

DATING VIOLENCE

WHAT IS DATING VIOLENCE?

Dating violence is a pattern of behaviors used to exert power and control over a dating partner. Types of abuse experienced in dating violence relationships:

Physical abuse– the intentional use of physical force to cause fear or injury;

Emotional abuse– non-physical behaviors such as threats, insults, constant monitoring, intimidation, isolation, or stalking;

Sexual abuse– any sexual behavior or contact that is unwanted or interferes with the ability to consent to or control the circumstances of sexual activity.

FACT: According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) released by the SC Department of Education, **16.1%** of students surveyed reported being physically assaulted by a boyfriend or girlfriend

FACT: 39 states and the District of Columbia provide protection for victims of domestic violence who are dating their abuser

FACT: According to the FBI, young women ages 16-24 experience the highest rates of relationship violence.

FACT: According to the YRBS, **8.6%** of students surveyed in SC had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse

UNIQUE OBSTACLES FOR DATING VIOLENCE VICTIMS

- In SC, dating violence victims do not currently qualify for orders of protection
- Dating violence victims are not recognized within current Criminal Domestic Violence Legislation
- Perpetrators of dating violence are not referred to treatment to address abusive behavior

WHY ARE CAMPUSES IMPORTANT?

- Nearly half of teen dating violence victims experience abuse on school campuses
- Teen victims of dating violence report higher rates of truancy, more negative contact with their teachers, and increased conflict with other students.
- Students experiencing abuse are substantially more likely to bring guns or other weapons to school.
- The CDC has found that the ages during junior high and high school are the ideal time to integrate prevention strategies to avoid the attitudes and patterns that lead to dating violence.
- Schools have the opportunity to impact not only individual victims, but also to play a significant role in preventing and responding to dating violence.