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National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline

1-866-331-9474 1-866-331-8453 TTY

Dating Abuse Fast Facts

In March 2006, Liz Claiborne Inc. commissioned Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) to conduct a survey to delve deeper into the issue of **teen dating abuse**, gauging the degree to which teens have been involved in abusive/controlling relationships and to understand youth perceptions regarding what is and is not acceptable behavior in a relationship.

The findings were astounding. **The results show that alarming numbers of teens experience and accept abusive behavior in dating relationships.** Many teens also feel physically and sexually threatened.

- **1 in 5 teens** who have been in a serious relationship report being **hit, slapped or pushed by a partner.**
- **1 in 3 girls** who have been in a serious relationship say they've been concerned **about being physically hurt** by their partner.
- **1 in 4 teens** who have been in a serious relationship say their boyfriend or girlfriend has tried to prevent them from **spending time with friends or family**; the same number have been pressured to only spend time with their partner.
- **1 in 3 girls** between the ages of 16 and 18 say **sex is expected for people their age** if they're in a relationship; half of teen girls who have experienced sexual pressure report they are afraid the relationship would break up if they did not give in.
- **Nearly 1 in 4 girls** who have been in a relationship (23%) reported **going further sexually than they wanted** as a result of pressure.