

Teen Relationship Abuse Research Study¹

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Listening, learning, and living together: it's the science of life.



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When we think of violence between intimate partners, we often think of domestic abuse between adult men and women, and most often between husbands and wives. However, in a recent study commissioned by Liz Claiborne Inc., researchers discovered deep and troubling evidence that today's teens are not only experiencing dating violence, but are accepting it as normal.

One of the alarming results from the Liz Claiborne study is that "as teens get older and enter into serious relationships, a greater number are exhibiting and accepting controlling, abusive, and even violent behaviors – often by a two-to-one margin over younger teens who have less dating experience."

Of the 13 to 18-year-olds studied, nearly 66% reported being with someone who was very jealous, and 60% reported they'd had a boyfriend or girlfriend who had made them feel bad about themselves. Nearly a third, 30%, reported worrying about their personal physical safety in a relationship; 20% who reported having been in a *serious* relationship, have been hit, slapped, or pushed by their boyfriends or girlfriends.

As parents, how can we help our children? The Minnesota Parent-Child Longitudinal Project has found that communication with parents, and especially mothers, can provide a protective influence against the negative aspects of dating. Experts also encourage

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parents to model functional marriages or romantic relationships to teach their children how to have their own healthy relationships.

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To listen to the radio broadcast:

http://radiosource.net/radio_stories/434%20-%20teen%20abuse.mp3

http://radiosource.net/radio_stories/434%20-%20teen%20abuse.wav

References

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"Liz Claiborne Inc. Topline Findings – Teen Relationship Abuse Survey" (conducted March 2006). Retrieved April 26, 2006 from <http://www.loveisnotabuse.com/pdf/Liz%20Claiborne%20Mar%202006%20Relationship%20Abuse%20Hotsheet.pdf>.