

Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Center

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Teen Dating Violence Fact Sheet

Myth: Abuse in teen relationships is not that common or serious ”

Reality: Research shows that violence is experienced in 28% of teen relationships and according to the FBI, 20% of homicide victims are between the ages of 15 and 24. 1 of every 3 women murdered in the USA is killed by her boyfriend or husband.

*Battering is not just an adult problem; it also happens in teen relationships and we must be more aware of this in order to prevent violence among teens.

Myth: A guy has the right to discipline his girlfriend to show her who is boss ”

Reality: Discipline is used to exercise authority, such as a parent has over a child or a supervisor has over a subordinate. Unfortunately, many societies have taught and encouraged men to dominate women under the guise of discipline.

*No one has the right to try to control anyone else, we are only able to control ourselves. If we want to have a healthy, fulfilling relationship we need to respect our partner.

Myth: Guys yell and hit to show how much they care about their partners ”

Reality: Guys yell and hit because they are using violence to try and control another person and/or are unable to control their own behavior.

*The positive way of showing care for my partner is through understanding and respect not violently or abusively acting out my emotions.

Myth: Alcohol and/or drugs are what cause people to become violent or abusive ”

Reality: Chemical substances are not the cause of violence, however they do lower peoples inhibitions, which may enable them to be violent and abusive.

*Recognize that using alcohol or drugs may put you at risk for being raped, or enable you to commit violence.

Myth: Guys who batter are psycho or crazy ”

Reality: Batterers are normal people that we encounter in everyday life. They can be the coolest, smartest, quietest, or most athletic person. What most batterers have in common is their inability to control their anger and aggressive impulses.

*We can recognize a batterer by how they behave in a relationship over a period of time.