



R.E.S.P.E.C.T.<sup>2</sup>

RELATIONSHIP EMPOWERMENT for STUDENTS, PARENTS, EDUCATORS & COMMUNITY THROUGH THEATRE

## Teen Dating Violence, a survey **WHAT TEENS KNOW:**

### **High school students know about dating and dating violence:**

From February - May (2002) R.E.S.P.E.C.T.<sup>2</sup> asked nearly 1,000 students in Omaha area high schools about dating and dating violence. 973 students, 863 of them young women, responded to questions about dating relationships:

- 78.5% of these students date
- 21% of these students report that they have been "afraid" of a date or being with an opposite sex friend
- 43% of these students report knowing 1 - 2 friends who have been involved in an abusive dating relationship
- 10% of these students report knowing 3 - 5 friends who have been involved in an abusive dating relationship
- 3% of these students report knowing 6 or more friends who have been involved in an abusive dating relationship

### **High school students know about dating and verbal abuse:**

- 23% of students have been verbally abused on dates (i.e., called names, put down, yelled at, sworn at, made fun of) 1 - 2 times
- 5% of students have been verbally abused 3 - 5 times
- 5% of students have been verbally abused 6 or more times

### **High school students know about dating and physical abuse:**

- 8% of students have been physically abused on dates (i.e., hit, kicked, pushed, slapped) 1 - 2 times

### **High school students know about dating and sexual abuse:**

- 12% of students have been sexually abused on dates (i.e., forced or persuaded to engage in sexual activity they did not want to have) 1 - 2 times
- 1% of students have been sexually abused 3 - 5 times
- 1% of students have been sexually abused 6 or more times

### **Many high school students seek help:**

- 43% asked for help from a friend regarding physical abuse
- 40% asked for help from a friend regarding verbal abuse
- 25% asked for help from a friend regarding sexual abuse
- 7% asked for help from a parent regarding sexual abuse
- 6% asked for help from a parent regarding physical abuse
- 3% asked for help from a parent regarding verbal abuse
- 6% asked for help from a teacher regarding physical abuse
- 1% asked for help from a teacher regarding verbal abuse
- 0% asked for help from a teacher regarding sexual abuse
- 4% asked for help from a counselor regarding physical abuse
- 3% asked for help from a counselor regarding sexual abuse
- 1% asked for help from a counselor regarding verbal abuse

**Many high school students receive help if they ask for it:**

- 40% of students report receiving help in situations of verbal abuse
- 39% of students report receiving help in situations of physical abuse
- 32% of students report receiving help in situations of sexual abuse

**HOWEVER:**

- **63% of students told no one about the sexual abuse**
- **57% of students told no one about the verbal abuse**
- **53% of students told no one about the physical abuse**

Students in high school know a lot about teen dating violence and abusive relationships.

Let's help students know how to identify violence in relationships early.

Let's help students prevent themselves from being in abusive relationships before it is too late.

Let's help students know about ways to help their friends and resources that are available for them.

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