



WOMEN'S
CENTER

Confidential Hotline:
860-701-6000

Teen Dating Violence: What does it have to do with me?

October 2009

Right in Our Own Backyard: Southeastern CT Teen Dating Stats Higher Than National Average

In 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance and the national statistic on students who were physically abused by their dating partner was astounding. Even more disturbing, the average in CT was almost 7% higher!

Fueled by this information, the Women's Center of Southeastern CT set out to survey students during the spring of 2009. Over 1240 8th-12th graders in New London County responded - there is much to be done, as indicated by the following statistics.

We're on Facebook!
[www.facebook.com/
pages/Womens-Center-
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Inc/9187521209](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Womens-Center-of-Southeastern-CT-Inc/9187521209)

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9.2% of students nationwide have been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend.†

9.3% of Females
9% of Males

16% of students in the state of Connecticut have been hit, slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend.†

14.1% of Females
17.8% of Males

12% of students in Southeastern Connecticut have been hit, slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend.‡

12% of Females
13% of Males

† Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States." Surveillance Summaries, 2005. MMWR 2006;55.

‡ Women's Center of Southeastern CT. "Teen Dating Violence Survey." 2009.

The following students were surveyed during the Spring of 2009†

- 1,242 Students Total
 - 267 8th Graders
 - 355 9th Graders
 - 302 10th Graders
 - 142 11th Graders
 - 154 12th Graders
 - 22 N/A
- 613 Females
608 Males
21 N/A
- 844 Caucasian
87 African Americans
61 Asians
25 Native American
46 Multi-Racial
24 N/A

Dating Violence... It's Not Just Physical

Emotional Abuse:

Of the 1242 students who were surveyed in New London County, 18% say they have felt threatened, humiliated, or told where they could go or who they could hang out with by a dating partner. ‡

22% of Females
15% of Males

Sexual Pressure:

In the same survey, 14% of students say they have been pressured by a dating partner to do something sexually that they did not want to do. ‡

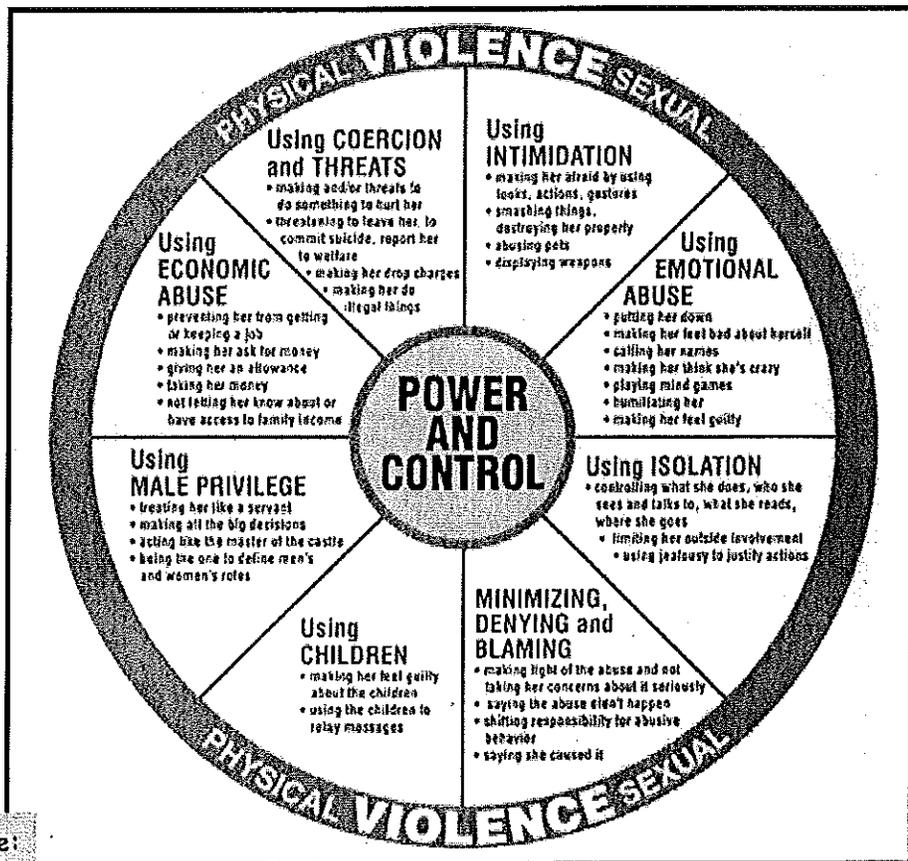
20% of Females
8% of Males

Warning Signs

Early signs that your partner may become abusive:

- Extreme jealousy
- Too many calls or text messages or checking in on your Facebook or MySpace accounts.
- Doesn't let you spend time with friends and family.
- Constant criticism about what you do, what you wear, who you hang out with.
- Attempting to control every aspect of your life.
- Demands sex or affection.
- Unpredictable mood swings.
- Calls you hurtful or mean names.
- Threatens abuse.
- Does not take responsibility of his/her own actions, problems or feelings.

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80% of students acknowledge that teen dating violence happens in their school.

"Most of the time, it was just playing that turned into anger on my part."

~Anonymous

11% of students admit to threatening and 7% have physically hit their dating partner.

"The hitting was just a slap after saying something mean."

~Male, 9th grade

46% of students know someone who has ever been hit, slapped, kicked or otherwise physically hurt by a dating partner.

"Girls who have been hit don't say it because we don't want to be judged."

~Female, 9th grade

"Teen dating violence in [name of school] is normal in teenage relationships...not a big deal."

Female, 12th grade

1 out of 4 students would not know what to do if their friends were in an abusive relationship.

85% of students think that teens experiencing dating violence will have trouble concentrating at school or may get lower grades.

"When I said I was hit or slapped, etc., my boyfriend and I were just play fighting/wrestling and he didn't mean to hurt me... he didn't know his own strength."

~Female, 9th grade

61% of students think additional teen dating violence prevention education is needed.

"[If I had known] this Women's Center is available for teens, I would have called for my friend."

Female, 12th grade

56% of students think teachers and counselors need additional teen dating violence prevention education.

"Teens usually don't want to get their friends in trouble but they feel helpless."

~Female, 9th grade

Only 3% of students have ever called the Women's Center for services.

†These comments are real testimonials from students surveyed in Southeastern CT. Now the question is, what are we going to do about it?