

# Preventing Adolescent Dating Violence

## Contents



### 3 Violence in Adolescent Dating Relationships

By Ernest N. Jouriles, Ph.D., Cora Platt, B.A., and Renee McDonald, Ph.D.

This article defines dating violence and reviews its prevalence. It then explores factors which impact dating violence and ends with a review of two school-based prevention/intervention programs.



### 8 Peer Group Influences on Adolescent Dating Aggression

By Jennifer Connolly, Ph.D., and Laura Friedlander, M.A.

The peer group is a critical social context for dating and romantic relationships. Peer groups provide opportunities to meet potential dating partners and set norms for acceptable dating behaviors. This article explores how peer groups influence dating and dating aggression, as well as how they can be used in prevention efforts.



### 12 Help-Seeking and Help-Giving for Teen Dating Violence

By Arlene N. Weisz, M.S.W., Ph.D., and Beverly M. Black, Ph.D., M.S.S.W.

This article is based on numerous research projects conducted by the authors on adolescent dating violence. It reviews the results of those projects as they relate to how teens seek help for dating violence and how teens provide help to their friends in violent dating relationships. It concludes with helpful strategies for adults who work with youth.



### 17 Teen Perceptions of Dating Violence, Help-Seeking, and the Role of Schools

By Colleen Gallop, J.D., and Laila Leigh, J.D. Candidate

Based on focus groups with 41 Washington, D.C. youth, this article explores the participants' opinions on the prevalence of dating violence among teens, dating violence dynamics, seeking or providing help, and school responses to dating violence. It concludes with practical implications for providers.

## DEPARTMENTS

2 From the Editor's PC

16 Web Resources



## From the Editor's PC

Dear Colleague,

Dating during adolescence can be a positive experience for many youth. Unfortunately, for others it can mark the beginning of dating violence. Research indicates that many youth in middle and high school have already experienced dating violence, either as a perpetrator and/or a victim. This issue of *The Prevention Researcher* explores the important topic of adolescent dating violence taking a special look at the peer context, as well as how youth seek help from others and give help to their friends.

We start this issue with an article by Ernest Jouriles and colleagues which puts adolescent dating violence in context. This article explores how youth dating and dating violence are defined and measured, the prevalence of violence among adolescent dating relationships, what factors influence dating violence for teens, and what types of programs might be effective means of prevention or intervention.

Once this groundwork has been set, Jennifer Connolly and Laura Friedlander examine peer group influences on adolescent dating relationships. In their article, they show how peer groups are central to adolescent dating because it is within these groups that teens meet potential dating partners and learn dating norms.

Peers are also the people that teens go to for help when they experience violence within a dating relationship. In our third article, Arlene Weisz and Beverly Black discuss how teens typically get help for dating violence, as well as how teens help their peers. Importantly, they also explore what adult helpers should know to make sure the help-seeking and help-giving is truly helpful.

Finally, it is important to learn about teens' own perceptions of dating violence, help-seeking, and the role of schools. In our final article, Colleen Gallopin and Laila Leigh report on focus groups they conducted with youth in the Washington D.C. area. The perspectives of these teens, in their own words, show the reality of dating violence in teens' relationships. From this, the authors give a number of excellent implications for adults.

I hope this issue has shed light on this important topic and has shown how adults can work to both prevent dating violence and intervene when it occurs—whether through prevention programs within the schools, policy formation, or one-on-one interactions with youth.

All the best,

Steven Ungerleider, Ph.D.  
Editor/Psychologist

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