

Sexual and Dating Violence Among Teens: A Glance at the Facts

Intimate violence affects a significant proportion of teens.

- One in four young women experiences rape or attempted rape.
- One in three high school and college aged young women experiences dating violence.
- Fifteen percent of high school students report experiencing or perpetrating severe dating violence in the past year (sexual or physical assault).

Intimate violence among youth mirrors the types of violence experienced between adults.

- Dating violence is a pattern of intimidating, controlling behavior exerted by one partner over the other. Abusers maintain control through extreme possessiveness, isolating their partners, using put downs and emotional abuse, physical assaults and sexual abuse.
- Sexual assault among teens can take the form of forced sexual touching, fondling or rape. Force most often involves the use of verbal coercion or intimidation, or taking advantage of a young person who is incapacitated. Nearly 85% of young people who are assaulted are raped by a date or acquaintance.

Sexual and dating violence are prevalent at school:

- 10% of young women have been forced to do something sexual at school.
- 46% of teens who have experienced sexual or dating violence say that the worst incident happened on school grounds or in the school building.
- Over 5% of high school girls have experienced a rape or attempted rape **at school**.

The impact of interpersonal violence:

- 66% of pregnant and parenting teens are survivors of child sexual assault. Over 70% experience violence in their current dating relationships.
- Common effects of interpersonal violence include:
 - Isolation
 - Depression and withdrawal
 - Difficulty concentrating
 - Difficulty trusting others
 - Withdrawal from favorite activities or sports
 - Missing school
 - Self-blame, decreased self-esteem
 - Fear