

Fish Food For Thought

Green County United Prevention
Professionals for Youth, Inc.

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Teen Dating

Romance, it is everywhere. Almost every movie and TV show, has an element of romance in it. Many songs and stories have been written about every type of romance one can imagine. Even social media is alive with buzz about romance. This just means it is representing something that someone wishes they had with a romantic partner, *whether that thing is healthy for a relationship or not healthy.*

According to Youth Risk Behavior Survey data from Green County High School students in 2015, 7.7% of high school females have been hit, slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriends or girlfriends on purpose, during the past 12 months.

According to DoSomething.org

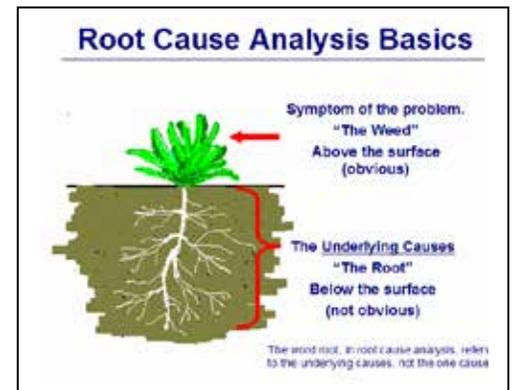


1. Roughly 1.5 million high school boys and girls in the U.S. admit to being intentionally hit or physically harmed in the last year by someone they are romantically involved with.
2. Teens who suffer dating abuse are subject to long-term consequences like alcoholism, eating disorders, promiscuity, thoughts of suicide, and violent behavior.
3. 1 in 3 young people will be in an abusive or unhealthy relationship.
4. 33% of adolescents in America are victim to sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional dating abuse.
5. In the U.S., 25% of high school girls have been abused physically or sexually. Teen girls who are abused this way are 6 times more likely to become pregnant or contract a sexually transmitted infection (STI).



Warning Signs: Being able to tell the difference between healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships can be more difficult than you would think. No two relationships are the same, so what's **unhealthy** in one relationship may be **abusive** in another. Although there are many signs to pay attention to in a relationship, look for these **common warning signs of dating abuse**:

- ✓ **Checking cell phones, emails or social networks without permission**
- ✓ **Extreme jealousy or insecurity**
- ✓ **Constant belittling or put-downs**
- ✓ **Explosive temper**
- ✓ **Isolation from family and friends**
- ✓ **Making false accusations**
- ✓ **Erratic mood swings**
- ✓ **Physically inflicting pain or hurt in any way**
- ✓ **Possessiveness**
- ✓ **Telling someone what to do**
- ✓ **Repeatedly pressuring someone to have sex**



Being in an unhealthy or abusive relationship is already a difficult situation. Alcohol and drug abuse only make matters worse. When a partner is under the influence, the risk of all types of abuse (physical, verbal, emotional, digital and sexual) increases, which can lead to a very troubling situation.

But because drugs and alcohol aren't the root issues of abuse (abuse is about power and control), achieving sobriety doesn't necessarily end the abuse. There are plenty of people who use drugs and alcohol and don't become abusive. *Drugs and alcohol can affect a person's judgment and behavior, but using them doesn't excuse violence or abuse.*

Hook, Line and Sinker



In the eyes of the law, teenagers of certain ages cannot consent or agree to sex until they reach a specific age. This is called the "age of consent." These laws are meant to protect minors from being manipulated or forced into sex with older people

In the State of Wisconsin, age of consent is 18.

To get local help for substance abuse, contact Green County Human Service-Alcohol and Drug Services Unit at **(608)328-9352**.

To get local help for domestic violence/abuse contact your local school counselor or Green Haven at **(608) 325-7711**.