



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

Domestic Violence Affects Us All

Our Teens and their Relationships...

- Nearly **1 in 3** teens who have been in relationships have experienced the most serious forms of dating violence and abuse including sexual abuse, physical abuse, or threats of physical harm to a partner or self. Roughly **1 in 10** has been verbally or physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend who was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. **12%** of respondents in a study on violence against women reported having been stalked before the age of 18.
- One study found that **38%** of date rape victims were young women from 14 to 17 years of age. Young women, ages 16 to 24, experience the highest rates of relationship violence
- Teens identifying as gay, lesbian, and bisexual are as likely to experience violence in same-sex dating relationships as youths involved in opposite sex dating.
- Teen dating violence often takes place in the home of one of the partners.

What Parents Can Do to Prevent Dating Violence:

- 1) Set and enforce curfews. Limit online interaction and establish timing on when texting should stop each night.
- 2) Request that dates be introduced prior to an outing. Before a teen leaves home, get details on the date (such as, who is driving, whether it is a group activity or double date, etc.).
- 3) Dates should be allowed to spend time at home only when a parent or guardian is present.
- 4) Promote dating violence prevention activities to the media to help spread the word about healthy dating behavior. Join community organizations that support causes to help teens and aim to reduce community violence. Become a mentor to teens in the community.
- 5) Establish a relationship with DAIS or any other organization that works to help victims and survivors of domestic violence. Contact DAIS for more information or if you have any questions or concerns.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have laws against dating violence-associated crimes such as sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. However, the specific term "dating violence" is rarely used in these laws.