

Hotlines:

**Connecticut Coalition Against
Domestic Violence (CCADV):**
1- 888-774-2900

**Connecticut Sexual Assault
Crisis Services (CONNSACS):**
1-888-999-5545
Para Español: 1-888-568-8332

**Love is Respect
Dating Abuse Hotline:**
1-866-331-9474



For more information please visit:

**Connecticut Coalition Against
Domestic Violence Teen Help**
[www.ctcadv.org/find-help/
teensyouth/](http://www.ctcadv.org/find-help/teensyouth/)

CONNSACS:
www.connsacs.org/

Love is Respect:
www.loveisrespect.org



Office of the Victim Advocate
505 Hudson Street, 5th Floor
Hartford, CT, 06106
860-550-6632
Toll Free 1-888-771-3126
Fax: 860-560-7065
www.ct.gov/ova

Teen Dating Violence: What You Should Know



What is teen dating violence?

- ◆ Teen dating violence is a pattern of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse by one dating partner towards another dating partner.
- ◆ Dating violence affects people of any race, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship status, or ethnicity.

The Stats

- ◆ **One in three** adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.
- ◆ **One quarter** of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse.
- ◆ **One in ten** high school students has been purposely hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.

How do you know if you are in an abusive relationship?

Some signs of an abusive partner may include:

- ◆ Embarrassing you with bad names and insults.
- ◆ Controlling where you go and who you spend time with.
- ◆ Taking your money or forcing you to ask for money.
- ◆ Destroying your property or threatening to hurt your pets.
- ◆ Shoving, slapping, or hitting you.
- ◆ Forcing you to engage in sexual acts against your will.
- ◆ Monitoring your texts or emails.

How can victims of teen dating violence get help?

- ◆ Speak with a school counselor.
- ◆ Report the abuse to the local police.
- ◆ Maintain open communication with loved ones.

Understand that being a victim of dating violence is **NOT** your fault.

How can friends and family help victims?



- ◆ Listen; don't judge.
- ◆ Make a safety plan with your loved one.
- ◆ Create a code word that can be used when the victim is in imminent danger.
- ◆ Learn where local protective shelters are located.
- ◆ Identify trustworthy people who live close to the victim so they can help.
- ◆ Ensure your loved one understands that they are not alone.
- ◆ Encourage them to reach out for help.

