

# Teen Dating Violence Statistics

*Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.<sup>1</sup>*

## The Victims/Survivors\*

- **One in three adolescents** in the U.S. is a survivor of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.<sup>1,2</sup>
- **Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24** experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence – almost triple the national average.<sup>1,3</sup>
- **Nearly one in four girls (23%) who have been in a relationship** reported going further sexually than they wanted as a result of pressure.<sup>2</sup>
- Only **33% of teens** who were in a violent relationship ever told anyone about the abuse, and **86%** said they would confide in a friend rather than a caring adult.<sup>1,4</sup>
- **Hispanic immigrant girls have less than half** the risk of TDV as their non-immigrant Hispanic peers.<sup>6</sup>
- TDV is extremely common in LGBTQ relationships – **up to 50% of LGBTQ individuals** will be abused by a dating partner.<sup>7</sup>

\*The terms victims and survivors are both used because sometimes individuals identify as one or the other.

*1 in 5 high school female students are physically and/or sexually abused by their dating partner.<sup>4</sup>*

## The Perpetrators

- Violent behavior typically begins **between the ages of 12 and 18.**<sup>1</sup> **More than 50% of sexual assaults** are committed by a woman's romantic partner.<sup>9</sup>
- **Individuals with a history of physical violence against their partners are 13 times more likely** to commit future acts of physical aggression compared to persons who have never committed this form of physical abuse.<sup>9</sup>
- Youth who engaged in high rates of self-reported **bully perpetration during middle school were almost 7 times more likely** to engage in physical TDV perpetration four years later in high school.<sup>10</sup>

## The Bystanders

- **81% of parents** believe TDV is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue for teens.<sup>1,4</sup>
- **Over 80% of high school counselors** report feeling unprepared to address incidents of abuse on their school campus.<sup>2</sup>
- **50-80% of teens** have reported knowing others who were involved in violent relationships.<sup>3</sup>
- **57% of teens** say they know of a peer who has been physically, sexually, or verbally abusive to their dating partner. **33% of teens** have actually seen the abuse or violence themselves.<sup>4</sup>

## Risks of Teen Dating Violence

- **Half of youth survivors** of both TDV and sexual assault attempt suicide, compared to **12.5% of non-abused girls** and **5.4% of non-abused boys.**<sup>1</sup>
- Physical or sexual abuse makes **teen girls 6 times more likely** to become pregnant and **twice as likely** to get an STI.<sup>1</sup>
- Survivors of TDV are significantly more likely to use drugs, smoke, or drink alcohol than those who did not experience abuse.<sup>5</sup>

### References

<sup>1</sup>Love is Respect. (2014). <http://bit.ly/1fyvQnT>; <sup>2</sup>Break the Cycle: Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence. (n.d.). <http://bit.ly/199Wex6>; <sup>3</sup>NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault. (2003). *Teen dating violence*. <http://bit.ly/1c1x22h>; <sup>4</sup>Safe Horizon. (n.d.). <http://bit.ly/1HbBd0P>; <sup>5</sup>Children's Safety Network. (2012). *Teen Dating Violence as a Public Health Issue*. Education Development Center: Waltham, MA.; <sup>6</sup>Ramos, et al. (2011). Immigration status, acculturation, and dating violence risk for Hispanic adolescent girls in New Mexico. *Maternal Child Health Journal*, 15, 1076-1080.; <sup>7</sup>Gallopin & Leigh. (2009). Teen perceptions of dating violence, help-seeking, and the role of schools. *The Prevention Reserarcher*, 16(1), 17-20.; <sup>8</sup>Domestic violence statistics." (n.d.). <http://bit.ly/1ozDNrn>; <sup>9</sup>Perpetrator risk factors for violence against women." (n.d.). <http://bit.ly/1UJ9Ow>; <sup>10</sup>Espelage et al., L. (2013). Relation between bully and teen dating violence perpetration across early to late adolescence. <http://bit.ly/1F5Z8iz>

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