

# **VIOLENCE IN DATING**

**UPDATED 9/19/07**

## **“NEW SURVEY OF AMERICAN TEENS REVEALS SHOCKING LEVELS OF TEEN DATING ABUSE AND VIOLENCE”**

**“- 1 In 3 Teen Girls In A Dating Relationship Have Feared For Their Physical Safety”**

**“- 1 In 2 Teens In Serious Relationships Have Compromised Their Beliefs To Please Their Partner”**

**“- 1 In 3 Teens In Serious Relationships Have Been Strongly Controlled In What They Do And Where They Go”**

**“Key Findings:”**

**“Physical threats and safety:”**

**“-- 30% of all teens report worrying about their personal physical safety in a relationship;”**

**“-- 1 in 5 teens (20%) in a serious relationship report they have been hit, slapped or pushed by a partner;”**

**“-- 13% of Hispanic teens reported that hitting a partner was permissible.”**

**“Controlling/Abusive Behavior:”**

**“-- 64% of teens have been with someone who acted really jealous, asking where they were all the time;”**

**“-- 55% of teens in serious relationships have done something that compromised their values to please their partner;”**

**“-- 1 in 4 teens in serious relationships were asked to only spend time with their partner and prevented from spending time with family or friends;”**

**-- 1 in 3 teens in serious relationships were asked by their partner where they were and who they were with all the time;”**

“-- 61% of teens said they have had a boyfriend or girlfriend who made them feel bad or embarrassed about themselves;”

“-- More than 1 in 4 teens have been in a relationship where their partner calls them names and puts them down.”

“Sexual Pressures:”

“-- Almost one third of girls who have been in a relationship (29%) said they have been pressured to have sex or engage in sex they don't want;”

“-- Nearly 1 out of 4 teen girls of all ages report that they have gone further sexually in a relationship than they wanted;”

“-- Nearly 1 out of 2 girls worry that their partner will break up with them if they did not agree to engage in sex;”

“-- 1 in 3 teens between the ages of 16 and 18 and 1 in 4 teens between the ages of 13 and 18 say sex is expected in their relationships.”

(“New Survey of American Teens Reveals Shocking Levels of Teen Dating Abuse and Violence,” Yahoo Finance, April 2006,  
[www.biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060425/nytul52.html?.v=47&printer=1](http://www.biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060425/nytul52.html?.v=47&printer=1))

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## **“INCIDENCE AND CORRELATES OF UNWANTED SEX IN RELATIONSHIPS OF MIDDLE AND LATE ADOLESCENT WOMEN”**

“Results: A total of 279 participants with a mean age of 15.9 years were enrolled, and most were African American (88.5% [247/279]). Unwanted sex was reported by 40.9% (n=114) of participants and in 15.5% (292/1880) of partner-visits. The most prevalent type of unwanted sex was due to fear that the partner would get angry if denied sex (37.6%, or 105 participants). Factors associated with unwanted sex included having a baby with the partner, lower relationship quality, lack of sexual control, less condom use, and partner marijuana use.”

“Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2006; 160:591-595”

(Margaret J. Blythe, MD; J. Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS; M'Hamed Temkit, MS; Wanshu Tu, PhD; Donald P. Orr, MD, “Incidence and Correlates of Unwanted Sex in Relationships of Middle and Late Adolescent Women,” American Medical Association, June 2006)

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## **DATING VIOLENCE AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASED/HIV TESTING AND DIAGNOSIS AMONG ADOLESCENT FEMALES**

More than one third (38.8%) of adolescent girls tested for STD or HIV and more than half (51.6%) of girls diagnosed with STD/HIV reported experiencing dating violence. Compared with nonabused girls, girls who experienced both physical and sexual dating violence were 3.0 times more likely to have been tested for STD and HIV, and 2.6 times more likely to report and STD diagnosis.

Approximately 1 in 3 ((31.5%) sexually active adolescent girls reported ever experiencing physical or sexual violence from dating partners.

(Michele R. Decker, Jay G. Silverman and Anita Raj, "Dating Violence and Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV Testing and Diagnosis Among Adolescent Females," *Pediatrics*, Vol. 116 No. 2, August 25, 2005)

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### **"TEEN DATING VIOLENCE TAKES A DOUBLE TOLL"**

"As many as one in three sexually active teenage girls may have been the victim of dating violence. And those same girls are also at a significantly higher risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV."

"Tremendous rates of dating violence are experienced among adolescents," said study author Michele Decker, a research project coordinator at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. "Girls who experienced dating violence are two-and-a-half times as likely to be diagnosed with STDs."

"The researchers interviewed 1,641 sexually active adolescent females from Massachusetts. In the study group, 75 percent of the girls were white, 11 percent were Latino, 8.4 percent were black and 3 percent were Asian."

"One-third of the girls that had been tested for an STD, including HIV, reported being the victims of dating violence. More than half -- 51.6 percent -- of those diagnosed with an STD had experienced dating violence, according to the study."

