

LGBTQ

- In a study of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents, youth involved in same-sex dating are just as likely to experience dating violence as youths involved in opposite sex dating.⁵
- 19% to 29% of gay and lesbian students and 18% to 28% of bisexual students experienced dating violence in the prior year.⁶
- 14% to 31% of gay and lesbian students and 17% to 32% of bisexual students had been forced to have sexual intercourse at some point in their lives.⁶

Teens and Technology

- 92% of teens report going online daily, including 24% who say they are online almost constantly.⁷
- 10% of teens claim they have been threatened physically via email, IM, text, chat, etc.⁸
- 1 in 3 teens who have been in a relationship say they've been text messaged 10, 20, or 30 times an hour by a partner seeking to find out where they are, what they're doing, or who they're with.⁸
- 19% say that their partner has used a cell phone or the internet to spread rumors about them.⁸
- 1 in 6 teens in a relationship (16%) claim their partner has actually bought a cell phone or minutes for them.⁸

-
1. Love is Respect study. "Tween and Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Study." July 2008.
 2. Miller E, Decker MR, Reed E, Raj A, Hathaway JE, Silverman JG. 2007. Male Partner Pregnancy-Promoting Behaviors and Adolescent Partner Violence: Findings from a Qualitative Study with Adolescent Females. *Ambulatory Pediatrics*, 7(5):360-366.
 3. Roberts TA, Auinger P, Klein JD. 2005. Intimate Partner Violence and the Reproductive Health of Sexually Active Girls. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2005;36(5):380-385.
 4. Berenson AB, San Miguel VV, Wilkinson GS. 1992. Violence and its Relationship to Substance Use in Adolescent Pregnancy. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 13:470-474.
 5. Young ML, Waller MW, Martin SL, Kupper LL. "Prevalence of Partner Violence in Same-Sex Romantic and Sexual Relationships in a National Sample of Adolescent." *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Vol. 35, Issue 2 (124-131). August 2004.
 6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexual identity, sex of sexual contacts, and health-risk behaviors among students in grades 9-12—Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, selected sites, United States, 2001-2009. *MMWR*. 2011.
 7. Lenhart, Amanda, Pew Research Center, April 2015, "Teen, Social Media and Technology Overview 2015."
 8. Liz Claiborne, Inc. study, "Tech Abuse in Teen Relationships Study," conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, January 2007



Office for the
Prevention of
Domestic Violence

1-800-942-6906

NYS Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline

CONFIDENTIAL --- 24 HRS/7 DAYS

English & espanol, multi-language accessibility

711: Deaf or Hard of Hearing

In NYC: 311 or 1-800-621-HOPE (4673)

TDD: 1-800-810-7444