

YOUTH DATING VIOLENCE



WHAT IS IT?

Youth dating violence is aggressive, violent, threatening and/or manipulative behavior from a partner in a romantic or sexual relationship.¹

Violent relationships in adolescence can have a serious long-term impact on victims who are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior or further domestic violence.²

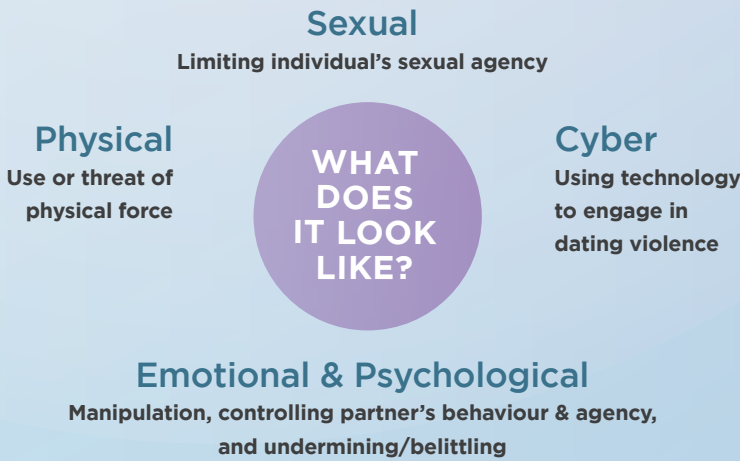
DID YOU KNOW?



LOWER LEVELS OF PARENT COMMUNICATION about relationships, sex, and sexuality is linked to a higher risk of involvement in YDV (Youth Dating Violence).³



ONLY ABOUT HALF OF PARENTS report that they have talked with their children about dating violence.⁴



PHYSICAL EXAMPLES Hitting, kicking, shoving, attacking with a weapon

SEXUAL EXAMPLES Unwanted sexual contact (kissing, touching), forced sex, sexual coercion, restricting access to birth control (removes agency from own sexual health)

CYBER EXAMPLES Monitoring (e.g. using social media), threatening or harassing online, sexting coercion

EMOTIONAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMPLES Insulting, threatening, monitoring, isolating, restricting access to friends, and stalking⁵

IS IT COMMON?



Approximately **30%** of Canadian youth are victimized by Youth Dating Violence at one point in their lifetime.⁶



10-30% of Canadian teens report being victimized by cyber dating violence.⁷



37% of trans students, **21%** of sexual minority students, and **10%** of non-LGBTQ students reported being physically harassed or assaulted because of their gender expression.⁸



Preliminary research strongly suggests that both transgender and gender non-conforming youth experience youth dating violence more than their cis-gender counterparts.⁹

WHAT CAN YOUTH DO?



SEEK HELP

Tell a parent/guardian, trusted adult, friend, or professional what is happening.



SUPPORT

Look for support through community organizations that work with youth experiencing violence.



PLAN

Create a step-by-step Safety Plan to guide you through the process of staying safe and/or leaving the relationship. You can create your safety plan at kidshelpphone.ca.

YOUTH DATING VIOLENCE IS PREVENTABLE

Supporting the development of healthy, respectful, and nonviolent relationships can help reduce the occurrence of TDV (Teen Dating Violence) and prevent its harmful effects. During the pre-teen and teen years, it is important for youth to begin learning the skills needed to create and maintain healthy relationships.¹⁰

Dating Safe

YWCA's Dating Safe Program is a specialized program for Grade 8 to 10 students in selected Vancouver and Surrey schools, which provides them with the knowledge and skills to develop healthy relationships that are free from violence and abuse.

THE TOPICS COVERED ARE: Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships, Gender Stereotypes, Communication Skills, Building Consent Culture, Social Media and Dating, Understanding Dating Violence, Intoxication Culture, Bystander Intervention.

For more information, visit ywcavan.org/datingsafe.



1 <https://youthdatingviolence.prevnet.ca/learn-more/everyone/what-is-youth-dating-violence/> 6 <https://youthdatingviolence.prevnet.ca/learn-more/everyone/how-to-make-a-difference/>
2 <https://www.loveisrespect.org/resources/dating-violence-statistics/> 7 <http://prevnet.ca/blog/campaigns/february-is-teen-dating-violence-awareness-month>
3 <https://youthdatingviolence.prevnet.ca/learn-more/everyone/how-to-make-a-difference/#understand> 8 <https://pridenet.ca/wp-content/uploads/GenderSpectrum2018online.pdf>
4 <https://youthdatingviolence.prevnet.ca/learn-more/everyone/how-to-make-a-difference/#understand> 9 <https://youthdatingviolence.prevnet.ca/learn-more/everyone/youth-dating-violence-by-the-numbers/>
5 <https://youthdatingviolence.prevnet.ca/learn-more/everyone/what-is-youth-dating-violence/> 10 <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/dating-violence/>

Financial contribution from

Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada