

Teen Dating Violence in Tribal Communities

Teen Dating Violence has no gender. In Minnesota, this has been defined as abuse including physical harm, bodily injury or assault, psychological, emotional violence within a dating relationship, within the ages of 10 to 19 years of age.



Bullying & Gossip



Tracking & Stalking



Isolation from Friends



Digital Abuse



Consent & Choice



Threats & Insults



Spiritual & Cultural Abuse

Native Youth Experiencing Dating Violence

36%

Native Girls
-Preeti & Schillinger-

35%

Native Boys
-Preeti & Schillinger-

Teen LGBTQ & Two Spirit
Folx experience the highest rates of teen violence of overall.
-CDC-

Youth Sovereignty
Youth peer-to-peer education and prevention engagement results in leadership and an increase of social peer accountability.

Long-term Impact
Native teens that experience teen dating violence have a higher risk for substance abuse, risky behaviors, and suicide.
-Silverman, Raj, et al.-

Teen Dating Violence
Can include physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and sexual abuse.
-MN Department of Health-

COVID-19
The pandemic created barriers of peer, parental, or mandated reporters' visibility and access to youth experiencing dating violence.
-Center of Research & Education-

“Each generation is changing. Adults would be amazed at what we go through. Even over a year of our lives, things can totally change for us. I don’t feel like adults know that just because we are a little older we will understand things happening. That’s why someone my own age can relate to my experiences better.”
- Minnesota Youth Dating Focus Group Attendee





Parents, Friends, and Family

DO STAY INFORMED

- Only 33% of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse. -Teen Research Unlimited-
- Eighty-one (81) percent of parents believe teen-dating violence is not an issue or say they don't know if it's an issue. -Family Violence Prevention-
- Though 82% of parents feel confident that they could recognize the signs if their child was experiencing dating abuse, a majority of parents (58%) could not correctly identify all the warning signs of abuse. -Teen Dating Violence & Abuse Survey-

DO KNOW THE SIGNS OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

- Having bruises, scratches, and other injuries or altered sexual activity without consent.
- Changing the way they look or dress because partner says so.
- Failing grades or dropping out of school activities, skipping school or fun events.
- Avoiding and dropping old friends and family, giving up things they care about.
- Sudden changes in mood or personality; becoming depressed or anxious, violent behavior, unusual fear, being tracked by partner, constantly reporting social life.
- Secretive and frequent checking of devices and dangerously unmonitored online activities.

HARMFUL TEEN RELATIONSHIPS

- Wants to get serious quickly- will not take "No" for an answer
- Is jealous and possessive/controlling and dominating
- Isolates them - doesn't want them spending time with friends or family
- Uses guilt trips: "If you really loved me, you would..."
- Blames the victim for what is wrong: "It's because of you that I get so mad"
- Apologizes for violent behavior: "I promise I'll never do it again"
- Stalking and tracking cellphone and social media accounts
- Revenge porn or threats to destroy the victim's character with private material
- Bullying, gossips, social media drama to scare into compliance of harm doer