“This study shows this is happening all over the country. This doesn't just happen in poor communities. It's across racial groups and socioeconomic status. Teens need your supervision and they need your attention,’ said Hopkins.”

(Serena Gordon, “Teen Dating violence Takes a Double Toll,” Health Day, August 1, 2005, [http://health.yahoo.com/news/\\_122700](http://health.yahoo.com/news/_122700))

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## **“DATING VIOLENCE AND ASSOCIATED SEXUAL RISK AND PREGNANCY AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN THE UNITED STATES”**

“2001 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey”

**“Conclusions.** Dating violence is prevalent among US adolescent girls, especially those reporting having had sexual intercourse. Adolescent girls intentionally hurt by a date in the previous year are more likely to experience sexual health risks, including those increasing vulnerability to human immunodeficiency virus infection and other sexually transmitted infections, and to have been pregnant. Dating violence should be integrated into sexual health and pregnancy prevention programs, and greater efforts to identify girls experiencing dating violence are needed among those providing care related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health.”

**“Results.** Slightly less than 1 of 5 sexually experienced US adolescent girls (17.7%) reported being intentionally physically hurt by a date in the previous year, and ~1 of 25 girls (3.7%) who reported no sexual experience reported such violence. Dating violence among sexually experienced adolescent girls was related to increased risks for both sexual risk behaviors (eg, recent multiple sexual partners: odds ratio: 2.0; 95% confidence interval: 1.3–3.1) and pregnancy (odds ratio: 1.8; 95% confidence interval: 1.3–2.4).”

(Jay G. Silverman, PhD\*, Anita Raj, PhD† and Karen Clements, MPH, Dating Violence and Associated Sexual Risk and Pregnancy Among Adolescent Girls in the United States, PEDIATRICS Vol. 114 No. 2 August 2004, ppe220-e225)

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## **“DATING VIOLENCE”**

“During 12 months preceding the survey, 8.9 % of students nationwide had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (i.e. dating violence)”

(Jo Anne Grunbaum, Laura Kann, Steve Kinchen, James Ross, Joseph Hawkins, Richard Lowry, William A. Harris, Tim McManus, David Chyen, Janet Collins, “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 53, no. SS-2 (May 21, 2004): 6.)

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### **“DATING DANGER”**

“Up to a third of American teens have experienced psychological or physical violence in a dating relationship, according to a new study. Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill surveyed 6,897 teens and found that 20 percent had experienced psychological violence—most often name calling or threats. An additional 12 percent reported being physically hurt. The study noted that victimization rates were similar for boys and girls. (Time, October 15, 2001)

([www.abstinence.net/NewsEvents\\_detail.dfm?WhatsNewID=44](http://www.abstinence.net/NewsEvents_detail.dfm?WhatsNewID=44))

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### **“THE PERILS OF YOUNG ROMANCE”**

"A study says 1 in 5 girls reports violence. A startling new report published last week in the Journal of the American Medical Association reveals that nearly 1 in 5 girls surveyed had been physically or sexually abused by a date. When asked if they have been shoved, slapped, hit, or forced into a sexual act by a date, an average of 9.5 percent of the 4,163 girls surveyed in 1997 and 1999 reported sexual abuse and 6 percent reported both."

("The Perils of Young Romance", Time Magazine, August 27, 2001)

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### **"BAD NEWS AND THEN SOME"**

“Teen girls subject to violence in relationships are more prone to engage in risky behavior than other teen girls.”

### **“Abused girls are this number of times more likely to:”**

- “Attempt suicide  
(in year before survey)” 8.6

- “Get pregnant” 3.9
- “Use laxatives or vomit to lose weight  
(in month before survey)” 3.7
- “Use cocaine” 3.4
- “Smoke (more than 10 cigarettes per day)”  
(In month before survey) 2.5

“Note: based on 1999 Massachusetts Risk Behavior Survey of 2,186 female high school students.”

Source: *Journal of the American Medical Association*  
(Samantha Levine, "The Perils of Young Romance", U.S. News & World Reports, p46,  
August 13, 2001)

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## **"WHEN DATING IS DANGEROUS"**

"A recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health highlights how perilous adolescence can be, especially for girls. The comprehensive study of 1,977 high school girls shows that 1 in 5 reports being a victim of physical or sexual violence in a dating relationship. Girls reported being 'hit, slapped, shoved or forced into sexual activity' by dates. Since this is the first study of its kind, it's not clear whether such abuse is on the rise, but Dr. Jay Silverman, author of the report, called the numbers 'extremely high.'"

(Amy Dickinson, "When Dating is Dangerous," Time Magazine, August 27, 2001)

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## **"SEX IN THE CAFETERIA"**

“One in four girls and one in eight boys are sexually assaulted by the time they reach 18, according to recent government estimates. Other studies suggest that one in 10 Christians struggle with a sexual addiction.”

“If we don’t do something to help our kids grapple with their sexual issues, their friends and their culture will.”

(Stephen Klotz, "Sex in the cafeteria" Group Magazine, January 2, 2002, p3