

*We must remember that we have Indigenous solutions to our problems.*



## Teen Dating Violence Fact Sheet

*"It's time to bring this very topic out from behind closed doors and into the classroom so that our young people can learn about this issue as a social issue."  
~ Charon Asetoyer, Director of the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center.*

Teen Dating Violence is the physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional violence within a dating relationship, including stalking (CDC, 2014).

### Teen Dating Violence Statistics

- Violent behavior typically starts between the ages of 12-18 (Institute for Native Justice, 2015).
- 1 in 3 teens experience dating violence (CDC, 2014).
- 23% of females and 14% of males have experienced partner violence between 11 and 17 years old. (CDC, 2014).
- Teen girls who are sexually and physically abused are six times more likely to become pregnant and twice as likely to get a Sexually Transmitted Infection (loveisrespect, 2014).
- Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence, almost tripling the national average for women over 24 (Institute for Native Justice, 2015).
- Suicide attempt rates are much higher for teens that experience violence: 50% of teens that were abused compared to 12.5% non-abused girls and 5.4% of non-abused boys (loveisrespect, 2015).
- Teen victims tend to minimize the seriousness of the situation (Foshee & Langwick, 2010).
- 81% of parents do not consider teen dating violence an issue or do not know if it is an issue (loveisrespect, 2015).
- Only 33% of teens that have experienced dating violence have told someone about it (Institute for Native Justice, 2015).
- Teen victims lack the many needed resources such as shelters, money and transportation (Break the Cycle, 2008). Most shelters for battered women are not able to house teens and the housing that is specifically for teens are not as prepared to handle teen dating violence (Praxis International, 2006).
- There can be limited options for safety if the victim attends school with the perpetrator (Praxis International, 2006).
- Even though there is a lack of data, rates of dating violence is comparable if not higher for *Two Spirited\** youth than heterosexual youth (O'Keefe, P. 2, 2005).
- Violent relationships in adolescence places the victim at higher risk for participating in risky behaviors such as substance abuse, risky sexual behavior as well as experiencing domestic violence in the future (Institute of Native Justice, 2015).

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### **Where Teen Victims of Dating Violence Can Find Help**

- Guidance counselors at school
- Domestic Violence Programs
- Call the Loveisrespect peer advocate hotline  
1-866-331-9474 or text loveis to 22522

\* “Two Spirited” or “Two Spirit” is a Native person who defines or identifies as having both a feminine and a masculine spirit. Scott Laura Morgensen quotes from an article: “ We use this term because it is culturally relevant to us. As Two Spirits, we are members of our Tribes, families and communities. We prefer to use this term because the titles ‘lesbian’ and ‘gay’ mean belonging to a white segment of white culture.” (Morgensen, 2011).

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