

# DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, & STALKING

What You Should Know



## DATING VIOLENCE

Dating violence can take place in person, online, or through technology. Nearly 1 in 11 female and approximately 1 in 14 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year. It is a type of intimate partner violence that can include the following types of behavior:

- **Physical violence** is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.
- **Sexual violence** is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act and or sexual touching when the partner does not consent or is unable to consent or refuse. It also includes non-physical sexual behaviors like posting or sharing sexual pictures of a partner without their consent or sexting someone without their consent.
- **Psychological aggression** is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm a partner mentally or emotionally and exert control over a partner.
- **Stalking** is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a current or former partner that causes fear or safety concern for an individual victim or someone close to the victim.

26% of women and 15% of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 18.

## STALKING

Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a specific person that causes fear or safety concern for an individual victim or someone close to the victim.

Nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime

**Common stalking behaviors include:**

- Repeated calls, text messages, e-mails, or posts via social media
- Following the victim or showing up where they are (e.g., near home, work, school, or other places the victim might frequent)
- Using technology to track, find out, and/or disseminate personal information about the victim
- Threatening to hurt the victim and/or people they care about
- Stalking is against the law in every state





# SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is defined to include “unwanted sexual contact that could include touching of a sexual nature, oral sex, sexual intercourse, anal sex, or sexual penetration with a finger or object.” Sexual assault occurs when one individual does not give consent or is incapable of giving consent (e.g. under the influence or unconscious).

About 1 in 8 female and 1 in 26 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year. Studies show that one in five women experience attempted or completed sexual assault during her college years.

College women, as compared to their non-college peers and the general population, are disproportionately raped often by someone they know.

Over the course of an average 5-year college career, between 20 and 25% of women students are raped. Fewer than 5 in 100 rapes are reported.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT: WHAT TO DO

- Find a safe place and call 911 or your school or trusted family or friend. Make a formal report. Reporting does not mean you have to file charges against the perpetrator.
- If you have been sexually assaulted, do not change your clothes, wash, bathe, douche, comb your hair, or eat and drink if possible.
- DO NOT touch, move, destroy, discard anything at the scene These will be collected as evidence
- Call WRAP 1-800-273-8712 and we can support you.
- Seek medical attention in the event of sexual assault at your local emergency room for a physical exam and/or to assess any injuries
- Try to remember as many facts as you can about the perpetrator including race, age, hair color, clothing, etc.

## WHAT WE DO

- 24 Hour Crisis Line; 7 day a week, 365 days a year at 800-273-8712
- Hospital and Court assistance
- Counseling/Therapy
- Legal Counsel Referral
- Safe Homes
- Information and Referral



End Violence. Change Lives. Give Hope.

## CONNECT WITH US

Helpline: 800-273-8712

WRAP.TN.ORG

Facebook: wrapwesttn

**Safe Hope Center**

512 Roland Ave. Jackson

