

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Houston Health Department
www.houstontx.gov/health/

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention

Dating Violence Resource Center,
National Center for Victims of Crime
<https://victimsofcrime.org>

The Expect Respect Program Manual,
SafePlace
www.austin-safeplace.org

Houston Area Women's Center
www.hawc.org

Joyful Heart Foundation
www.joyfulheartfoundation.org

Liz Claiborne
<http://www.loveisnotabuse.com/home.asp>

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
www.loveisrespect.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline
www.thehotline.org

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault:
www.taasa.org

Texas Council on Family Violence Red
Flags Project
www.knowtheredflags.com
www.tcfv.org

U.S Department of Health and Human
Services Office of Adolescent Health
<http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-health-topics/index.html>

LOVE
IS NOT
ABUSE

GET INVOLVED²⁰

Youth

- Have open discussions with peers about healthy relationships, gender roles and ways to prevent teen dating violence.

Parents

- Communicate to children the characteristics of positive intimate relationships.

School Personnel

- Promote community awareness and prevention work.
- Integrate material that explores relationships, gender roles and coercion and control.
- Implement evidence-based programs explicitly addressing abuse within intimate relationships.

Community

- Track cases of teen dating violence and carry out institutional audits to assess the practice of community organizations.
- Involve survivors in decision-making discussions and policy development and implementation.
- Provide support for survivors through crises centers and shelters.
- Promote good practice through training and drawing up guidelines.
- Enable families, friends and community members the capacity to address dating violence.

References and More!

Please visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/hdhhs-profiles> for a full list of references.

Other Titles in this Series:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ■ Youth Sexual Health | ■ Youth Homelessness |
| ■ Youth Mental Health | ■ Youth Violence & Prevention |
| ■ Teen Pregnancy & Prevention | ■ Youth Suicide & Prevention |
| ■ Youth Immunizations | ■ Youth Bullying & Prevention |
| ■ Youth Obesity & Prevention | ■ Overall Summary of Youth Health Issues |
| ■ Youth Substance Abuse & Prevention | |

For more information, please contact Adolescent Health and Injury Prevention (AHIP) via the Houston Youth Voice, Health, Safety Coalition at: 4youthvoice@houstontx.gov
Facebook: [4youthvoicehouston](#) Twitter: [@4youthvoice](#)

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YOUTH IN HOUSTON & HARRIS COUNTY¹⁻³

Population*
Houston: 601,918 (29%)
Harris County: 1,263,889 (31%)

Poverty
Children under 18 living below poverty level:
Houston: 35.3%
Harris County: 27.4%

Education
High School Graduates (ages 18-24):
Houston: 29.3%
Harris County: 30.5%

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT OF YOUTH^{4,14}

Below is a snapshot of the demographics for youth living in Houston and Harris County.

Gender	
Houston:	Harris County:
Male: 51%	Male: 51%
Female: 49%	Female: 49%

Age	
Houston:	Harris County:
Under 5 years: 28%	27%
5 to 9 years: 25%	25%
10 to 14 years: 23%	24%
15 to 19 years: 24%	24%

Race/Ethnicity
Harris County:
Hispanic: 51%
White: 23%
Black: 19%
Other: 7%

* Percentages (youth under the age of 19) are representative of the total Houston/Harris County population.

† As of 2010, percentages are based on total population of Houston and/or Harris County under the age of 19.

YOUTH
voice health safety

Adolescent Health and Injury Prevention (AHIP)

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE & PREVENTION

Profile of the City of Houston & Harris County, Texas

Relative to teens in healthy dating relationships, those experiencing violence are substantially more likely to report short- and long-term mental and physical health problems, suicidal thinking, disordered eating, alcohol and drug use and unintended pregnancies.⁵ Many teens do not report teen dating violence because they fear the perpetrator.

TYPES OF DATING VIOLENCE



Psychological dating violence includes abusive or bullying behaviors ranging from subtle behaviors (e.g., trying to control the partner's activities; telling the partner how to dress) to overt behaviors (e.g. name calling; ridiculing; put-downs) behaviors with the intent of degrading, intimidating and controlling an intimate partner.⁶

Physical dating violence

includes a range of violent behaviors such as pushing, shaking, hitting, slapping, stomping, hair pulling, arm twisting, biting, kicking, throwing objects, or even more severe acts such as choking, burning, stabbing or shooting.

Sexual dating violence includes any sexual activity (touching, oral, vaginal or anal) performed without consent, and ranges from unwanted kissing to rape.

