

Dating Violence

West Virginia Intercollegiate Council
Against Sexual Violence
www.friv.org

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Objectives

- Recognize the prevalence of dating violence
- Understand abusive behavior dynamics and impact on victims
- Identify risk factors and warning signs of dating violence
- Gain knowledge of protective capacities available to victims

Take a moment to think about your high school years...

What was dating like?

What is dating like now?

NOW.....

- Nearly half of male and female youth say that TV is their top source for information about romance.
- In the top 20 shows among teen viewers, eight in ten episodes included some sexual content (83%), including one in five (20%) with sexual intercourse.
- Popular music is filled with sexual references
- Details of celebrity relationships is common knowledge.

NOW.....

75% of youth agree that hooking up is "when a girl and a guy get together for a for a physical encounter and don't necessarily expect anything further."

The definition of a physical encounter ranged from kissing to having sex.

NOW.....

8% of the young teens (13-16) report having had a "casual sexual relationship," such as "friends with benefits."

75% of teens age 16-18 report having had a relationship, dated, or "hooked up" with someone.

Understanding Their World

- Social status elevated due to relationship
- Pressure to engage in sex*
- Pressure to have a partner
- Abuse is accepted among peers
- Develop individuality
- Pressure to be in a relationship

*45% of girls know a friend/peer who has been pressured into either intercourse and/or oral sex (Liz Claiborne, 2005)

What is Dating Violence?

Dating violence is controlling, abusive, and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. It can include verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination.



What Do We Know About Dating Violence?

The best way to avoid is to know



love is respect

What do abusive relationships look like?

ISOLATION Jealous
Control Unpredictable
Threats Humiliate
Physical Abuse
Too Serious, Too Fast Threats of Suicide

Why is Dating Violence so Prevalent Among Youth?

- First relationships
- Confide in peers
- Accepted behavior among peer groups
- Less likely to: understand abuse, know a crime is being committed, report a crime, receive necessary protections
- Trying to be independent; defining themselves through their relationships

Similarities to Domestic Violence?



Differences from Domestic Violence?



Early Sexual Experiences Increase the Risk of Dating Abuse for Youth

1 in 5 teenage girls was physically or sexually assaulted by someone she was dating.

Early sexual experiences are strongly associated with dating abuse for teens who had sex by age 14:

- 69% experienced relationship abuse
- 36% were pressured into oral sex
- 34% were pressured into intercourse

Liz Claiborne Teen/Tween Study

What is Sexual Coercion?

- Pressure to do something sexually that you are not comfortable doing
- May apply to a specific act or to initiating or continuing a sexual relationship
- An individual may give in to coercion for any number of reasons

Reproductive Coercion

- Abusive partners may use coercion or sabotage birth control
- Pregnant youth are at a high risk of abuse
- Abusive relationships and pregnancy interfere with academic performance and ability to stay in school

Proactive Approach is Needed

43% of teens who have been in abusive relationships have experienced abuse at school.

Christian Molitor and Richard M. Tolman
Gender and Contextual Factors in Adolescent

What Does Dating Violence Look Like on Your Campus?

Why Do We Need to Talk About Relationship Abuse?

CBS News Video with Katie Couric

Why Do We Need to Talk About It?

❖ Serious injury

Johanna Orozco and Juan Ruiz Jr. were the 'perfect' high school couple.



After a year, Juan changed and became irrationally possessive and violent. After Johanna broke up with him, Juan broke into her house and raped her. When he was released from a detention center, he shot her in the face with a shotgun.

Suicide or Death



Yeardeley Love, student from University of Virginia, was murdered by her boyfriend.

Did you know...

- Approximately 1 in **3** teens in a dating relationship experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse, or threats of physical harm by a dating partner.
Li: Claiborne Inc. Family Violence Fund Survey, 2009
- Nearly **80** % of girls who have been physically abused in their intimate relationships continue to date their abuser.
Li: Claiborne Inc. study conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005
- 1 in **3** teens reports knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped or physically hurt by their dating partner.
Li: Claiborne Inc. study conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005

1 in 3 say they are texted 10, 20, 30 times an hour by a partner keeping tabs on them

66% of teens say boyfriends/girlfriends sharing private or embarrassing pictures/videos on cell phones and computers is a serious problem.

Technology is a Means of Constant Control

1 in 2 of all 14-24 years olds have been the target of some form of digital abuse.

1 in 4 youth in a relationship say they have been called names, harassed, or put down by their partner through cell phones & texting.

Dating Violence Can Happen to Anyone

Gender Age Religion Class
Race LGBTQ Education

ABUSE DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE

Male Victims

- Male victims may experience more judgment in trying to seek help; people find it hard to believe that females abuse males
- Male victims may be accused of starting the violence and being the perpetrator
- Physical violence perpetrated by females against males is not taken as seriously

LGBTQ

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning

- Studies suggest that rates of dating violence among LGBTQ community are comparable or higher than for heterosexual couples
- Some additional issues to consider:
 - Fear of outing
 - Homophobia
 - Disbelief and denial

What Prevents Youth from Leaving?

Hope Love Fear
 Isolated Embarrassed Self-doubt
 Guilt Don't realize the abuse Pressure

Warning Signs

The Abuser

- Extreme jealousy
- Constant put-downs
- Isolating victim from family and friends
- Explosive temper
- Big mood swings
- Making false accusations
- Possessiveness
- Financial control
- Preventing victim from doing what she wants to do
- Telling victim what to do



Warning Signs

The Victim

- Change in dress (hair, makeup, clothing)
- Withdrawing from friends, family, and all activities
- Excessive contact with partner
- Makes excuses for/ justifies partner's behavior or blames self



What Can Be The Result?

- Lack of respect
- Verbal abuse, put-downs
- Disregard for privacy
- Secrecy from family
- The 'electronic leash'
- Physical violence
- Sexual coercion, sometimes including threats
- Sex without consent = sexual assault
- Frequent involvement of alcohol and drugs

Impact on Victims

- Depression
- Feelings of suicide
- Using drugs and alcohol
- Developing poor eating habits
- Losing self-esteem
- Self blaming
- Feelings of confusion
- Losing focus
- Feelings of shame and embarrassment
- Feelings of isolation
- Giving up all social and school activities
- Needing constant validation and reassurance

Barriers to Services

- Loss of confidentiality
- Cost (actual or perceived)
- Past poor treatment by providers or criminal justice system
- Difficulty with transportation
- School, work and family schedules

Safety Planning for Victims

- Carry a cell phone and important telephone numbers at all times.
- Keep in touch with someone of trust, keeping them apprised of locations and activities.
- Stay out of isolated places and try to never walk alone.
- Avoid places where the abuser or his/her friends and family are likely to be.
- Avoid speaking to the abuser. If it is unavoidable, make sure others are around.
- Call 911 if safety is at risk.
- Look into getting a protective order for legal support to keep the abuser away.

What Can Be Done About It?

- Schools:
 - Provide peer leadership program
 - Support groups (at-risk perpetrators and victims separately)
 - Mandate faculty response training specific to dating violence
- Law Enforcement:
 - Recognize warning signs
 - Provide resources and help to get legal protection

Rules of Practice and Procedure for Domestic Violence Civil Proceedings: Rule 23a (b)

- An individual under 18 years of age may file a domestic violence petition on his or her own behalf without a parent/guardian or next of kin.



Rules of Practice and Procedure for DV Civil Proceedings, amended by the WV Supreme Court and effective July 15, 2011.