

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

WHAT IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE?

Dating violence is a pattern of behaviors used to exert power and control over a dating partner. Teens experience the same types of abuse as adults:

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: Nearly **1.5 million** high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner each year.

FACT: In a national sample of 117 adolescents, who were selected from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health because they reported exclusively same-sex intimate relationships, **24%** of males and **28%** of females reported physical violence

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

UNIQUE OBSTACLES FOR TEEN DATING VIOLENCE VICTIMS

- Teens may not have money, transportation, or safe places to go
- They may have concerns about lack of confidentiality, reports to police and child protective services, and parental notification
- In SC, teen dating violence victims do not currently qualify for orders of protection, nor are they recognized within current Criminal Domestic Violence legislation

WHY ARE SCHOOLS 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.