

about

TEEN DATING ABUSE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

what you need to know...

The 2009 Fairfax County Youth Survey asked teens about their dating relationships.

Teen Dating Abuse (TDA) is a pattern of controlling behaviors in a dating or close personal relationship that may be emotional, physical or sexual.

Seventy-five percent of eighth, 10th, and 12th grade students surveyed said they had not been victims of TDA.

However, approximately one in four teens have had a boyfriend or girlfriend who always wanted to know where they were, called them names or put them down verbally.

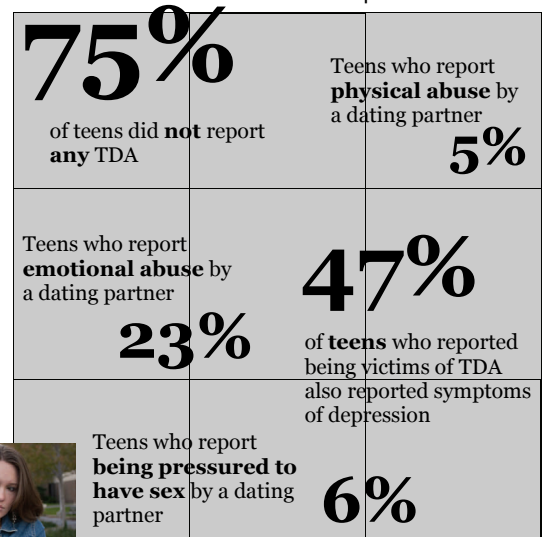
Five percent of students surveyed have had a boyfriend or girlfriend hit, slap or physically hurt them on purpose, and 6 percent have been pressured to have sex when they did not want to.

Both girls and boys reported being victims of teen dating abuse, but girls report verbal and sexual abuse at a higher rate.

Teen dating abuse is often thought of as just physical injuries, but before you see bruises, there may be other early warning signs that a relationship is not healthy or safe.



Fairfax County 8th, 10th, and 12th grade youth self-reported behavior



2009 Fairfax County Youth Survey Report

what can you do?

know the signs of a healthy relationship

- Mutual respect.
- Trust.
- Honesty.
- Compromise.
- Individuality.
- Equality.
- Good communication.
- Anger control.
- Problem-solving.
- Fighting fair.
- Understanding.
- Self-confidence.

know abuse warning signs

Dating Partner Behavior

- Extreme jealousy or possessiveness.
- Constant checking in through phone calls and text messages.
- Isolation from family or friends.
- Repeated name calling and put-downs.
- Controlling victim's choices or actions.
- Loss of temper or violent behavior.

Victim Behavior

- Apologizing/making excuses for dating partner.
- Concern over angering him/her.
- Giving up important things/loss of interest in activities.
- Dramatic change in weight (up or down), appearance, dress, or grades.
- Unexplained injuries.

if you are concerned

- Stay calm and tell your teen you are concerned for his/her safety and you are there to listen.
- **Let your teen know the abuse is not their fault and that abuse is never ok.**
- If your teen is injured, go to your doctor or the emergency room.
- If your teen is in danger, report the abuse to law enforcement.
- Contact a teen dating abuse hotline or helpline to help your teen develop a personal safety plan and to get information or additional assistance.
- Your teen's safety is the most important thing of all. Don't allow further contact with the dating partner.

Source: adapted from chooserespect.org and loveisnotabuse.com

who can help?

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline — available 24 hours/7 days
866-331-9474 | TTY 866-331-8453

Fairfax County Victim Assistance Network — available 24 hours/7 days
703-360-7273 | TTY 703-435-1235

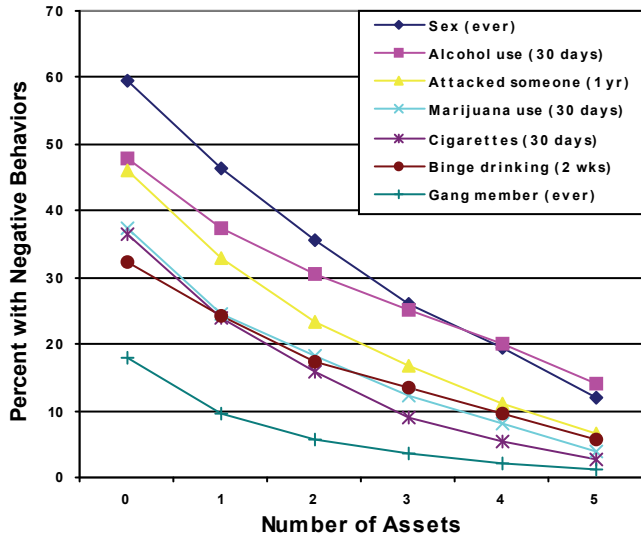
Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline — available 24 hours/7 days
800-838-8238 (Voice | TTY)
www.vsdvalliance.org



