



Welcome to Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

committed to the prevention and elimination of domestic and sexual violence

Dating Violence Information Sheet

What is Dating Violence?

Dating violence means a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse, to control his or her dating partner.¹

Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long-term.¹

Prevalence

- In the United States, one in three adolescent girls is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner.²
- 4% of teens agreed that it's okay for someone to hit their partner if they really did something wrong or embarrassing.³
- 25-35% of teens equate jealousy, possessiveness and violence with love.³
- 57% of teens know someone who has been physically, sexually, or verbally abusive in a dating relationship.³
- Only 33% of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse.³

Effects

- Victims of dating abuse are not only at increased risk for injury, they are also more likely to engage in binge drinking, suicide attempts, physical fights, and currently sexual activity.⁴
- Research demonstrates an association between teen dating violence and lower grade point averages.⁴
- 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue.⁵

¹ Pursuant to Section 79-1, 140 of the Lindsay Ann Burke Act, Nebraska Laws 2009, LB63, § 43. May 28, 2009

² Bonomi, A., Kelleher, K. (2007). *Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Suicide Attempts Among Minority Adolescents Ending the Silence*. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2007;161(6):609-610.

³ Liz Claiborne Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, Teen Relationship Abuse Survey (February 2005).

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Physical Dating Violence Among High School Students – United States, 2003." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 55.19 (2006): 532-535.

⁵ Women's Health, "June/July 2004, *Family Violence Prevention Fund and Advocates for Youth*, <http://www.med.umich.edu/whp/newsletters/summer04/p03-dating.html>.