

DID YOU KNOW?

81% of parents do not know or believe teen dating violence is an issue.*

TEN FACTS ABOUT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE*

1. Each year approximately 1 in 3 adolescents report verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
2. Approximately 1 in 5 adolescents report being a victim of emotional abuse.
3. Approximately 1 in 4 high school girls have been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.
4. Dating violence among their peers is reported by 54% of high school students.
5. 1 in 3 teens report knowing a friend or peer who has been physically hurt by his or her partner through violent acts which include hitting, punching, kicking, slapping, and/or choking.
6. 80% of teens believe verbal abuse is a serious issue for their age group.
7. Nearly 80% of girls who have been victims of physical abuse in their dating relationships continue to date the abuser.
8. Nearly 20% of teen girls who have been in a relationship said that their boyfriend had threatened violence or self-harm in the event of a break-up.
9. Nearly 70% of young women who have been raped knew their rapist; the perpetrator was or had been a boyfriend, friend, or casual acquaintance.
10. The majority of teen dating abuse occurs in the home of one of the partners.

*Source: Choose Respect's "Get the Facts: Dating Abuse Statistics" and "About Choosing Respect: Dating Abuse Fact Sheet"

THE WARNING SIGNS

How to look for a pattern of behavior



- **ISOLATION:** You notice that your child has fewer friends than before the relationship began, that your child refrains from outside activities and family time, and/or has become emotionally dependent on their boyfriend or girlfriend.
- **EMOTIONAL CHANGES:** You notice your child's happiness turning into behaviors like: sad, on edge, desperate, crying more frequently, and/or wants to be alone.
- **CONSTANT COMMUNICATION:** You notice your child's boyfriend or girlfriend is constantly texting and/or calling.
- **JEALOUSY ISSUES:** You notice that their boyfriend or girlfriend is proclaiming their love for your child early in the relationship. Your child may feel this is romantic, but this is a sign that they want to move the relationship along fast. Your child's partner does not allow your child to be friends or communicate with the opposite sex other than who they are in a relationship with.
- **THE BOYFRIEND OR GIRLFRIEND'S BACKGROUND:**
Home life can be an influence on how your child is treated in the relationship. If their boyfriend or girlfriend comes from an abusive family, they may react to your child in the same abusive way.
- **THE NEED TO IMPRESS:** You notice your child making different choices about friends or appearances, such as hairstyle, clothes, and/or makeup. Your child is following the advice, opinion, or every word their boyfriend/girlfriend says.
- **MAKING EXCUSES FOR THEIR BOYFRIEND OR GIRLFRIEND:** You notice that your child sticks up for them and unacceptable behaviors. They may defend their partner's words and actions. Their boyfriend or girlfriend may call your child "too sensitive" and/or frequently say they are only "kidding" to undesirable behaviors.