



The American Bar Association Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children

In Collaboration With
Center on Children and the Law
Commission on Domestic Violence

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE STATISTICS

Teen Dating Violence: At a Glance

- 18% of high school females and seven percent of high school males report being physically hurt by someone they are dating.
<http://www.seeitandstopit.org/seeit/stats.html>
- Approximately 1 in 5 high school girls report being abused by a boyfriend.
Silverman et al., "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality," *JAMA*, (2001).
- When female high school students were asked whom they would talk to if someone they were dating was attempting to control them, insulted them, or physically harmed them, 86% percent said they would confide in a friend, while only 7% said they would talk to police.
Tiffany J. Zwicker (2002). Education Policy Brief, "The Imperative of Developing Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs in Secondary Schools." *12 Southern California Review of Law and Women's Studies*, 131.
- Violent relationships in adolescents can have serious ramifications for victims: many will continue to be abused in their adult relationships and are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, and suicide.
National Crime Prevention Council, "Crime Prevention Program Ideas: Combating Teen Dating Violence" & Silverman, Jay G., Raj, Anita, Mucci, Lorelei A., Hathaway, Jeanne E., Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, vol. 286, no. 5, August 1, 2001.

Juvenile Perpetrators

- According to a high school study of approximately 81,000 Minnesota high school students, 1 in 10 and one in twenty boys will have an abusive experience while on a date.
D.M.Ackard, Minneapolis, MN and D. Neumark.Sztainer, Division of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, "Date Violence and Date Rape Among Adolescents: Associations with Disordered Eating Behaviors and Psychological Health." *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 26 (2002) 455-473.
- A study of 1,600 juvenile sexual assault offenders nationwide indicated that only about 1/3 of the juveniles perceived sex as a way to demonstrate love or caring for another person. 23.5% percent perceived sex as a way to feel power and control, 9.4% as a way to dissipate anger, 8.4% percent as a way to punish.
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA), 2002 Report: Research on Rape and Violence.
- In 9 out of 10 rapes in which the offender was under 18, so was the victim.
Health Resources and Administration (HRSA), A U.S. Department of Justice analysis of data on rape and sexual assault using data obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, Ann Arbor, MI. "Sex Offenders" (1997).
- The rate of violent victimization in 2000 was highest in persons age 16-19 (64.3 in 1,000) than among any other age group.
Rennison, Callie, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2001.
- Absent effective intervention, serious, violent, or chronic juvenile offenders are likely to recidivate at the age of peak offending.
Mark W. Lipsey, et al. (2000). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. "Effective Intervention for Serious Juvenile Offenders," 1.

Juvenile Perpetrator and Victim Attend Same School

- 20 % of surveyed male students reported that students talk in school about whether someone is attempting to control the person they are dating
Martin D. Schwartz & Walter S. DeKerseredy (2000), "Aggregation Bias and Women Abuse," 15 *J. Interpersonal Violence* 555,557.
- 39% of female high school students reported that students talk in school about whether someone is attempting to control the person they are dating.
Tiffany J.Zwicker (2002). Education Policy Brief, "The Imperative of Developing Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs in Secondary Schools." 12 *Southern California Review of Law and Women's Studies*, 131.

Dating Violence Incidents on School Grounds

- During the 1996-1997 school year alone, there were an estimated 4,000 incidents or acts of sexual assault in public schools across the United States.
U.S. Department of Education, Violence & Discipline Problems in US Public Schools: 1996-97.

