



S.T.O.P. Teen Dating Violence Initiative

Teen Dating Violence Facts

One in three teenagers will experience abuse in a teen dating relationship.¹

Teen dating violence occurs in all types of relationships; it crosses race, gender, and socioeconomic lines.²

Patterns of dating violence start early and carry through into adult relationships.³

In California, 9% of dating 9th graders and 13% of dating 11th graders, reported abuse in a dating relationship in the previous 12 months.⁴

In a study of gay, lesbian, and bisexual teenagers, youth involved in same-sex dating are just as likely to experience dating violence as youths involved in opposite sex dating.⁵

Both boys and girls are victims, but boys and girls experience different kinds of abuse. Girls are more likely to yell and threaten to hurt themselves. Boys injure girls more severely and frequently.⁶

Eighty-one percent of parents either believe that teen dating violence is not an issue or admit that they do not know if it is an issue.⁷

Only 33% of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse.⁸

Teen Dating Violence and Schools

Teen dating violence victims report higher rates of both victimization and violence at school. Victims and perpetrators of teen dating violence are more likely to bring a weapon to school.⁹

Victims of teen dating violence have lower academic achievement and more D and F grades.¹⁰

Five percent of girls reported missing at least 1 day of school during a 30 day period due to safety concerns.¹¹

Forty-three percent of teen dating violence victims report that the dating abuse experienced occurred in a school building or on school grounds. Eighty-three percent of the abuse teen dating violence victims experienced at school was physical abuse.¹²

A recent study found that over 75% of school shootings were gender motivated, with the shooter most often targeting former girlfriends or girls that had rejected the shooter.¹³

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- ¹ C. Halpern, *Partner Violence Among Adolescents in Opposite-Sex Romantic Relationships: Findings from the national Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health*, 91 AM. J PUB. HEALTH 1679, 1679 (2001).
- ² *Teen Victim Project*, National Center for Victims of Crime, <http://www.ncvc.org/tvp>.
- ³ V.A. Forshee et al., *Health Education Research*, 11(3), 275086 (1996).
- ⁴ Office of the Attorney General, Crime and Violence Prevention Center, *2003-04 California Student Survey, Brief 4*.
- ⁵ C. Halpern et al., *Prevalence of Partner Violence in Same-Sex Romantic and Sexual Relationships in a National Sample of Adolescents*, JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH, Vol. 35, Issue 2, p. 124-31 (August 2004).
- ⁶ *Teen Victim Project*, National Center for Victims of Crime, <http://www.ncvc.org/tvp>.
- ⁷ *Women's health*, June/July 2004, Family Violence Prevention Fund and Advocates for Youth, available at <http://www.med.umich.edu/whp/newletters/summer04/p03-dating.html>.
- ⁸ Liz Claiborne, Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited (February 2005).
- ⁹ Office of the Attorney General, Crime and Violence Prevention Center, *2003-04 California Student Survey, Brief 4*.
- ¹⁰ Office of the Attorney General, Crime and Violence Prevention Center, *2003-04 California Student Survey, Brief 4*.
- ¹¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Surveillance Summaries*, May 21, 2004. MMWR 2004:53 (No. SS-2).
- ¹² Christian Molidor, Richard M. Tolman, *Gender and Contextual Factors in Adolescent Violence*, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, Vol 4, no 2 (1998): 180-94.
- ¹³ J. Klein, *An Invisible Problem: Everyday violence against girls in schools*, 10 THEORETICAL CRIMINOLOGY 147 (2006).