Teen Dating Violence Statistics

Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.\(^1\)

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.\(^1,2\)
- **Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24** experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence – almost triple the national average.\(^1,3\)
- **Nearly one in four girls (23%)** who have been in a relationship reported going further sexually than they wanted as a result of pressure.\(^2\)
- **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.\(^1,4\)
- **Hispanic immigrant girls have less than half** the risk of TDV as their non-immigrant Hispanic peers.\(^6\)
- **TDV is extremely common in LGBTQ relationships – up to 50% of LGBTQ individuals** will be abused by a dating partner.\(^7\)

*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\(^4\)

The Perpetrators

- Violent behavior typically begins **between the ages of 12 and 18.**\(^8\) More than 50% of sexual assaults are committed by a woman’s romantic partner.\(^9\)
- **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.\(^9\)
- **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.\(^10\)

The Bystanders

- **81% of parents** believe TDV is not an issue or admit they don’t know if it’s an issue for teens.\(^1,4\)
- **Over 80% of high school counselors** report feeling unprepared to address incidents of abuse on their school campus.\(^2\)
- **50-80% of teens** have reported knowing others who were involved in violent relationships.\(^3\)
- **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.\(^4\)

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.\(^1\)
- **Physical or sexual abuse makes teen girls 6 times more likely** to become pregnant and **twice as likely** to get an STI.\(^1\)
- **Survivors of TDV are significantly more likely** to use drugs, smoke, or drink alcohol than those who did not experience abuse.\(^5\)

References

10 Compiled by the Center on Violence Against Women and Children, School of Social Work, Rutgers University, vawc.rutgers.edu in collaboration with the NJ Domestic Violence Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board, www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/boards/dvfnfrb/