

Adolescent Intimate Partner Violence Background Information

Module 1



Definition

Teen Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- A pattern of repeated actual or threatened acts that physically, sexually or verbally abuse a member of an unmarried heterosexual or homosexual couple in which one or both partners is between thirteen and twenty years old.

(from *Dating Violence: Young Women in Danger*, edited by Barrie Levy, 1990, p. 4)



Contributing Factors to Teen IPV

- Existing family violence at home
- Past exposure to abuse in relationships
- Low self-esteem
- Incomplete psychosocial development
- Environmental Factors



Barriers to Addressing Teen IPV That Adults Do Not Face

- **Teens cannot change schools**
- **Teens cannot leave home (except for runaways)**
- **Teens cannot enter most domestic violence shelters**
- **The seriousness of teen relationships are sometimes minimized**
- **Violence may be minimized as “playing” in young couples**
- **Increased isolation from family or community for same-sex couples**



Teen IPV - Barriers to Disclosure

- Fear that disclosure will bring more violence
- Blames him/herself
- May minimize IPV for fear of losing relationship and social status
- May love the person although hates the behavior
- Ashamed to admit that they are being abused
- Thinks no one cares
- Fear of incarceration of partner
- Limited experience-don't recognize it as a problem



What We Know About Teen IPV

- Estimated that intimate partner abuse occurs in 1 out of 4 relationships (all types) during their lifetime (CDC, 2000)
- In a survey of LGBT students, 40% answered yes to “have you ever been hurt physically or sexually by someone you dated?” (Goodenow, 1998)
- 8% of all men reported physical assault and/or rape by an intimate partner during their lifetime (Kimberg, 2001)
- Women ages 16 to 24 experienced the highest rates of IPV with 20 victims per 1,000 women (Rickert, 2003)



What We Know About Teen IPV

- 60% of adolescents reported one or more violent acts during their dating relationships, with 24% of those reporting rape or use of weapons (Rickert, 2003)
- 42% of teen girls under age 15 said first intercourse was non-consensual (JAMA, 8/19/98)
- 16 to 37% of pregnant teens experience abuse during their pregnancy (Scheiman, 2003)

What We Know About Teen IPV

- In a study of teen mothers on public assistance, 51% reported birth control sabotage by a dating partner (Center for Impact Research, 2000)
- Dating violence preceded marital violence in up to 50% of cases (Brown University, 2003)
- **Violence appears to be more common among dating adolescents than among adult married couples** (Rickert, 2003)



Consequences of IPV

- **Physical**
 - Bruises, cuts, fractures, chronic pain, internal injuries
- **Psychological and Behavioral**
 - Substance Abuse, eating disorders, depression, suicide, anxiety, shame, poor self-esteem, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- **Sexual and Reproductive**
 - STI/HIV, PID, unwanted pregnancy, pregnancy complications or miscarriage, sexual dysfunction
- **Fatal Health Consequences**
 - Maternal mortality, homicide, suicide, AIDS-related mortality

Source: World Health Organization (WHO), "World Report on Violence and Health," 2002, p. 101

