

DATING VIOLENCE

MYTH OR FACT?!

MYTH

People who stay in abusive relationships are stupid.

FACT

There are many reasons why someone might stay in an abusive relationship. Some reasons include the risk of becoming homeless, financial dependence, immigration status, fear of arrest, hopelessness, shame, and denial.

MYTH

Only men are abusers. Only women are victims.

FACT

ANYONE can be an abuser or a victim of dating or domestic violence, regardless of gender, race, age, socio-economic status, or sexual orientation.



DID YOU KNOW? More than 1 in 10 teens in NYC report experiencing physical or sexual violence in a dating relationship within the past year.



MYTH

Relationship abuse happens because the person has an anger management problem.

FACT

Actually, abusers are often very good at controlling their anger. The problem really revolves around the abuser trying to exert **POWER** and **CONTROL** over the victim.

MYTH

When my partner is jealous, it shows that s/he really cares about me.

FACT

Extreme jealousy is actually a warning sign for an abusive relationship and shows a lack of trust.



DID YOU KNOW? Nearly half of all female homicide victims in NYC are killed by intimate partner violence.



MYTH

Dating violence only occurs between straight couples because the male is the abuser and the female is the victim.

FACT

Dating violence occurs in same-sex and LGBTQ relationships at similar rates to heterosexual relationships.

MYTH

It is a good idea to try and convince a friend or family member to leave their abusive partner immediately.

FACT

The friend or family member who is in the relationship knows best what they need. To be supportive, you should ask how you can help, and provide them with resources instead of telling them what to do.



DID YOU KNOW? In 2007, it was estimated that 131 out of every 100,000 young women between the ages of 12 and 19 visited the Emergency Room because of injuries resulting from intimate partner violence.



MYTH

In a healthy relationship, both partners devote all of their time and energy to the relationship.

FACT

In a healthy relationship, both partners balance how much time they spend with each other, their friends and family, and by themselves.

MYTH

If your partner thinks that you are cheating on her/him, s/he has the right to check your email/phone.



FACT

It is never okay for your partner to check your email/phone if you are not comfortable with it, regardless of the reason. Healthy relationships are built on mutual trust.



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 **DID YOU KNOW?** One in four teens in a relationship says they have been called names, harassed or put down by their partner through cell phones and texting. 

MYTH Girls are much more likely than boys to get physically abused by a dating partner.

FACT In NYC, the same percentage of boys and girls experience dating abuse. However, sometimes boys who are being abused are afraid to speak up because they believe that they will be ridiculed by their peers. This barrier often prevents males from getting help.

MYTH If you are being sexually exploited, there are no services for you because sex work is illegal in the U.S.

FACT There are many organizations that help people who are being sexually exploited. In NYC, GEMS (212-926-8089) specializes in helping teen victims.



 **DID YOU KNOW?** In a 2006-2007 study of NYC youth ages 13-21, 48% stated that their current or recent partner insisted on knowing where they were at all times. Another 43% stated that their partner checked their cell phone to see who they called. 

MYTH If you have recently immigrated to the U.S. and are in an abusive relationship, you will not be eligible for services provided to citizens.

FACT Many services are available for immigrants. In fact, NY Family Justice Centers help all victims regardless of a person's immigration status or primary language. Call 311 to find a Family Justice Center in your Borough.

MYTH If you run away from home, are living on the streets, and end up in an abusive relationship, you will be returned to your parents if you report the abuse.

FACT If your living situation at home was unsafe, organizations will work with you to figure out the best possible option to help you. You will not necessarily be returned to your parents. Call 311 to find help near you.


 **DID YOU KNOW?** 17% of teens say their partner has made them afraid not to respond to a cell phone call, email, IM, or text message because of what s/he might do. 

MYTH If an abusers' girlfriend becomes pregnant, the abuse will stop.

FACT Studies show that abuse actually ESCALATES during pregnancy.

MYTH If someone was really getting abused by their partner, they would just leave.

FACT Leaving an abusive relationship can be very difficult, and dangerous. A victim should develop a Safety Plan before breaking up with an abusive partner.

 **DID YOU KNOW?** Three studies have found that homicide is the most common cause of death for pregnant women. 