

Dating Violence

Often, dating and romantic relationships are fun, exciting, enhance our sense of well-being and make us feel cared for and good about ourselves. We envision supportive partners who treat us kindly with love and respect. But violence can and does occur in intimate relationships, even in college. For approximately one out of four college students who date, dating violence is a reality involving physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Dating violence is controlling, abusive and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. Abusive partners may use a combination of the following tactics to control, manipulate and abuse a partner:

- **Physical** – Hitting, pinching, shoving, restraining, destroying property, choking, threats of harm
- **Sexual** – rape, sexual abuse, or any coercion or manipulation of a partner to engage in sexual behaviors
- **Emotional** – insults, name-calling, yelling, threats, stalking, extreme jealousy, humiliating a partner in public or private, isolating a partner from friends or family, threatening to “out” a partner who is gay, lesbian or transgender, making someone account for their time, threats to harm themselves

Dating abuse occurs in all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and religious groups. Abuse in relationships exists in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender relationships at approximately the same rate as in heterosexual relationships.

INCIDENCE AND REPORTING OF COLLEGE DATING VIOLENCE

- 32% of students report dating violence by a previous partner, and 21% report violence by a current partner.
- 39%-54% of dating violence victims remain in physically abusive relationships.
- 50% of dating violence victims report the violence to someone else: of these, 88% report the incidence to a friend and 20% to the authorities.
- The beliefs that dating violence is a private matter, not important enough and fear of retaliation are reasons given for not reporting the violence.

VICTIMS AND DATING VIOLENCE

Victims may remain in an abusive relationship for many reasons, including: fear of the perpetrator, self-blame, minimization of the crime, loyalty or love for the perpetrator, social or religious stigma, or lack of understanding. However, everyone is deserving of respectful, supportive relationships that are free of violence and abuse.

YOU HAVE RIGHTS!

Dating Relationship Rights

You have the right:

- to be free of fear
- to state opinions and express your feelings
- to be treated fairly and honestly
- to share equally in decision making
- to decide whether to engage in sexual activity or not
- to determine how serious you want a relationship
- to privacy and time for yourself
- to cultivate friendships of your choice
- to end the relationship

Supporting Someone in an Abusive Relationship

Sometimes offering support to a friend who is in an unhealthy or abusive relationship can be difficult. They may not be ready to take our well-intentioned "advice." It is helpful for us as support people to get help for ourselves to help us support our friends, family members and loved ones who may be struggling in an abusive situation.

If you would like to consider **Personal Counseling** please contact:

Annamaria Silveri, PhD (313) 993-1459

Rachel Bennett, LMSW (313) 993-1170

If you would like to make an appointment with the **Health Clinic** please contact:

Olga Parfenov, FNP-BC (313) 993-1185

In case of **Emergency** contact:

UDM Public Safety (313) 993-1123 or 911

or

Henry Ford Hospital Emergency Room – 2799 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202

References

The National Center for Victims of Crime - Dating Violence Resource Center. Campus dating violence fact sheet.
<http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/AGP.Net/Components/documentViewer/Download.aspx?DocumentID=38056>
