

# PREVENTION PLAYBOOK

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## Teen dating violence affects nearly 10% of all teenagers throughout the U.S.

One in three teenagers – nearly 1.5 Million – in a romantic relationship admits to being in an unhealthy relationship. While both boys and girls can be victims of teen dating violence, girls are far more likely to suffer. Nearly 25% of teenage girls are estimated to have been in an abusive relationship. In fact, girls between 16 and 24 are three times as likely than any other demographic to be abused by a boyfriend or other intimate partner.

Once a milestone reserved for high schoolers, romantic relationships have slowly begun to bloom earlier in teens' lives, sometimes as early as the age of 12 or 13. Teens (and in some cases pre-teens) are still developing critical emotional and mental maturities that place them at a disadvantage in dealing with the stresses of a romantic relationship.

According to the Center for Disease Control, teen DV has both serious short-term and long-term consequences. While healthy relationships tend to have a positive effect on emotional development and future relationships, abusive relationships often do the opposite. Dating violence victims are likely to experience suicidal thoughts, antisocial behaviors, depression and anxiety, and engage in unhealthy behaviors such as alcohol and drug use.

Unfortunately, many cases go unreported because victims are afraid to tell their family and friends.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR YOUR YOUTH HERE:

- <https://www.teendvmonth.org>
- <https://thatsnotcool.com>
- <https://www.safesecurekids.org>
- [SERVING TEEN SURVIVORS: A Manual for Advocates](#)
- [2024 TDVAM Action Guide](#)
- [2024 TDVAM Calendar of Events](#)
- [2024 TDVAM Social Media Guide](#)

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