

Fact Sheet: Teen Dating Violence Victimization



CRIME VICTIMS'
INSTITUTE

COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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Teen Dating Violence Victimization: The Facts

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What is Teen Dating Violence Victimization?

Teen dating violence, or dating violence, is considered an adverse childhood experience in which young people experience physical, sexual, psychological, or stalking in an intimate relationship. [1]

Have you Heard?

- Approximately 8% of U.S. high school students experience physical and sexual dating violence [2]
- Female students experience high rates of physical and sexual violence compared to males [2]
- Students who identify as a part of the LGBTQ+ community are unsure of their gender identity experience higher rates of physical and sexual violence compared to their heterosexual counterparts[3]

What are the Consequences? [4]

There are short and long-term consequences due to teen dating violence, including depressive and anxiety symptoms, engagement in substance and alcohol use, and displaying antisocial behavior, such as lying and bullying. Additionally, teens can experience suicidal ideation due to unhealthy and abusive relationships. Teen dating violence can also lead to the perpetration of intimate partner violence or sexual violence in adulthood.

Barriers to Help-Seeking

Teens face help-seeking barriers, such as isolation and anger from their partners, wanting to keep abuse private, embarrassment, and shame. [5,6,7,8] Additionally, many adolescents are unaware of the services available to them if they seek help. [5]

How to Help [1]

- Empower survivors of teen dating violence
- Bring awareness towards healthy, nonviolent relationships
- Support programs that promote learning skills for teens for managing emotions and communication in relationships

Resources

9-1-1

Texas

- Texas Advocacy Project--(800)374-4673
<https://www.texasadvocacyproject.org>
- Teens Against Dating Violence--(210)338-5398
<https://www.tadv.info>

National

- The Trevor Project--(866)488-7386
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org>
- The National Dating Abuse Helpline-- (866)331-9474
<https://www.loveisrespect.org>

References

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Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 + <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>
800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988