



## **Teen Dating Abuse Fact Sheet**

### **Teens and Dating Abuse**

- Dating violence negatively impacts health throughout the lifespan. Teens who are victims are more likely to be depressed and do poorly in school, may use drugs and alcohol, and are more likely to have eating disorders. Some contemplate or attempt suicide. Teens who are victims in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.
- In the U.S., approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls is a victim of interpersonal violence.
- 80% of teens know someone who has been controlled by a partner and 60% know someone who has been physically abused.
- 29% of teens have been physically abused by a dating partner and 54% report some form of abuse.
- Only 37% of parents know their child has been abused.
- 47% of 13-18-year-olds reported experiencing controlling behaviors from a partner.
- 1 in 4 teens say their partner has tried to prevent them from being with friends or family.
- Almost one-third of girls who have been in a relationship have been pressured to engage in sexual acts.
- Nearly 80% of females reported experiencing at least one incident of physical or sexual aggression by the end of college.
- 49% of males between high school and senior year of college report using physical or sexual violence against a partner.

### **Teens with Disabilities**

- More than 1 in 5 people with disabilities between the ages of 12 and 19 reports experiencing physical abuse, rape or sexual assault from a stranger or partner: More than twice the rate of youth without a disability.
- Women and girls with any type of disability face the highest rates of violence.

### **Runaway and Homeless Youth**

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

### **Tweens (11 years old-14 years old)**

- 62% of tweens say they know friends who have been verbally abused by a partner.
- 2 in 5 tweens know friends who have been verbally abused over social media.
- More than 1 in 3 tweens have peers whose partners have pressured them to do things they didn't want to do.
- Half of all tweens claim to know the warning signs of a bad or hurtful tween-dating relationship.

- 1 out of 3 tweens who have had sex by age 14 say they have been physically abused – hit, kicked or strangled – by a partner.

### **Pregnant and Parenting Youth**

- Teens are at increased risk of physical abuse during pregnancy as compared to older women; Violence and abusive behaviors often quickly escalate once a teen becomes pregnant.
- 1 in 4 young women reported that their abusive male partners were actively trying to get them pregnant; 1 in 3 of these women became pregnant.
- More than half of young women who became pregnant by an abuser reported that those pregnancies were unwanted.
- Adolescent girls who were physically abused by their partners were three times more likely to become pregnant than non-abused girls.
- 20% to 25% of pregnant teens reported physical or sexual abuse during pregnancy.

### **LGBTQ**

- Youth in same-sex relationships are as likely to experience dating violence as youths involved in cisgender relationships.
- 19% to 29% of gay and lesbian students and 18% to 28% of bisexual students experienced dating violence in the prior year.
- 14% to 31% of gay and lesbian students and 17% to 32% of bisexual students have been forced to have sexual intercourse at some point in their lives.
- Nearly 80% of females reported experiencing at least one incident of physical or sexual aggression by the end of college.
- More teens are raped by people they know than by strangers.

### **Teens and Technology**

- 92% of teens report going online daily and 24% who say they are online almost constantly.
- 10% of teens claim they have been threatened physically via email, IM, text, chat, etc.
- 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 their whereabouts.
- 19% say that their partner has used a cell phone or the internet to spread rumors about them.
- 1 in 6 teens (16%) claim their partner has bought a cell phone or minutes for them.

*If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call 911.*



**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