



# Relationship Abuse Reality Check

## ***Conflict should never lead to violence.***

Healthy relationships are defined by enjoyment, communication, support, and **respect**. Teens should feel comfortable, secure, and trusting of one another.

- ✓ **1 in 3** teens in the U.S. is **physically, sexually, emotionally, or verbally abused** by a dating partner
- ✓ Youth who experience dating violence are **less likely to use condoms**, in fear that their partner will react violently

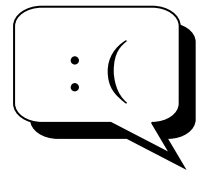
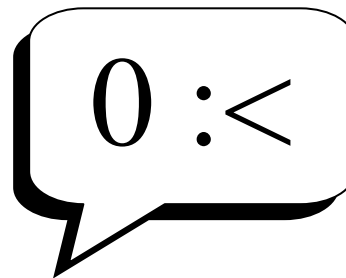
## ***Violence doesn't always leave bruises.***

Youth will not always be direct if they are experiencing abuse within a relationship, but may exhibit signs or behaviors that are **questionable and less clear**.

- ✓ Only **1 in 3** teens in a violent relationship **ever tells anyone** about their abuse
- ✓ The **longer** a teen is in an abusive relationship, the **less likely** they are to **report abuse**

## ***Peer bullying is a problem.***

- ✓ **4 in 5** teens who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) face **harassment** at school
- ✓ Youth who experience victimization based on **sexual orientation and gender expression** have lower self-esteem and higher rates of **depression** than other youth



Youth who identify as LGBTQ may face **more barriers** in seeking help dealing with relationship abuse.

## ***If you sense that something is wrong, ASK.***

For more information, check out <http://besafe.org/help/dating-violence>





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## Relationship Abuse Fact Sheet References

- ✓ **1 in 3** teens in the U.S. is **physically, sexually, emotionally, or verbally abused** by a dating partner<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Youth who experience dating violence are **less likely to use condoms**, in fear that their partner may react violently<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ **4 in 5** teens who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) face **harassment** at school<sup>3</sup>
- ✓ Youth who experience victimization based on **sexual orientation and gender expression** have lower self-esteem and higher rates of **depression** than other youth<sup>3</sup>
- ✓ Only **1 in 3** teens in a violent relationship **ever tells anyone** about their abuse<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ The **longer** a teen is in an abusive relationship, the **less likely** they are to **report abuse**<sup>4</sup>

LGBTQ youth may face **more barriers** in seeking help dealing with relationship abuse<sup>5</sup>

- 1 Love Is Respect. (2011.) *Dating Abuse Statistics*. <http://www.loveisrespect.org/is-this-abuse/dating-violence-statistics>
- 2 Advocates for Youth, (2006). *Dating Violence among Adolescents*. Silverman JG, Raj A, Clements K. Dating Violence and Associated Sexual Risk and Pregnancy Among Adolescent Girls in the United States. *Pediatrics* 2004;114(2):e220- e225  
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/datingviolence> .
- 3 Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) (2011). *National School Climate Survey: Key Findings on the Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools*, Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, [http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN\\_ATTACHMENTS/file/000/002/2105-1.pdf](http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN_ATTACHMENTS/file/000/002/2105-1.pdf)
- 4 Advocates for Youth, (2006) *Dating Violence among Adolescents*. Rickert VI, Wiemann CM, Vaughan RD. Disclosure of Date/Acquaintance Rape: Who Reports and When. *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology* 2005; 18:17- 24.  
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/datingviolence>
- 5 Advocates for Youth. (2006). Freedner N, Freed LH, Yang YW et al. Dating Violence Among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Adolescents: Results From a Community Survey. *Journal of Adolescent Health* 2002;31:469- 474. <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/datingviolence>