THREE TO SUCCEED

Thriving in Fairfax

Fairfax County 2009 Youth Survey



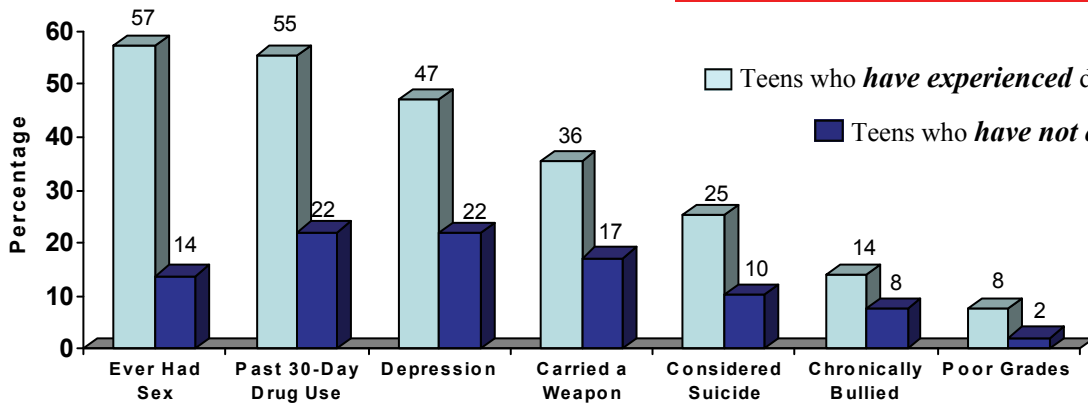
The Three to Succeed concept is based on the youth survey analysis that shows how just having three assets (or strengths) dramatically reduces risk behaviors and promotes thriving youth.

Assets are strengths in young people, their families, schools and communities that help them thrive in health, in school and daily life, and in a safe

environment. The more assets individuals have in their lives, the fewer risk behaviors are reported.

Young people in Fairfax County report positive influences from their communities, families, schools, and friends which demonstrates the benefits of everyone taking a role in ensuring that EVERYONE'S CHILDREN are thriving in Fairfax County.

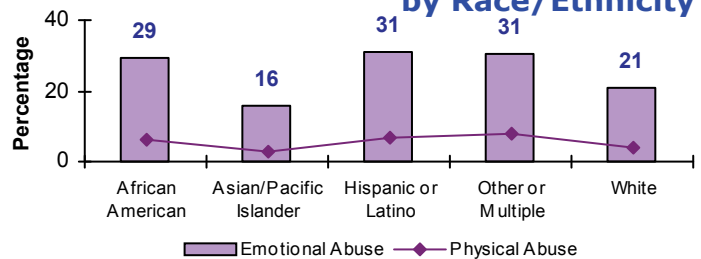
- Assets**
- Involved in Extracurricular Activities
 - Involved in Community Service
 - High Personal Integrity
 - Control of Outcomes
 - Academic Success



The Fairfax County Youth Survey was administered in the fall semester of 2009.

The data presented represent the responses of youth in grades 8, 10 and 12.

Teen Dating Abuse by Race/Ethnicity



websites for more information

Fairfax County Youth Survey
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/youthsurvey

Fairfax County Prevention System
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsm/prevention

Fairfax County Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence — Teen Dating Abuse
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/teendatingabuse

Choose Respect
www.cdc.gov/Features/ChooseRespect/

Break the Cycle
www.breakthecycle.org



A publication of Fairfax County, Va., and Fairfax County Public Schools

related factors

Youth who report experiencing dating abuse are more likely to report ...

- Being sexually active.
- Using drugs or alcohol.
- Being depressed, considering, and/or attempting suicide.
- Carrying a weapon.
- Being chronically bullied (20 or more times in the past year).
- Having poor grades (mostly Ds/Fs).

