

Teen Dating Violence Statistics

Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.¹

The Victims/Survivors*

- **One in three adolescents** in the U.S. is a survivor of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.^{1,2}
- **Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24** experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence – almost triple the national average.^{1,3}
- **Nearly one in four girls (23%) who have been in a relationship** reported going further sexually than they wanted as a result of pressure.²
- Only **33% of teens** who were in a violent relationship ever told anyone about the abuse, and **86%** said they would confide in a friend rather than a caring adult.^{1,4}
- **Hispanic immigrant girls have less than half** the risk of Teen Dating Violence as their non-immigrant Hispanic peers.⁶
- TDV is extremely common in LGBTQ relationships – **up to 50% of LGBTQ individuals** will be abused by a dating partner.⁷

*The terms victims and survivors are both used because

1 in 5 high school female students are physically and/or sexually abused by their dating partner.⁴

The Perpetrators

- Violent behavior typically begins **between the ages of 12 and 18.**¹ **More than 50% of sexual assaults** are committed by a woman's romantic partner.⁹
- **Individuals with a history of physical violence against their partners are 13 times more likely** to commit future acts of physical aggression compared to persons who have never committed this form of physical abuse.⁹
- Youth who engaged in high rates of self-reported **bully perpetration during middle school were almost 7 times more likely** to engage in physical TDV perpetration four years later in high school.¹⁰

The Bystanders

- **81% of parents** believe TDV is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue for teens.^{1,4}
- **Over 80% of high school counselors** report feeling unprepared to address incidents of abuse on their school campus.²
- **50-80% of teens** have reported knowing others who were involved in violent relationships.³
- **57% of teens** say they know of a peer who has been physically, sexually, or verbally abusive to their dating partner. **33% of teens** have actually seen the abuse or violence themselves.⁴

Risks of Teen Dating Violence

- **Half of youth survivors** of both TDV and sexual assault attempt suicide, compared to **12.5% of non-abused girls** and **5.4% of non-abused boys.**¹
- Physical or sexual abuse makes **teen girls 6 times more likely** to become pregnant and **twice as likely** to get an Sexually Transmitted Infection.¹
- Survivors of TDV are significantly more likely to use drugs, smoke, or drink alcohol than those who did not experience abuse.⁵

References

¹Love is Respect. (2014). <http://bit.ly/1fyiQnT>; ²Break the Cycle: Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence. (n.d.). <http://bit.ly/199Wex6>; ³NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault. (2003). *Teen dating violence*. <http://bit.ly/1cix22h>; ⁴Safe Horizon. (n.d.). <http://bit.ly/1HbBd0P>; ⁵Children's Safety Network. (2012). *Teen Dating Violence as a Public Health Issue*. Education Development Center: Waltham, MA.; ⁶Ramos, et al. (2011). Immigration status, acculturation, and dating violence risk for Hispanic adolescent girls in New Mexico. *Maternal Child Health Journal*, 15, 1076-1080.; ⁷Gallopin & Leigh. (2009). Teen perceptions of dating violence, help-seeking, and the role of schools. *The Prevention Resesarcher*, 16(1), 17-20.; ⁸Domestic violence statistics." (n.d.). <http://bit.ly/1ozDNrn>; ⁹Perpetrator risk factors for violence against women." (n.d.). <http://bit.ly/1lJ9Ow>; ¹⁰Espelage et al., L. (2013). Relation between bully and teen dating violence perpetration across early to late adolescence. <http://bit.ly/1F5Z8iz>

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njcoalition
against sexual assault
NJCEDV
New Jersey Coalition to
End Domestic Violence



Domestic Violence in New Jersey

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NEW JERSEY

- There were 65,060 domestic violence offenses reported by the police in 2012, a 7 percent decrease compared to the 70,311 reported in 2011.ⁱ
- Children were involved or present during 29 percent of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2012. Specifically, 4 percent (2,298) were involved and 25 percent (16,534) were present.ⁱⁱ
- Wives were the victims in 16 percent (10,829) and ex-wives were the victims in 3 percent (2,187) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2012. Overall, females were victims in 75 percent (48,697) of all domestic violence offenses.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 13,099 in 2011 to 11,494 in 2012. This is a decrease of 12 percent.^{iv}
- Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 14 percent (9,370) of the state total.^v

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.^{vi}
- On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls, approximately 15 calls every minute.^{vii}
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.^{viii}
- Having a gun in the home increases the risk of homicide by at least 500%.^{ix}
- 72% of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner; 94% of the victims of these crimes are female.^x

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS IN NEW JERSEY

1st Congressional District

Camden County Women's Center
Camden
856.963.5668

Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV)
Camden
866.295.7378

If you need help:

Call The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
Or, online go to DomesticShelters.org



Violence Against Women in the United States: Statistics

Despite the fact that advocacy groups like NOW have worked for over three decades to halt the epidemic of gender-based violence and sexual assault, the numbers are still shocking. It is time to renew our national pledge, from the President and Congress on down to City Councils all across the nation to END violence against women and men, girls and boys. This effort must also be carried on in workplaces, schools, churches, locker rooms, the military, and in courtrooms, law enforcement, entertainment and the media. NOW pledges to continue our work to end this violence and we hope you will join us in our work.

