

Why is dating abuse a public health problem?

- In Michigan high schools, 12% of females and 13% of males report ever being hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boy/friend/girlfriend during the past 12 months.
2007 Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Michigan Department of Education.
- In Michigan high schools, 14% of females and 7% of males report having ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when did not want to.
2007 Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Michigan Department of Education.
- In Michigan high schools, 27% of females and 15% of males who ever had sexual intercourse report that their first partner was 3 or more years older.
2007 Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Michigan Department of Education.
- In 2007, the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program in Grand Rapids provided services to 258 female and male victims of rape. 35% were teens 13 to 19 years old and 76% of all victims knew their assailant.
YWCA of West Central Michigan Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program, 2007.
- Teens in violent relationships are often victims of the pattern of violence in future relationships. Physically abused teens are three times more likely than their non-abused peers to experience violence during college.
Smith PH, White JW, Holland LJ. A longitudinal perspective of dating violence among adolescent and college-age women. American Journal of Public Health. 2003;93(7):1104-9.
- Domestic violence is a pervasive social problem. Approximately 33 million, or 15% of all adults in the United States have experienced domestic violence. Six in ten adults report that they personally know someone who has experienced domestic violence.
(Harris Poll, 2006)