



ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

Teen Dating Violence Statistics

Women do not have to be married or living with a partner to be victims of domestic violence. In fact, battering among young people who are “dating” - also called teen dating violence or relationship violence - is all too common. Some of the staggering statistics regarding teens and relationship violence include:

- Approximately one - third of young people experience violence in their relationship, about the same rate reported by adults.
- A study among pregnant teens revealed that one in five, or 20%, experience physical or sexual violence during pregnancy.
- A recent study of high school students determined that 59% had experienced at least one dating violence incident over the course of the year.
- For adolescent girls between the ages of 13-18 who have dated, 36% reported that they have experienced physical violence in a dating relationship.
- When questioned about their worst experiences of dating violence, 47.8% of girls reported serious harm and physical injury in 33.6% of the incidents.
- A study of 8th and 9th grade male and female students indicated that 25% had been victims of non-sexual dating violence and 8% had been victims of sexual dating violence.

Sadly, intimate partner violence among teens has been largely ignored by the adults around them, most likely because adolescents and their relationships are not taken seriously. Adults tend to believe that teen relationships are transient and less significant than adult relationships. Also, adults and youth alike are often reluctant to talk about violence within relationships. These two factors may serve to isolate young women from the support they need when they are confronted with a violent date or boyfriend.

The consequences of violence are significant in the lives of young women. According to the FBI, 30% of the women murdered each year in the U.S. were killed by a husband or boyfriend. Of these women, 20% are between 15 and 24 years old. These numbers reflect only the crimes that are reported.

Source: Statewide Adolescent Relationship Violence Prevention Training Project - Resource Workbook. DHS, Maternal and Child Health Branch, Adolescent Family Life Program