



The Dwelling Place

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE

*My people will live in peaceful dwelling places,
in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.*

— ISAIAH 32:18

The Facts on Tweens and Teens, and Dating Violence

Source: *Futures without Violence* at www.futureswithoutviolence.org

While dating, domestic and sexual violence affect women regardless of their age, teens and young women are especially vulnerable. Young people, 12 to 19 years old, experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault,ⁱ and youth, 18-19 years old, experience the highest rates of stalking.ⁱⁱ Add to that the 15.5 million U.S. children who live in families in which intimate partner violence occurred at least once in the past year,ⁱⁱⁱ and you have a huge number of young people in this country whose lives are affected – sometimes shaped – by violence.

Prevalence of Violence in Tweens

- Approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner – a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth.^{iv}
- In a national online survey, one in five tweens – age 11 to 14 – say their friends are victims of dating violence and nearly half who are in relationships know friends who are verbally abused. Two in five of the youngest tweens, ages 11 and 12, report that their friends are victims of verbal abuse in relationships.^v
- A survey of 7th graders in a high-risk community found that more than one in three boys (35.2 percent) and nearly one in four girls (24.1 percent) reported being a victim of physical dating violence in the past year.^{vi}
- The same study found that nearly one in four 7th grade girls (24.9 percent) and more than one in five boys (21.2 percent) reported perpetrating physical violence in a dating relationship in the past year.^{vii}
- A small study of middle school Latino youth 11 to 13 years old found that 14 percent of girls and 13 percent of boys disclosed experiencing physical dating violence in the past year.^{viii}
- Boys are more likely to inflict injuries as a result of perpetrating dating violence than girls.^{ix} This trend – where girls slap and push and boys hit and punch – continues into adulthood. Women suffer from much higher rates of domestic violence and incur more injuries. In 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published data collected in 2005 that finds that women experience two million injuries from intimate partner violence each year.^x The cost of intimate partner rape, physical assault and stalking is in the billions of dollars.^{xi}

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Source: *Futures without Violence* at www.futureswithoutviolence.org

Prevalence of Violence in Teens

- One in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner – a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth.^{xii}
- Nationwide, nearly one in ten (9.4%) of U.S. high school students has been hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past twelve months. Overall, the prevalence of dating violence was higher among black (12.2%) and Hispanic (11.4%) students compared to white (7.6%) students.^{xiii}
- Teens in same-sex relationships experience rates of violence and abuse similar to rates experienced by teens in heterosexual relationships. Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health indicated that nearly one in four teens and young adults (ages 12-21 years) in same-sex romantic or sexual relationships reported some type of partner violence victimization in the past year-and-a-half. One in ten reported experiencing physical violence by a dating partner. Females were more likely to report victimization than males.^{xiv}
- Nearly one in ten 15-year-old girls disclosed experiencing physical dating violence and one in four disclosed experiencing psychological abuse.^{xv}
- Nearly one in three sexually active adolescent girls in 9th to 12th grade (31.5 percent) report ever experiencing physical or sexual violence from dating partners.^{xvi}
- More than one-third of high school age boys (34.8%) and girls (35.8%) with both-sex partners reported physical dating violence in the past year.^{xvii}
- One in four teen girls in a relationship (26 percent) says she has been threatened with violence or experienced verbal abuse, and 13 percent say they were physically hurt or hit.^{xviii}
- One in three teens reports knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped or physically hurt by a partner.^{xix}

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School and Academic Performance

- Having been a victim of physical dating violence was significantly associated with lower than average grades and poor school attachment for male and female students in grades 7 through 12.^{xx}
- Aggressive behavior at school during early adolescence predicted future dating violence victimization among 12th graders.^{xxi}

Some Parents Are Out of Touch

- In a 2009 survey of parents, three in four parents say they have had a conversation with their teen about what it means to be in a healthy relationship – but 74 percent of sons and 66 percent of daughters said they have not had a conversation about dating abuse with a parent in the past year.^{xxii}
- Though more than four in five parents (82 percent) feel confident that they could recognize the signs if their child was experiencing dating abuse, a majority of parents (58 percent) could not correctly identify all the warning signs of abuse.^{xxiii}
- In a survey with a representative sample of teens (ages 13-18), nearly half (42%) said their parents know nothing or very little about what they do online.^{xxiv}
- Of teens in abusive relationships, fewer than one in three (32 percent) confide in their parents about their abusive relationship.^{xxv}
- In a national on-line survey of parents with children 11-18 years old, nearly half (45%) had not discussed dating violence with their children in the past year. Reasons parents did not discuss dating violence with their children included they thought their children were too young to talk about it, they would not know what to say, and their children would learn about it through experience.^{xxvi}

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Source: *Futures without Violence* at www.futureswithoutviolence.org

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The Facts on Tweens and Teens, and Dating Violence, p. 5

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