Cyber abuse does not appear to be a distinct form of abuse, but rather a vehicle used to perpetrate physical, psychological and sexual dating violence. Examples include demanding passwords to social media sites, posting or threatening to post embarrassing comments or pictures on social media sites, and threatening a partner via text message.⁷

"A healthy relationship will never require you to sacrifice your friends, your dreams, or your dignity." –Mandy Hale

Percentage of Houston high school students who experienced physical dating violence* by sex, race/ethnicity, and grade.¹⁰

Houston, TX, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2013

	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL	
	%	(95% CI) [†]	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Total	8.7	(6.0-12.4)	6.3	(3.2-11.8)	8.7	(6.0-12.4)
Race/Ethnicity						
White, non-Hispanic	N/A 13		N/A 15		N/A 29	
Black, non-Hispanic	N/A 50		N/A 37		N/A 87	
Hispanic	11.1	(6.4-18.6)	5.5	(2.4-11.9)	8.1	(4.7-13.7)
Grade level						
9	N/A 13		N/A 15		N/A 29	
10	N/A 7		N/A 6		N/A 13	
11	N/A 2		N/A 6		N/A 9	
12	N/A 6		N/A 4		N/A 10	

*Hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the 12 months before the survey.
†Confidence interval.
N/A= < 100 respondents for the subgroup

TEEN BOYS AND GIRLS IN VIOLENT RELATIONSHIPS ARE AT AN INCREASED RISK OF EXPERIENCING:¹²

- Substance use
 - Disordered eating
 - Suicidality
 - Depression
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
 - Poor school performance
 - Unintentional pregnancies
 - Sexually transmitted infections

COST OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE¹³

- The economic benefits of preventing teen dating violence (and subsequent domestic violence) cannot be overstated.¹⁴
- Partner violence costs America **\$6-8.5 billion** in health care expenses and lost productivity.¹⁵
- The annual health care cost is **\$1,775 more** for women in violent relationships than non-victims.¹⁶

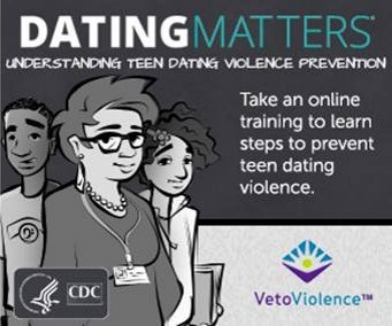
Females ages of 16 and 24 years experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence .
— US Department of Justice

WHAT WORKS?

The programs listed below are a compilation of initiatives, campaigns, and programs that are research informed, apply best practices and have the potential to be implemented in various settings. Below are some examples of these types of programs for teen dating violence prevention and intervention.

Program	What Is It?	Website
Safe Dates*	Safe Dates is a program designed to stop or prevent the initiation of emotion, physical, and sexual abuse on dates or between individuals involved in a dating relationship. The program includes changing dating norms and conflict resolution.	http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/ViewIntervention.aspx?id=141
Expect Respect	The program goals are to support youth exposed to violence, mobilize youth leaders and create safe schools and communities. It is built on an ecological and trauma-informed models.	http://www.expectrespectaustin.org/about/
Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP)	This program is school-based. Students are taught to recognize and change destructive behaviors. RAPP has four components: 1) prevention classes, 2) intervention counseling, 3) staff development and training and 4) community outreach.	http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/teen/html/resources/dv-rapp.shtml http://vawnet.org/summary.php?doc_id=562&find_type=web_sum_TT

*Denotes evidence based program as listed by SAMHSA—National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.



1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the US have been raped at some point in their lives.¹⁷
1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the US have experienced rape and physical violence in their relationships.

Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence -- almost triple the national average⁸ (DOJ, BJS, IPV in the US, 1993-2004)

Recommendations:¹⁸

- The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends clinicians screen women of childbearing age, 14 to 45 years, for intimate partner violence (IPV) and provide or refer women who screen positive to intervention services.
- Develop and implement interventions that address the social and physical factors that have the potential to prevent violence.

Related Policies and Policy Implication:¹⁹

- **Texas House Bill 121: Dating violence policy** mandates that each school district adopt and implement a dating violence policy to be included in the district improvement plan.
- Eight states currently do not include dating relationships in their definition of domestic violence. As a result, young victims of dating abuse often cannot apply for restraining orders.
- New Hampshire is the only state where the law specifically allows a minor of any age to apply for a protection order; more than half of states do not specify the minimum age of a petitioner.
- Currently only one juvenile domestic violence court in the country focuses exclusively on teen dating violence.