

# TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IN TEXAS

❑ 75% report having experienced dating violence or *knowing someone who has*

❑ 1 in 2 Texas teens reported having experienced *dating violence personally*

❑ 60% of Texas females surveyed experienced dating violence

- verbal abuse
- physical violence
- sexual violence



# TEEN DATING VIOLENCE NATIONALLY

- ✗ 1 in 11 adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating abuse (CDC 2006)
- ✗ 1 in 5 female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner (J.E. Hathaway, L. A. Mucci, A.Raj, & J.G. Silverman, 2001).
- ✗ Acceptance of dating abuse among friends is one of the strongest links to future involvement in dating abuse (Bergman, 1992; Arriaga & Foshee, 2004).



# TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS

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- ✖ Approximately 43% of teen dating violence victims reported that the dating abuse they experienced occurred in a school building or on school grounds (C.Molidor, R.M. Tolman, 1998).
- ✖ 20% of students impacted by violence find it hard to pay attention in school (American Association of University Women Educational Foundation)
- ✖ 16% find it hard to study (American Association of University Women Educational Foundation)

# TEEN DATING VIOLENCE, A LASTING EFFECT

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- ✗ Girls with a history of physical and sexual dating violence are significantly more likely to:
  - + Engage in substance abuse (binge drinking, cocaine use, smoking, and unhealthy weight-control behaviors)
  - + Engage in risky sexual behavior before age 15
  - + Have multiple sexual partners
  - + To have been pregnant (4-6 times more likely than non-abused peers)
  - + To have attempted suicide during the previous year (8-9 times more likely than non-abused peers)

# CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY & UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

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Respect for both oneself and others is a key characteristic of healthy relationships. In contrast, in unhealthy relationships, one partner tries to exert control and power over the other physically, sexually, and/or emotionally



# HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

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Healthy relationships share certain characteristics that teens should be taught to expect. They include:

- *Mutual respect.* Respect means that each person values who the other is and understands the other person's boundaries.
- *Trust.* Partners should place trust in each other and give each other the benefit of the doubt.
- *Honesty.* Honesty builds trust and strengthens the relationship.
- *Compromise.* In a dating relationship, each partner does not always get his or her way. Each should acknowledge different points of view and be willing to give and take.
- *Individuality.* Neither partner should have to compromise who he/she is, and his/her identity should not be based on a partner's. Each should continue seeing his or her friends

# HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

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*Good communication.* Each partner should speak honestly and openly to avoid miscommunication. If one person needs to sort out his or her feelings first, the other partner should respect those wishes and wait until he or she is ready to talk.

*Anger control.* We all get angry, but how we express it can affect our relationships with others. Anger can be handled in healthy ways such as taking a deep breath, counting to ten, or talking it out.

## . ***Healthy Relationships***

- *Fighting fair.* Everyone argues at some point, but those who are fair, stick to the subject, and avoid insults are more likely to come up with a possible solution. Partners should take a short break away from each other if the discussion gets too heated.
- *Problem solving.* Dating partners can learn to solve problems and identify new solutions by breaking a problem into small parts or by talking through the situation.
- *Understanding.* Each partner should take time to understand what the other might be feeling.



# HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

- *Self-confidence.* When dating partners have confidence in themselves, it can help their relationships with others. It shows that they are calm and comfortable enough to allow others to express their opinions without forcing their own opinions on them.
- *Being a role model.* By embodying what respect means, partners can inspire each other, friends, and family to also behave in a respectful way.
- *Healthy sexual relationship.* Dating partners engage in a sexual relationship that both are comfortable with, and neither partner feels pressured or forced to engage in sexual activity that is outside his or her comfort zone or without consent.

***Unhealthy relationships*** are marked by characteristics such as disrespect and control. It is important for youth to be able to recognize signs of unhealthy relationships before they escalate. Some characteristics of unhealthy relationships include:



"It's not that I don't love you.  
It's just that a ten year-old needs his freedom."

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# UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

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*Control.* One dating partner makes all the decisions and tells the other what to do, what to wear, or who to spend time with. He or she is unreasonably jealous, and/or tries to isolate the other partner from his or her friends and family.

*Disrespect.* One dating partner makes fun of the opinions and interests of the other partner or destroys something that belongs to the partner.

*Dependence.* One dating partner feels that he or she “cannot live without” the other. He or she may threaten to do something drastic if the relationship ends.

*Intimidation.* One dating partner tries to control aspects of the other's life by making the other partner fearful or timid. One dating partner may attempt to keep his or her partner from friends and family or threaten violence or a break-up.



# UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

*Hostility.* One dating partner picks a fight with or antagonizes the other dating partner. This may lead to one dating partner changing his or her behavior in order to avoid upsetting the other.

*Dishonesty.* One dating partner lies to or keeps information from the other. One dating partner steals from the other.

*Physical violence.* One partner uses force to get his or her way (such as hitting, slapping, grabbing, or shoving).

*Sexual violence.* One dating partner pressures or forces the other into sexual activity against his or her will or without consent.<sup>1</sup>

# VIDEOS

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He1pu4VwKdM&index=1&list=PLPa75duEGw46k\\_5S-16v75SRvdownW\\_WDb&t=88s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He1pu4VwKdM&index=1&list=PLPa75duEGw46k_5S-16v75SRvdownW_WDb&t=88s)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He1pu4VwKdM&index=1&list=PLPa75duEGw46k\\_5S-16v75SRvdownW\\_WDb&t=88s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He1pu4VwKdM&index=1&list=PLPa75duEGw46k_5S-16v75SRvdownW_WDb&t=88s)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZaw7V3dVJE&list=PLPa75duEGw46k\\_5S-16v75SRvdownW\\_WDb&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZaw7V3dVJE&list=PLPa75duEGw46k_5S-16v75SRvdownW_WDb&index=3)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PT-HBI2TVtl&index=6&list=PLPa75duEGw46k\\_5S-16v75SRvdownW\\_WDb](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PT-HBI2TVtl&index=6&list=PLPa75duEGw46k_5S-16v75SRvdownW_WDb)

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# DON'T LET YOURSELF

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<http://www.dontletyourself.org/index.html>



**•LOCAL SUPPORT**

- Emergency Services: 911
- 24-hour El Paso Crisis Hotline: 915-593-7300 or 1-800-727-0511
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE(7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY):

## **Counseling Programs**

- Center Against Family Violence Resource Center

915-595-2238

- Catholic Counseling Services

915-872-8424

- Child Advocacy Center of El Paso

915-545-5400

- Jewish Family & Children Services

915-581-3256

## **Law Enforcement**

- El Paso Police Non-Emergency  
915-832-4400
- El Paso Police Emergency  
911



### **Victims' Assistance**

- DA's Victims' Assistance Program

915-546-2091

- El Paso Police Department Victim's Assistance:

915-546-7045

## **Shelters**

- Center Against Family Violence

915-593-7300

- Salvation Army

915-544-9811

## **Legal Assistance**

- County Attorney

915-546-2050

- County Attorney Protective Order Unit

915-546-2153

- [Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid](#)

915-585-5100