

## Fact Sheet

# Intimate Partner Violence & Teen Dating Violence

### Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- Nearly one-third of American women will experience domestic violence also known as intimate partner violence (IPV). (1)
- In Massachusetts, the number of deaths DV/IPV tripled between 2005 and 2007.
  - in 2005 there were 15 murders and 4 suicides related to the domestic violence
  - in 2006, 28 murders and 3 suicides
  - in 2007, 42 murders and 13 suicides
  - So far in 2008, Jane Doe reports that there have been 22 domestic violence homicides and five domestic violence-related suicides for a total of 28 deaths (2)
- In 50-60% of homes where there is physical violence against an adult, there also exists physical violence against children. (3)
- IPV is the leading cause of female homicides and injury-related deaths during pregnancy. (4)
- IPV also accounts for a significant proportion of injuries and emergency room visits for women.(5, 6, 7)

### Teen Dating Violence

According to the 1997 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 20% of high school girls and 7% of high school boys had been victims of teen dating violence. Abuse frequently escalates during pregnancy; more than 70% of pregnant or parenting teenagers are beaten by their boyfriends. Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims: many will continue to be abused in their adult relationships and are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, and suicide.

#### Prevalence and Frequency

- Teen dating violence runs across race, gender, and socioeconomic lines. Both males and females are victims, but boys and girls are abusive in different ways:
  - Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves, pinch, slap, scratch, or kick;
  - Boys injure girls more severely and frequently;
  - Some teen victims experience violence occasionally;
  - Others are abused more often...sometimes daily.

*“Teen Victim Project,” National Center for Victims of Crime, <http://www.ncvc.org/tpv>*
- A comparison of Intimate Partner Violence rates between teens and adults reveals that teens are at higher risk of intimate partner abuse. *Jay G. Silverman et Al, “Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality.” Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 286, 572, 576-577, (Nov. 5, 2001)*
- Females ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group at a rate almost triple the national average. *U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report: Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-99 (Oct. 2001, rev. 11/28/01)*
- Approximately 1 in 5 female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. *Jay G. Silverman, PhD; Anita Raj, PhD; Lorelei A. Mucci, MPH; and Jeanne E. Hathaway, MD, MPH, “Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality,” Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 286, (No. 5, 2001)*
- Among female victims of intimate partner violence, a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend victimized 94% of those between the ages of 16-19. *U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics,7, (2001)*

## **What Are the Consequences?**

- While both boys and girls perpetrate physical violence in dating relationships, the emotional and physical consequences differ significantly. When asked about the worst incident of victimization, the majority of boys (56%) report not being hurt at all and laughing about the violence, whereas only 9% of girls report not being hurt at all. For girls, the most common reactions were to cry (40%) and to fight back (36%). (*Molidor et. al., 2000*)
- In addition to physical and emotional harm, dating violence against adolescent girls is associated with increased risk of substance use, unhealthy weight-control behaviors, sexual risk behaviors, pregnancy, and suicidal thinking. (*Silverman, Rai, Mucci, & Hathaway, 2001*)
- Among girls age 15-20, who reported being sexually active and experiencing dating violence from a male partner, 26% report that their partners were actively trying to get them pregnant by manipulating condom use, sabotaging birth control use, and making explicit statements about wanting them to become pregnant. (*UC Davis Health System: Newsroom, 2007*)

## **Adolescents in Abusive Relationships Are at Risk for Health Problems**

Adolescents and adults often don't make the link between dating violence and poor health.

- 8% of boys and 9% of girls have been to an emergency room for an injury received from a dating partner. (*Foshee 1996*)
- Victims of dating violence are not only at increased risk for injury, they are also more likely to engage in binge drinking, suicide attempts, physical fights, and currently sexual activity. (*CDC 2006*)
- Rates of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use are more than twice as high in girls who report physical or sexual dating violence than in girls who report no violence. (*Plichta 1996*)
- Dating violence is associated with unhealthy sexual behaviors that can lead to unintended pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases, and HIV infections. (*Silverman et al. 2001*)
- Abusive dating experiences during adolescence may disrupt normal development of self-esteem and body image. (*Ackard and Neumark-Sztainer 2002*) Adolescents in abusive relationships often carry these unhealthy patterns of violence into future relationships. (*Smith et al. 2003*)
- In a study of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents, youths involved in same-sex dating are just as likely to experience dating violence as youths involved in opposite sex dating. "Prevalence of Partner Violence in Same-Sex Romantic and Sexual Relationships in a National Sample of Adolescents," Halpern CT, Young ML, Waller MW, Martin SL, Kupper LL. *Journal of Adolescent Health, Vol. 35, Issue 2, Pages 124-131, (August 2004)*

1 *The Commonwealth Fund. Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: The Commonwealth Fund 1998 Survey of Women's Health. May 1998.*

2 *Jane Doe, Inc. Boston Massachusetts*

3 *Carlson, Bonnie E. (1984). Children's observations of interpersonal violence. Pp. 147-167 in A.R. Roberts (Ed.) Battered women and their families (pp. 147-167). NY: Springer. Straus, M.A. (1992). Report of the Twenty-Third Ross Roundtable. Columbus, OH: Ross Laboratories.*

4 *Frye V. Examining Homicide's Contribution to Pregnancy- Associated Deaths. JAMA. 2001;285(11):1510-1511.*

5 *Abbott J, Johnson R, Koxiol-McLain J, Lowenstein SR. Domestic Violence against Women: Incidence and Prevalence in an Emergency Department Population. JAMA. 1995; 273(22):1763-1767.*

6 *McLeer SV, Anwar RA, Herman S, Maquiling K. Education is Not Enough: A Systems Failure in Protecting Battered Women. Annals of Emergency Medicine. 1989; 18:651-653.*

7 *Coker AL, Smith PH, Bethea L, King MR, McKeown RE. Physical Health Consequences of Physical and Psychological Intimate Partner*

*For more information call:*

***National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE***

***National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-4673***

***National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline at 1866-331-9474, or visit: <http://www.loveisrespect.org>***