

# NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## DATING VIOLENCE FACTS

### WHY IT MATTERS

Domestic violence frequently occurs in dating relationships. Women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> Many states do not allow individuals to file domestic violence charges if they are not married to or have a child with the batterer. Given the prevalence of domestic violence within dating relationships, communities must work together to prevent these violent relationships, and ensure that victims of dating violence have access to legal protection.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate violence—16 per 1,000 women. The average rate of intimate violence against women as a whole is only 6 per 1,000 women.<sup>1</sup>
- 70% of teenage and college women who are sexually assaulted, are raped during the course of a date.<sup>2</sup>
- 38% of date rapes were reported by women between the ages of 14 and 17.<sup>3</sup>
- 53% of victims of domestic violence were abused by a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend.<sup>4</sup>
- 13% of teenage girls who have been in a relationship report being physically hurt or hit.<sup>5</sup>

### CAMPUS VIOLENCE

- 21% of college students report they have experienced dating violence by a current partner. 32% report dating violence by a previous partner.<sup>6</sup>
- 13% of college women report they were forced to have sex by a dating partner.<sup>7</sup>
- Among college students who were sexually assaulted, 35% of attempted rapes occurred on dates, 22% of threatened rapes occurred on dates, and 12% of completed rapes occurred on dates.<sup>8</sup>
- 60% of acquaintance rapes on college campuses occur in casual or steady dating relationships.<sup>9</sup>
- Over 13% of college women report they have been stalked. Of these, 42% were stalked by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend.<sup>10</sup>

### TEEN VIOLENCE

- 30% of teens report that they or someone they know has experienced dating violence.<sup>11</sup>
- Nearly 1 in 5 teenage girls who have been in a relationship report that their boyfriend threatened violence or self-harm when presented with a breakup.<sup>12</sup>
- 1 in 4 teen girls who have been in a relationship report they were pressured into performing oral sex or engaging in sexual intercourse.<sup>13</sup>
- 26% of teen girls in a relationship report enduring repeated verbal abuse.<sup>14</sup>
- A study of 8th & 9th graders found that 25% had been victims of nonsexual dating violence, and 8% had been victims of sexual dating violence.<sup>15</sup>

### STATE DATING VIOLENCE LAWS

- Many states require a victim to be married to, live with, or have a child in common with the batterer in order for criminal and civil domestic violence laws to protect the victim.
- 33 states and the District of Columbia allow victims of dating violence to apply for orders of protection against the perpetrator. Minnesota, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming allow minors 16 years and older to petition for an order of protection without an adult. California allows minors 12 years and older to petition without an adult.
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, and Virginia do not recognize dating violence in their statutes.

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

## THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE

- A Harvard School of Public Health study indicated that female teenagers who experienced dating violence are significantly more likely to engage in substance abuse, risky sexual behaviors, and suicide.<sup>16</sup>

## IF YOU NEED HELP

- If you or someone you know is a victim of dating violence and wants help, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE or the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE.

## HOW TO HELP

- One of the most effective ways to help protect children from the harmful effects of domestic violence is to write your Legislators asking them to support the following initiatives:
  - Support legislation encouraging education for middle and high school students that addresses the problem of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.
  - Support legislation providing additional funding for local program initiatives that provide counseling services to children who witness domestic violence.
  - Support college campus programs aimed at increasing domestic and sexual violence education, prevention, and intervention.
  - Support increased funding for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA).
- Encourage local schools and youth programs, including teachers, counselors, and athletic coaches, to seek training on how to recognize children and teens who are in violent situations and how to provide resources to intervene in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

## SOURCES

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Special Report Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-1999*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office (2001).

<sup>2</sup> *Children Now*, Kaiser Permanente Poll, December 1995.

<sup>3</sup> Liz Claiborne Inc. Study on Teen Dating Abuse, Teenage Research Unlimited, [www.loveisnotabuse.com](http://www.loveisnotabuse.com) (February 2005).

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Special Report Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-1999*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office (2001).

<sup>5</sup> Liz Claiborne Inc. Study on Teen Dating Abuse, Teenage Research Unlimited, [www.loveisnotabuse.com](http://www.loveisnotabuse.com) (February 2005).

<sup>6</sup> C. Sellers and M. Bromley, "Violent Behavior in College Student Dating Relationships," *Journal of Contemporary Justice* (1996). Retrieved from The National Center for Victims of Crimes, Campus Dating Violence Fact Sheet, [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org).

<sup>7</sup> *No More Factsheet*, Liz Claiborne Inc., [www.loveisnotabuse.com](http://www.loveisnotabuse.com).

<sup>8</sup> B. Fisher, F. Cullen, and M. Turner, "The Sexual Victimization of College Women," (Washington: NIJ/BJJS, 2000). Retrieved from The National Center for Victims of Crimes, Campus Dating Violence Fact Sheet, [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org).

<sup>9</sup> I. Johnson and R. Sigler, "Forced Sexual Intercourse on Campus," *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* (1996). Retrieved from The National Center for Victims of Crimes, Campus Dating Violence Fact Sheet, [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org).

<sup>10</sup> B. Fisher and F. Cullen, "Extent and Nature of Sexual Victimization of College Women," (Washington: NIJ, 2000). Retrieved from The National Center for Victims of Crimes, Campus Dating Violence Fact Sheet, [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org).

<sup>11</sup> The National Center for Victims of Crime, [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org).

<sup>12</sup> Liz Claiborne Inc. Study on Teen Dating Abuse, Teenage Research Unlimited, [www.loveisnotabuse.com](http://www.loveisnotabuse.com) (February 2005).

<sup>13</sup> *Children Now*, Kaiser Permanente Poll, December 1995.

<sup>14</sup> *No More Factsheet*, Liz Claiborne Inc., [www.loveisnotabuse.com](http://www.loveisnotabuse.com).

<sup>15</sup> Foshee, V.A., Lindner, G.F., Bauman, K.E., Langwick, S.A., Arriga, X.B., Health, J.L., McMahon, P.M., Bangdiwala, S. The Safe Dates Project: Theoretical Basis, Evaluation Design, and Selected Baseline Findings. Youth Violence Prevention: Description and baseline data from 13 evaluation projects (K. Powell, D. Hawkins, Eds.). *American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Supplement*, 1996, 12(5), 39-47. Retrieved from the CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/datviol.htm>.

<sup>16</sup> Harvard School of Public Health (2001). "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls Linked with Teen Pregnancy, Suicide, and Other Health Risk Behaviors." [www.harvard.edu/press/releases/press07312001.html](http://www.harvard.edu/press/releases/press07312001.html).