

KNOW MORE



1600 M Street
Fresno, CA 93271
TEL: (559) 237-4706
www.mmcenter.org

HOTLINE: (559) 233-HELP (4357)

DID YOU KNOW

81% of parents do not know or believe teen dating violence is an issue.

TEN FACTS ABOUT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

1. Each year approximately **1 in 3 adolescents** report verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
2. Approximately **1 in 5 adolescents** report being a victim of emotional abuse.
3. Approximately **1 in 4 high school girls** have been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.
4. Dating violence among their peers is reported by **54% of high school students**.
5. **1 in 3 teens report knowing a friend or peer who has been physically hurt by his or her partner** through violent acts which include hitting, punching, kicking, slapping, and/or choking.
6. **80% of teens** believe verbal abuse is a serious issue for their age group.
7. Nearly **80% of girls who have been victims** of physical abuse in their dating relationships continue to date the abuser.
8. Nearly **20% of teen girls who have been in a relationship** said that their boyfriend had threatened violence or self-harm in the event of a break-up.
9. Nearly **70% of young women who have been raped knew their rapist**; the perpetrator was or had been a boyfriend, friend, or casual acquaintance.
10. The majority of teen dating **abuse occurs in the home of one of the partners**.



LOVE IS NOT ABUSE

PARENT FACT SHEET

LOOK FOR A

PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR

The Warning Signs

- ◆ **ISOLATION:** You notice that your child has fewer friends than before the relationship began, that your child refrains from outside activities and family time, and/or has become emotionally dependent on their boyfriend or girlfriend.
- ◆ **EMOTIONAL CHANGES:** You notice your child's happiness turning into behaviors like: sad, on edge, desperate, crying more frequently, and/or wants to be alone.
- ◆ **CONSTANT COMMUNICATION:** You notice your child's boyfriend/girlfriend is constantly texting and/or calling.
- ◆ **JEALOUSY ISSUES:** You notice that their boyfriend/girlfriend is proclaiming their love for your child early in the relationship. Your child may feel this is romantic, but this a sign that they want to move the relationship along fast. Your child's partner does not allow your child to be friends or communicate with the opposite sex other than who they are in a relationship with. These signs also apply in same sex relationships. It is a form of control.
- ◆ **THE BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND'S BACKGROUND:** Home life can be an influence on how your child is treated in the relationship. If their boyfriend/girlfriend comes from an abusive family, they may react to your child in the same abusive way.
- ◆ **THE NEED TO IMPRESS:** You notice your child making different choices about friends or appearances, such as hairstyle, clothes, and/or makeup. Your child is following the advice, opinion, or every word their boyfriend/girlfriend says.
- ◆ **MAKING EXCUSES FOR THEIR BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND:** You notice that your child sticks up for them and unacceptable behaviors. They may defend their partner's words and actions. Their boyfriend/girlfriend may call your child "too sensitive" and/or frequently say they are only "kidding" to undesirable behaviors.