

# SOME FACTS ABOUT DATING VIOLENCE

**72% of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders** reportedly “date” and **9.8 % of teens** nationwide had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (YRBSS 2009).

Both male and female teens report being victims of physical violence in relationships. This also includes dating between same sex couples, although most statistics have been gathered from heterosexual couples.



The prevalence of dating violence was higher among 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade males, and higher among African American (14.3%) and Hispanic (11.5%) than Caucasian (8.0%) students (YRBSS 2009).

One-third of teen girls say they have been concerned about being **physically hurt** by their partner. Adolescent girls suffer more from relationship violence, emotionally and physically. They are more likely than males to have serious injuries and to report being terrified.

**In an abusive relationship, one person typically uses POWER and CONTROL to gain the upper hand** physically, emotionally, and/or sexually over their partner.

One-quarter of teens who have been in serious relationships say their boyfriend has **tried to prevent them from spending time with friends or family**. Nationwide, **7.4% of students had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse** when they did not want to; **10.5% of females and 4.5% of male** students (YRBSS 2009).

**Nearly 1 in 4 girls** who have been in a relationship (23%) reported **going further sexually than they wanted** as a result of pressure. Girls ages 16 – 19 are four times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault. Learning healthy relationship skills greatly **reduces the risk of violence** between teens.

## Warning Signs That a Your Child Might Be in an Abusive Relationship

- She apologizes for the partner's behavior and makes excuses for him/her.
- He has lost interest in activities that he used to enjoy.
- She has stopped seeing friends and family members and become more and more isolated.
- When together, she calls you names and puts you down in front of other people.
- He acts extremely jealous of others who pay attention to you.
- She controls your behaviors, checking up on you constantly, calling and texting you demanding to know who you are with.
- He casually mentions his partner's violent behavior, but laugh it off as a joke.
- Friends and family often ask about her injuries.



### When they are ready to get help, here are some people you both can turn to if your child is receiving OR giving the abuse:

**Talk with a trusted adult-** a parent, teacher, school psychologists, school social worker, counselor, an adult friend, etc.

Contact the **police or a local domestic violence 24-Hour Crisis Line at 633-3819**. Staff and trained volunteers provide intervention, information, and community referral services to domestic violence and/or sexual assault victims.

If you don't want to find them in another unhealthy relationship **take action**. Learn about building healthy relationships that make your child and his/her partner happy.

Join a Teen DoVE (Domestic Violence Education) class. **Call TESSA at: 633-1462**

Talk to your school counselors about other community opportunities.

Consider anger management classes, girl empowerment classes, or counseling.

Call the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline at **1-866-331-9474, available 24/7**

**(1-866-331-8453 for the hearing impaired)** or you can use the live chat feature available every evening.

**Help them develop a safety plan.** Think and plan how he/she can avoid and get away from a potentially violent situation. Encourage her to keep your purse, car keys and cell phone handy, and when feeling down, talk with a friend, family member or other trusted adult.

### If you suspect your child is in a violent dating relationship:

**Ask** him/her about the relationship. Be specific about why you are concerned.

**Care.** Listen quietly without judging. Focus your response on her/his needs and feelings, and share your concern for her/his wellbeing. Do not criticize or attack the abusive partner. Your child will need to make the actual decision to end the abusive relationship. Criticizing the partner may put your child in a protective mode.

**Tell someone.** Encourage your child to talk with you as the parent, school mental health professional, or a counselor at the domestic violence center- Tessa when they have concerns. Continue to be supportive and open. Try and do more with your child and help her/him find ways to stay safe.

**If you are a parent, and you suspect your child might be in an abusive relationship talk to them about it.**

**Guidance for talking to your teen can be found at:**

<http://www.loveisnotabuse.com>

[Colorado Springs TESSA: Crisis Line 633-1462](#)

<http://www.cdc.gov/.../break-silence-stop-violence.html>

[CDC: Injury Prevention](#)

[Dating Violence Fact Sheet](#)

<http://www.loveisrespect.org/>

<http://www.breakthecycle.org/>: Teen dating violence information and resources sponsored by Liz Claiborne. Its campaign seeks to inform young women about what steps they can take to prevent domestic abuse.

<http://www.seeitandstopit.org> A national organization dedicated to supporting young people and combating teen violence. This Web site is dedicated to helping teens recognize warning signs of dating violence, and to speak out.



**National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1 800 799-SAFE (7233)**

**National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: 1 866-331-9474**

**These are  
Anonymous!**

**National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1 800 656-HOPE**

**National Sexual Assault **Online** Hotline**



**Let's teach preteens and teens about healthy relationships!**