

## DATING ABUSE STATISTICS

Dating abuse affects people from all ages, backgrounds and identities, which is why it is important to talk about how abuse can happen in young people's relationships. Check out these statistics:

### Dating Abuse Is a Public Health Crisis

- One in three high school students experience either physical or sexual violence, or both, that is perpetrated by someone they are dating or going out with.<sup>i</sup>
- Young women between the ages of 18 - 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence, almost double the national average.<sup>ii</sup>
- One in ten high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.<sup>iii</sup>
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) youth are more likely to experience physical and psychological dating abuse, sexual coercion, and cyber dating abuse than their heterosexual peers.<sup>iv</sup>

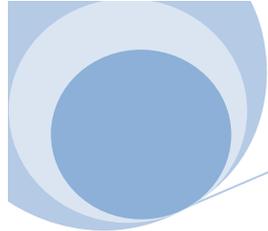
### The Abuse Starts Early

- More than half of women (69.5%) and men (53.6%) who have been physically or sexually abused, or stalked by a dating partner, first experienced abuse between the ages of 11-24.<sup>v</sup>
- Of the 8.5% of middle school students who report having bullied a classmate, nearly 1 in 5 have been a victim of dating abuse.<sup>vi</sup>
- Nearly half of female and 1 in 4 male high school students who report experiencing sexual or physical abuse by a dating partner, have also been bullied electronically.<sup>vii</sup>

### The Impact is Severe

- Among male high school students who have experienced sexual and physical abuse by a dating partner, more than 1 in 4 have seriously contemplated suicide, and almost as many have attempted suicide.<sup>viii</sup>
- Among female high school students who have experienced sexual and physical abuse by a dating partner, nearly half have seriously contemplated suicide, and more than 1 in 4 have attempted suicide.<sup>ix</sup>
- High school girls who have experienced dating abuse are 2.6 times more likely to report an STI diagnosis.<sup>x</sup>

Break the Cycle inspires and supports young people to build healthy relationships and create a culture without abuse. Our dynamic and diverse team believes that all young people deserve to live in a world where they can thrive. Our values and work centers young people and their lived realities, leadership, vision, and hopes for the future.



## The Impact is Severe

- High school students who have been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their partner earned grades of C and D twice as often as earning grades of A or B.<sup>xi</sup>
- Women who have experienced sexual assault, physical abuse, or stalking by an intimate partner are three times more likely to report poor mental health.<sup>xii</sup>

## It's Not Just Teens

- An estimated 20 - 25 percent of female college students will experience attempted or completed rape before graduation,<sup>xiii</sup> and those are only the ones who self-disclose.
- Nearly half (43%) of all college women and one third (28%) of college men report having experienced either abuse or controlling behaviors in a dating relationship.<sup>xiv</sup>

## The Time to Talk Is Now

- Education and raising awareness is important! More than half (58%) of college students do not know how to help someone who is experiencing dating abuse, and nearly all (89%) are not confident in their ability to recognize the warning signs.<sup>xv</sup>
- More than half of all college students report experiencing either abuse or controlling behaviors in a dating relationship while in college, with 70% reporting they were not aware they were in an abusive relationship at the time.<sup>xvi</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Vagi, K. J., Olsen, E. O. M., Basile, K. C., & Vivolo-Kantor, A. M. (2015). Teen dating violence (physical and sexual) among US high school students: findings from the 2013 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 169 (5), 474-482.

<sup>ii</sup> Breiding, M.J., Chen J., & Black, M.C. (2014). Intimate Partner Violence in the United States — 2010. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>iii</sup> Kann, L., Kinchen, S., Shanklin, S.L., Flint, K.H., Hawkins, J., Harris, W.A., Lowry, R., O'Malley, E., McManus, T., Chyen, D., Whittle, L., Taylor, E., Demissie, Z., Brener, N., Thornton, J., Moore, J., & Zaza, S. (2014). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Report - United States, 2013. US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>iv</sup> Dank, M., Lachman, P., Zweig, J. M., & Yahner, J. (2014). Dating violence experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 43 (5), 846-857.

<sup>v</sup> Breiding, M.J., Chen J., & Black, M.C. (2014). Intimate Partner Violence in the United States — 2010. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>vi</sup> Yahner, J. Y., Dank, M., Zweig, J.M., Lachman, P. (2015). The Co-Occurrence of Physical and Cyber Dating Violence and Bullying Among Teens. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 30 (7), 1079-1089.

<sup>vii</sup> Vagi, K. J., Olsen, E. O. M., Basile, K. C., & Vivolo-Kantor, A. M. (2015). Teen dating violence (physical and sexual) among US high school students: findings from the 2013 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 169 (5), 474-482.

<sup>viii</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>ix</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>x</sup> Decker, M. R., Silverman, J. G., & Raj, A. (2005). Dating Violence and Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV Testing and Diagnosis Among Adolescent Females. *Pediatrics*, 116 (2), 272-276.

<sup>xi</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). Unintentional Injury and Violence-Related Behaviors and Academic Achievement. Retrieved March 17, 2017 from [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/health\\_and\\_academics/pdf/unintentional\\_injury\\_violence.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/health_and_academics/pdf/unintentional_injury_violence.pdf).

<sup>xii</sup> Breiding, M.J., Chen J., & Black, M.C. (2014). Intimate Partner Violence in the United States — 2010. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>xiii</sup> Fisher, B.S., Cullen, F.T., & Turner, M.G. (2000). The sexual victimization of college women. (NIJ Publication No. 182369). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice.

<sup>xiv</sup> Fifth & Pacific Companies, Inc. (Formerly: Liz Claiborne, Inc.), Conducted by Knowledge Networks. (June 2011). *College Dating Violence and Abuse Poll*. Retrieved from <https://www.breakthecycle.org/surveys.Poll>," Available at: <https://www.breakthecycle.org/surveys>.

<sup>xv</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>xvi</sup> *Ibid*