

TEEN DATING ABUSE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FACTS AND STATS

PREVALENCE

- Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.
- **One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner**, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.
- **One in 10 high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.**
- **One quarter of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse.**

WHY FOCUS ON YOUNG PEOPLE

- Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence -- almost triple the national average.
- Violent behavior typically begins between the ages of 12 and 18.
- The severity of intimate partner violence is often greater in cases where the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence.

EFFECTS

- Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications by putting the victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and further domestic violence.
- Being physically or sexually abused makes teen girls six times more likely to become pregnant and twice as likely to get a STI.
- Half of youth who have been victims of both dating violence and rape attempt suicide, compared to 12.5% of non-abused girls and 5.4% of non-abused boys.

NOT AN ISSUE?!

- Only 33% of teens who were in a violent relationship ever told anyone about the abuse.
- Eighty one percent of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue.

RESOURCES ALL CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS

TEXT: TERA Textline
720-340-TERA 6 AM-10PM

CALL: Safe Shelter of St.
Vrain 24/7 hotline
(303)772-4422

MESA (Moving to end
sexual assault) hotline
303-443-7300

GO ONLINE:

safesheltertera.org

movingtoendsexualassault.org

LongmontDomesticViolence.org



MYTHS VS. FACTS

MYTH: Domestic violence usually only happens in married couples.

FACT: As many as one-third of all high schoolers experience violence in an intimate or dating relationship. Physical abuse is as common among high school couples as married couples.

MYTH: Most people will end a relationship if their partner hits them.

FACT: Nearly 80% of girls who have been physically abused in their intimate relationships continue to date their abuser after the onset of violence.

MYTH: People abuse their partners because they can't control their anger.

FACT: People who abuse are usually not out of control. They do it to gain power and control over the other person. They often use a series of tactics besides violence, including threats, intimidation, psychological abuse and isolation to control their partners.

MYTH: If a person is really being abused, it's easy to just leave.

FACT: There are many complicated reasons why it's difficult for a person to leave an abusive partner. One very common reason is fear—women who leave their abusers are at a 75% greater chance of being killed by the abuser than those who stay.

FACT: People who are abused often blame themselves for their abuse.

Most people who are abused blame themselves for causing the violence (or abuse). The fact is, no one is ever to blame for another person's violence. Violence is always a choice, and the responsibility is 100% with the person who is violent.