



NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE *for the* PREVENTION *of* DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## Dating Abuse Fact Sheet

### *How serious is the problem of dating abuse?*

- In the U.S. alone, approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls (estimates up to 35%) is a victim of interpersonal violence.<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- 80% of teens say they know someone who has been controlled by a partner, and 60% know someone who has been physically abused. 29% of teens say that they themselves have been physically abused by a dating partner, and 54% report some form of abuse – yet only 37% of parents are aware that their child has been abused in some way.<sup>4</sup>
- 47% of 13-18 year olds who have been in relationships reported that they have personally been victimized by controlling behaviors from a boyfriend or girlfriend.<sup>4</sup>
- Dating violence can have a negative effect on health throughout life. Teens who are victims are more likely to be depressed and do poorly in school.<sup>5</sup> They may engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using drugs and alcohol<sup>5</sup>, and are more likely to have eating disorders.<sup>6</sup> Some teens even think about or attempt suicide.<sup>7</sup> Teens who are victims in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.<sup>8</sup>
- 1 in 4 teens who have been in a serious relationship say their boyfriend or girlfriend has tried to prevent them from spending time with friends or family; the same number have been pressured to only spend time with their partner.<sup>9</sup>
- Almost one-third of girls who have been in a relationship (29%) said they've been pressured to have sex or to engage in sexual acts when they didn't want to do so.<sup>9</sup>
- Nearly 80% of females reported experiencing at least one incident of physical or sexual aggression by the end of college.<sup>10</sup>
- 49% of males (high school to 4th year in college) report using at least one incident of physical or sexual violence against an intimate partner.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bonomi, A., & Kelleher, K. (2007). Dating violence, sexual assault, and suicide attempts among minority adolescents. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*. 161(6). 609-610.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2006). Physical dating violence among high school students—United States, 2003. *MMWR Weekly*. May 19, 2006. 55(19); 532-535.

<sup>3</sup> Marcus, R. (2005). Youth violence in everyday life. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 20, 442-447.

<sup>4</sup> [Impact of the Economy and Parent/Teen Dialogue on Dating Relationships and Abuse](#). Liz Claiborne, Inc. 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Banyard VL & Cross C. Consequences of teen dating violence: Understanding intervening variables in ecological context. *Violence Against Women*. 2008;14(9):998-1013.

<sup>6</sup> Ackard DM & Neumark-Sztainer D. Date violence and date rape among adolescents: Associations with disordered eating behaviors and psychological health. *Child Abuse and Neglect*. 2002;26:455-473.

<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Physical Dating Violence Among High School Students—United States, 2003. *MMWR* 2006;55:532-535.

<sup>8</sup> Smith PH, White JW, Holland LJ. A longitudinal perspective on dating violence among adolescent and college-age women. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2003;93(7):1104-9.

<sup>9</sup> Liz Claiborne Inc. Topline Findings Teen Relationship Abuse Survey (Conducted March 2006)

<sup>10</sup> White, Jacquelyn and Paige Hall Smith. "Covariation in the Use of Physical and Sexual Intimate Partner Aggression Among Adolescent and College-Age Men: A Longitudinal Analysis." *Violence Against Women*. 2009.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid