

What is teen dating violence?

Teen dating violence is abusive behavior – physical, emotional, sexual or financial – that one person in an intimate relationship uses in order to control the other person.

Physical Abuse

Hitting, spitting, slapping, choking, smacking, grabbing, shaking, threats of physical force.

Verbal/Emotional Abuse

Yelling, name-calling, threatening, public humiliation, destroying homework, limiting who someone sees.

Sexual Abuse

Rape, forced or unwanted touching, telling family or friends about sexual activities, refusing to use contraception, undermining sexual choices.

Financial Abuse

Stealing money, not letting someone work, asking someone to earn money through illegal methods.



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, City of New York

Yolanda B. Jimenez, Commissioner,
Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH, Commissioner,
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Commissioner,
Department of Youth and Community Development

Did you know....

- 1 in 5 female high school students reported being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.
- Females aged 16-24 are at the highest risk of intimate partner violence.
- Females are at the highest risk of being victims of forcible rape at age 14.
- In 84% of all reported rapes in NYC in 2003, the victim knew the attacker.
- Of the 64 family-related homicides in NYC in 2003, 40% of the victims were age 25 or younger.

Important numbers

For emergencies **911**
For information **311**

NYC Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-621-4673
TDD 1-800-810-7444

Department of Youth
and Community Development
YOUTHLINE
1-800-246-4646
TDD 1-800-246-4699

NYPD Sex Crimes Report Hotline
212-267-7273
NYC Sexual Assault Hotline
212-227-3000

www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence

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Does someone you date . . .

Push you or hit you?

Make you feel scared?

Constantly call or page you?

Threaten suicide if you break up?

Pressure or force you to have sex?

Threaten to tell your parents or friends
private things about you?

Start fights that never seem to end?

Always accuse you of cheating?

Threaten to "out" you?

Make you feel badly about yourself,
your friends or your family?

**RELATIONSHIP ABUSE.
IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU.**

There is help for you

If you are in a dating relationship that feels threatening, uncomfortable, tense, or even frightening, trust your feelings. No matter what your age, if you are a victim of abuse, the following resources can help you.

Law enforcement

Police and the court system can help protect you from someone who is hurting you. Victims of physical and sexual abuse should call 911 or visit the nearest police precinct to file a complaint.

Orders of protection

Individuals who are abused by someone they are dating, and with whom they do not have a child in common, may seek an Order of Protection in Criminal Court if the abuser has been charged with a crime. If you have a child in common you may go to Family Court.

Professional help

Counseling services are available to help. You should call 311 to access LifeNet. You will be given information about a counseling center near you.

Schools

There are Relationship Abuse Prevention Programs (RAPP) in 20 high schools in New York City. RAPP Coordinators provide counseling to victims of teen dating violence and to witnesses of abuse.

Shelter

Youth over 16 may be eligible for confidential domestic violence shelter, which can be accessed through the NYC Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-4673. Youth under 21 may also go to a shelter for teens such as Covenant House. Call 1-800-246-4646 (TDD 1-800-246-4699) for information.

Plan for your safety

- **Call 911 if you are in danger or hurt.** Arrange an emergency signal with a trusted friend or relative to call 911 for you if you are in danger and unable to call for help.
- **Tell someone you trust about the abuse** such as your parent, your aunt or uncle, a friend's parent, a teacher, a coach, or a school counselor.
- **Call the NYC Domestic Violence Hotline** at 1-800-621-4673. Staff can help you explore your options, and provide counseling, advocacy and support.
- **If you attend one of the 20 RAPP schools, report the incident to the RAPP Coordinator.** Please visit www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence for a list of schools.
- **Know where your local police station is located.** Ask for the Domestic Violence Prevention Officer. Pick a safe place to stay in case of an emergency.
- **Keep a record of your abuse.** Get copies of any medical records and police reports. Have someone take pictures of your injuries. Save any threatening emails you receive. Write down the history of your abuse in a safely stored journal.
- **Let an Assistant Principal or your school Security Director know** that you are being abused or stalked. They can help you plan for safety during school hours.

Things to remember

- **The signs and symptoms of abuse within teenage relationships are similar to those of other types of domestic violence.** They may include physical violence, sexual assault, and emotional and/or psychological abuse.
- **Relationship abuse is a cycle.** First you feel as though you are walking on eggshells. Then there is hitting or a scary incident. The abuser then apologizes and promises not to do it again. This cycle may repeat itself.
- **Relationship violence gets worse over time.** Take seriously any threats that are made. You are important and do not deserve to be treated abusively.
- **Many acts of abuse begin early in dating relationships.** Date and acquaintance rape may happen at the beginning of a relationship before there has been any physical intimacy.
- **Anyone can be a victim and anyone can be an abuser** regardless of age, gender, sexuality, race, class, or religious affiliation.
- **Jealousy and possessiveness are not signs of love.** In a healthy, loving relationship, people trust and support one another and respect each other's independence. In a healthy relationship, your partner should want what is best for you.
- **There is no excuse for abuse.** The abuser makes a choice to harm you. It is not your fault, no matter what other people say.

**Living free of relationship
violence is your right.**