

Teen Dating Violence

FACT SHEET



prepared by
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- **The highest rates of intimate violence affect women ages 16 to 24.** [Greenfeld, L., Rand, M., Craven, D., Klaus, P., Perkins, C., Ringel, C., Warchol, G., Maston, C., & Fox, J. (March 1998). *Violence by intimates – Analysis of data on crimes by current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends*. (Publication #NCJ167237). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook.]
- **One in five teen-age girls is a victim of dating violence.** [Silverman, J., Raj, A., Mucci, L. & Hathaway, J. (2001). Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 286 (5), Aug 1, 572-579.]
- **Physical and sexual dating violence against adolescent girls is associated with increased risk of substance use, unhealthy weight control behaviors, sexual risk behaviors, pregnancy and suicidality.** [Silverman, J., Raj, A., Mucci, L. & Hathaway, J. (2001). Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 286 (5), Aug 1, 572-579.]
- **Teen girls, significantly more often than boys, reported that they experience severe violence. Girls were much more likely to be punched and to be forced to engage in sexual activity against their will. Boys were more likely to be pinched, slapped, scratched and kicked.** [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]
- **Among female victims, the most common response to partners' violence was "fear," followed closely by "emotionally hurt." Among male victims, the effects indicated most frequently were "thought it was funny," followed closely by "anger." Thus the females' response to the violence implies a greater emotional and psychological injury.** [O'Keefe, M. & Treister, L. (1998). Victims of dating violence among high school students: are the predictors different for males and females? *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 195-223.]
- **Some teen aggressors are reported to be proud of their behavior; their peers sometimes did not consider them "woman beaters" and offered excuses for their behavior.** [Lavoie, F., Robitaille, L., & Hébert, M. (2000). Teen dating relationships and aggression: an exploratory study. *Violence Against Women*, 6 (1), 6-36.]
- **Teen girls' use of violence in self-defense was perceived by their peers as preferable to passive victimization.** [Lavoie, F., Robitaille, L., & Hébert, M. (2000). Teen dating relationships and aggression: an exploratory study. *Violence Against Women*, 6 (1), 6-36.]