

# What is the Impact of Teen Dating Violence?

*Survivors of teen dating violence may experience a wide range of emotional, psychological, social, and health issues.*

## Emotional and Psychological Issues

- Depression and anxiety
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and difficulty concentrating
- Contemplated or attempted suicide
- Stress, anger, hurt, and/or fear.
- Lowered self-esteem
- For LGBTQ survivors, feelings of isolation due to discrimination, homophobia, and a lack of services available to this community

*Evidence suggests that the consequences of TDV tend to be greater for girls compared to boys, but it affects students regardless of race, income, sexual identity, religion, and disability.*



## Social and Health Issues

- Limited contact with peers, family, and other organizations, resulting in social isolation
- Increased likelihood of engagement in unhealthy and antisocial behaviors such as...
  - Drug, alcohol, and/or tobacco use
  - Eating disorders
  - Unsafe sex
- Possibility of sustained injuries such as bruises, broken bones, cuts and lacerations, concussions, etc.
- Female high school survivors of TDV are...
  - 4 to 6 times more likely to get pregnant than non-survivors.
  - 3 times more likely to have been tested for STIs and HIV than non-survivors.
  - More than twice as likely to have an STI than non-survivors.

*“Being abused in a relationship can shatter a teenager’s belief that she is a worthy, decent, and independent person who can cope with life in a mature, self-assertive fashion. For the teen victim, the world becomes a frightening, confusing place where understanding how things are supposed to work is called into question. The victim’s sense of her ability to protect herself and function autonomously is undermined.”<sup>1</sup>*

### References

<sup>1</sup>Button, D. M., and Miller, S. L. (2013). Teen dating relationships and outcomes of well-being: Examining gender differences in nonviolent and violent dating relationships. *Women and Criminal Justice*, 23(3), 247-265; Roberts, S. (2001). *Bullying and dating violence: Effective intervention and prevention in Multnomah County*. (n.d.). Multnomah County Domestic Violence Coordinator’s Office: Portland, OR. <http://bit.ly/173xt30>; Promote Prevent. (2011). *Teen dating violence: Prevention, identification, and intervention*. <http://bit.ly/173yyzy>; “Dating violence in LGBTQ communities.” (n.d.). <http://bit.ly/1DniCev>