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Teen Dating Violence Fact Sheet

What is Teen Dating Violence?

- Teen dating violence is controlling, abusive, and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship.
- It occurs in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships and can include any combination of verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse.
- It may start as early as middle school when youth start dating for the first time.
- The dangerous effects of teen dating violence and sexual assault can significantly affect the rest of a teenager's life if it is not prevented or stopped, even after the violence has ended. Victims are more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, including binge drinking, cocaine use, suicide attempts, and eating disorders.

Prevalence of Teen Dating Violence

- Approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner. ¹
- In Philadelphia, the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 17.3% of students reported that they were hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past

¹ Davis, Antoinette, MPH. 2008. Interpersonal and Physical Dating Violence among Teens. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency Focus. Available at <http://www.nccd-crc.org/nccd/pubs/Dating%20Violence%20Among%20Teens.pdf>.

www.iPledgeWAA.org

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year, and 12% reported they were ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (nationwide average was 9.8% and 7.4% respectively).²

Resources for Teens

If you are 14 or older, you can receive free counseling at:

Congreso de Latinos Unidos:

215-763-8870 x1300

Child, medical, and legal advocacy; individual counseling; and support groups in both English and Spanish for those exposed to domestic violence

Lutheran Settlement House:

215-426-8610 x236 1236

Crisis intervention counseling, ongoing individual and group counseling, court accompaniment, and medical advocacy in both English and Spanish for both male and female victims of domestic violence.

Women In Transition:

215-751-1111

Empowerment counseling and referrals for female victims of domestic violence

² MMWR June 4, 2010 / Vol. 59 / No. SS-5

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To access safe shelter, contact:

Women Against Abuse Emergency Shelter:

1-866-723-3014

Emergency housing for female victims of domestic violence and their children

Youth Emergency Shelter:

215-787-0633

Immediate shelter and care for runaway and homeless adolescents

Runaway Youth Program:

1-800-371-7233

24-hour information hotline and emergency shelter for adolescents who have run away from home or who are dealing with a personal crisis. Walk-ins welcome at the YES shelter (1526 Fairmount Avenue).

For Legal Resources:

Women Against Abuse Legal Center:

215-686-7082

Free legal representation and court advocacy for male and female victims of domestic violence

Youth Law Project Attorney - PLA:

(215) 981-3838

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To talk to someone:

Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-866-732-3014

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

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-799-7233

Other Resources:

The Attic Youth Center:
215-545-4331

Counseling, support groups, prevention case management, HIV testing and counseling, job readiness training, tutoring, life skills, and social activities for LGBTQ youth

Mazzoni Center
215-563-0652

Health and wellness services in an LGBT-focused environment, including primary health care services, HIV and STD testing, mental and behavioral health services, legal services, food bank and housing subsidies, support groups, outreach and education programs

And to get more information, visit:

www.iPledgeWAA.org

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www.thatsnotcool.com

www.loveisrespect.org

www.loveisnotabuse.com

www.breakthecycle.org

www.safeyouth.org

www.athinline.org

The Women Against Abuse iPledge[®] Campaign raises awareness to domestic violence and calls on the community to take a stand against this public health epidemic. For more information, visit www.iPledgeWAA.org.

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