

Dating Violence Quick Facts

Statistics show that one in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship. In dating violence, one partner tries to maintain power and control over the other through some kind of abuse. Dating violence crosses all economic, racial and social lines, most victims are young women who are also at higher risk for serious injury.

About one in three high school students have been or will be involved in an abusive relationship. Forty percent of teenage girls ages 14 to 17 say they know someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.

Teen dating violence most often takes place in the home of one of the partners.

More than half of young women raped (68 percent) knew their rapist either as a boyfriend, friend or casual acquaintance. Six out of 10 rapes of young women occur in their own home or a friend or relative's home, not in a dark alley.

Teen dating violence often is hidden because teenagers typically:

- Are inexperienced with dating relationships.
- Want independence from parents
- Have romanticized views of love
- Are pressured by peers to have dating relationships

Teen dating violence is influenced by how teenagers look at themselves and others. Young men may believe:

- They have the right to "control" their female partners in any way necessary
- "Masculinity" is physical aggressiveness
- They "possess" their partner
- They should and can demand intimacy
- They may lose respect if they are attentive and supportive toward their girlfriends.

Young women may believe:

- They are responsible for solving problems in their relationships
- Their boyfriend's jealousy, possessiveness and even physical abuse, is "romantic"
- Abuse is "normal" because their friends are also being abused
- They think they can "change" the abusive boyfriend

Teenagers can choose better relationships when they learn to identify the early warning signs of an abusive relationship. Teens can choose better relationships when they understand that they have choices, and believe they are valuable people who deserve to be treated with respect. Check out these cool websites!

www.loveisnotabuse.com

www.nmsafedate.info