



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

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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

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**Office for the
Prevention of
Domestic Violence**

1-800-942-6906

NYS Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline

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711: Deaf or Hard of Hearing

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