MURDER

In 2005, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner.¹ That's an average of three women every day. Of all the women murdered in the U.S., about one-third were killed by an intimate partner.²

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Intimate Partner Violence or Battering)

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.³ According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes every year.⁴ Less than 20 percent of battered women sought medical treatment following an injury.⁵

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, which includes crimes that were *not* reported to the police, 232,960 women in the U.S. were raped or sexually assaulted in 2006. That's more than 600 women every day.⁶ Other estimates, such as those generated by the FBI, are much lower because they rely on data from law enforcement agencies. A significant number of crimes are never even reported for reasons that include the victim's feeling that nothing can/will be done and the personal nature of the incident.⁷

THE TARGETS

Young women, low-income women and some minorities are disproportionately victims of domestic violence and rape. Women ages 20-24 are at greatest risk of nonfatal domestic violence⁸, and women age 24 and under suffer from the highest rates of rape.⁹ The Justice Department estimates that one in five women will experience rape or attempted rape during their college years, and that less than five percent of these rapes will be reported.¹⁰ Income is also a factor: the poorer the household, the higher the rate of domestic violence — with women in the lowest income category experiencing more than

six times the rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence as compared to women in the highest income category.¹¹ When we consider race, we see that African-American women face higher rates of domestic violence than white women, and American-Indian women are victimized at a rate more than double that of women of other races.¹²

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

According to the Family Violence Prevention Fund, “growing up in a violent home may be a terrifying and traumatic experience that can affect every aspect of a child’s life, growth and development. . . . children who have been exposed to family violence suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, such as bed-wetting or nightmares, and were at greater risk than their peers of having allergies, asthma, gastrointestinal problems, headaches and flu.” In addition, women who experience physical abuse as children are at a greater risk of victimization as adults, and men have a far greater (more than double) likelihood of perpetrating abuse.¹³

IMPACT ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that the cost of domestic violence in 2003 was more than over \$8.3 billion. This cost includes medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity.¹⁴

LEGISLATION

In 1994, the National Organization for Women, the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (now called Legal Momentum), the Feminist Majority and other organizations finally secured passage of the Violence Against Women Act, which provided a record-breaking \$1.6 billion to address issues of violence against women.¹⁵ However it took nearly an additional year to force the Newt Gingrich-led Congress to release the funding. An analysis estimated that in the first six years after VAWA was passed, nearly \$14.8 billion was saved in net averted social costs.¹⁶ VAWA was reauthorized in 2005, with nearly \$4 billion in funding over five years.¹⁷

VIOLENCE BETWEEN SAME-SEX COUPLES

According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, “domestic violence affecting LGBT individuals continues to be grossly underreported . . . there is a lack of awareness and denial about the existence of this type of violence and its impact, both by LGBT people and non-LGBT people alike.”¹⁸

Myths regarding gender roles perpetuate the silence surrounding these abusive relationships; for example, the belief that there aren’t abusive lesbian relationships because women don’t abuse each other. Shelters are often unequipped to handle the needs of lesbians (as a women-only shelter isn’t much defense against a female abuser), and transgendered individuals. Statistics regarding domestic violence against LGBT people are unavailable at the national level, but as regional studies demonstrate, domestic

violence is as much as a problem within LGBT communities as it is among heterosexual ones.¹⁹

RESOURCES

¹Bureau of Justice Statistics, [*Intimate Homicide Victims by Gender*](#)

²Bureau of Justice Statistics, [*There has been a decline in homicide of intimates, especially male victims*](#)

³Department of Justice, [*About Domestic Violence*](#)

⁴Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [*Understanding Intimate Partner Violence*](#) (PDF)

⁵National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), [*Domestic Violence Facts*](#) (PDF)

⁶Bureau of Justice Statistics (table 2, page 15), [*Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006 Statistical Tables*](#)

⁷US Census Bureau (page 12), [*National Crime Victimization Survey*](#) (PDF)

⁸Bureau of Justice Statistics, [*Victim Characteristics: Age*](#)

⁹Bureau of Justice Statistics (table 4, page 17) [*Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006 Statistical Tables*](#) (PDF)

¹⁰National Institute of Justice (pages 6-7), [*Sexual Assault on Campus: What Colleges and Universities Are Doing About It*](#) (PDF)

¹¹Bureau of Justice Statistics, [*Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S.: Victims*](#)

¹²Bureau of Justice Statistics, [*Victim Characteristics: Race*](#)

¹³Family Violence Prevention Fund, [*The Facts on Children and Domestic Violence*](#)

¹⁴CDC, [*Understanding Intimate Partner Violence*](#) (PDF)

¹⁵NOW, [*The Violence Against Women Act: Celebrating 10 Years of Prevention*](#)

¹⁶University of North Carolina, [*Analyses of Violence Against Women Act suggest legislation saved U.S. \\$14.8 billion*](#)

¹⁷NCADV, [*Comparison of VAWA 1994, VAWA 2000 and VAWA 2005 Reauthorization Bill*](#) (PDF)

¹⁸National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), [*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Domestic Violence In the United States in 2007*](#) (PDF)

¹⁹NCAVP, [*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Domestic Violence In the United States in 2007*](#) (PDF)