



Dating Violence Information Sheet

What is Dating Violence?

Dating violence is a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse, to control his or her dating partner. Dating violence can include any person, regardless of gender, who is in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long-term.¹

Prevalence

- In the United States, one in three adolescent girls is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner. ²
- 4% of teens agreed that it's okay for someone to hit their partner if they really did something wrong or embarrassing. ³
- 25-35% of teens equate jealousy, possessiveness and violence with love. ³
- 57% of teens know someone who has been physically, sexually, or verbally abusive in a dating relationship. ³
- Only 33% of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse. ³

Effects

- Victims of dating abuse are not only at increased risk for injury, they are also more likely to engage in binge drinking, suicide attempts, physical fights, and currently sexual activity. ⁴
- Research demonstrates an association between teen dating violence and lower grade point averages. ⁴
- 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue. ⁵

¹ Pursuant to Section 79-1, 140 of the Lindsay Ann Burke Act, Nebraska Laws 2009, LB63, § 43. May 28, 2009

² Bonomi, A., Kelleher, K. (2007). *Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Suicide Attempts Among Minority Adolescents Ending the Silence*. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2007;161(6):609-610.

³ Liz Claiborne Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, Teen Relationship Abuse Survey (February 2005).

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Physical Dating Violence Among High School Students – United States, 2003." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 55.19 (2006): 532-535.

⁵ Women's Health, "June/July 2004, *Family Violence Prevention Fund and Advocates for Youth*, <http://www.med.umich.edu/whp/newsletters/summer04/p03-dating.html>.