

Teen Dating Violence Prevention

FACT #1

Did you know that nearly 1 in 3 teens have been victimized by the use of technology by a girlfriend or boyfriend?

FACT #2

Did you know that nearly 80% of girls that have been abused in an intimate relationship will continue to date their abuser?

FACT #3

Did you know that 50% of youth who report dating violence and rape also report attempting suicide?

FACT #4

Did you know that 23% of girls and 14% of boys will experience dating violence for the first time between the ages of 11 and 17?

FACT #5

Did you know that 1 in 10 high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped, and/or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend?

Teen Dating Violence is defined as the physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional violence within a dating relationship, including stalking. It can occur in person or electronically and might occur between a current or former dating partner.

Violent relationships can have serious, life-changing ramifications for the victims including a higher risk for depression, substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and/or death. Only 33% of teens involved in a violent relationship confessed to others about the abuse. The majority do not say anything because they are afraid to tell their family and friends, or do not recognize that the relationship is unhealthy.

Are You in An Unhealthy Relationship?

Do you:

- Feel like your boyfriend/girlfriend is never happy with you and/or blames you for how they feel or act?
- Stay with your boyfriend/girlfriend because you're afraid of what he or she will do if you break off the relationship?
- Feel scared of how your boyfriend/girlfriend will react to situations?
- Find yourself ALWAYS doing what your boyfriend/girlfriend want to do, instead of what you want to do?
- Believe that you can "CHANGE" your boyfriend/girlfriend if you changed something about yourself?
- Constantly make excuses for your boyfriend/girlfriend's behavior towards you or your friends?
- Feel that you boyfriend/girlfriend belittles/embarrasses or puts down your accomplishments in front of your family or friends?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please consider talking to someone. Choose someone you can confide in. No one should suffer in silence or feel trapped in an unhealthy relationship.

If you are in immediate danger, please call 911 or Hope's Door 24-hour crisis hotline at 972.422.SAFE (7233).

For more information, please visit Hope's Door New Beginning Center website: www.hopesdoorinc.org