

# Intimate Partner Violence Traumatizes Children and Teens

## Intimate Partner Violence in the Home

Effects on children exposed to intimate partner violence at home:



### PRE-SCHOOLERS<sup>i</sup>

- Inability to develop healthy relationships with peers or regulate emotions
- Symptoms of PTSD – including sleep and/or eating disruptions and intense separation anxiety
- Poor memory functioning may hinder cognitive and intellectual development



### ELEMENTARY & JUNIOR HIGH<sup>ii</sup>

- Behave younger than age
- Difficulty developing friendship with peers
- Exhibit signs of anger, depression and lower self-esteem
- Significantly lower performance on standardized math and English and language tests



### HIGH SCHOOL<sup>iii</sup>

- Physical aggression and acceptance of violence in relationships and involvement in abusive relationships
- Higher levels of anxiety and depression, antisocial behavior, and substance abuse
- More likely to be absent from school

## Teen Dating Violence in NYC

Prevalence and impact of teen dating violence among NYC public high school students:<sup>iv</sup>

### Prevalence

**1 in 10**

report being physically hurt intentionally by someone they were dating in the past year

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and questioning students are over **TWICE** as likely to report experiencing dating violence compared with those who identified as straight

### Impact on Students

#### School-Related Behavior



**3x** more likely to miss school due to not feeling safe

**3x** more likely to carry a weapon to school

**2x** more likely to experience bullying in school

#### Substance Abuse



**4x** more likely to take prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription

**2x** more likely to drink alcohol and **3x** more likely to binge drink

#### Mental Health



Almost **4x** more likely to attempt suicide

## What Can Schools Do?

**Identify Students Experiencing Dating Violence:** Compared to students who did not experience dating violence, youth who did were twice as likely to get help from a counselor, social worker, or therapist for an emotional or personal problem.<sup>iv</sup>

**Offer Prevention Programing:** Students who receive teen dating violence prevention in school show statistically significant improvements in knowledge and attitudes about dating violence.<sup>v</sup>

**OCDV Can Help:** The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence provides training for professional staff and students on dating violence, healthy relationships and intimate partner violence. Contact OCDV's Policy and Training Institute (212) 788-2799. The office can also assist in connecting schools to intimate partner violence resources such as the NYC Family Justice Centers.

- <sup>1</sup> Howell, K, Barnes, S., Miller, L., Graham-Bermann, S, Developmental variations in the impact of intimate partner violence exposure during childhood, *J. Injury and Violence* (2016), 8(1): 43-57; Graham-Bermann, SA, Caster L, Miller, L, Howell, K. The impact of intimate partner violence and additional traumatic events on trauma symptoms and PTSD in preschool-aged children. *Journal of Trauma Stress* (2012) 25(4):393-400 and Ouriles E, Brown A, McDonald R, Rosenfield D, Leahy M, Silver C. Intimate partner violence and preschoolers' explicit memory functioning. *J Fam Psychol.* (2008):22(3):420–8.
- <sup>ii</sup> Ibid. Howell, K, et al; Lundy M, Grossman SF. The mental health and service needs of young children exposed to domestic violence: supportive data. *Fam Soc.* (2005); 86(1):17–29; Reynolds M, Wallace J, Hill T, Weist MD, Nabors L. The relationship between gender, depression, and self-esteem in children who have witnessed domestic violence. *Child Abuse Negl.* (2001) 25(9):1201–6 and Peek-Asa C, Maxwell L, Stromquist A, Whitten P, Limbos M, Merchant J. Does parental physical violence reduce children's standardized test score performance? *Ann Epidemiol.* (2007); 17(11):847–53.
- <sup>iii</sup> Temple J, Shorey R, Tortolero S, Wolfe D, Stuart G. Importance of gender and attitudes about violence in the relationship between exposure to interparental violence and the perpetration of teen dating violence. *Child Abuse Negl.* (2013);37(5):343–52; Haj-Yahia M, Abdo-Kaloti R. Mental health consequences of Palestinian adolescents' exposure to family violence. *J Loss Trauma.* (2008); 13(1):1–41; Herrera V, McCloskey L. Gender differences in the risk for delinquency among youth exposed to family violence. *Child Abuse Negl.* (2001) 25(8):1037–51 and Ibid, Howell, K, et al.
- <sup>iv</sup> Sanderson M, Johnson, K, Dating Violence among New York City Youth. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: Epi Data Brief (67); January 2016.
- <sup>v</sup> De La Rue L et al. A Meta-Analysis of School-Based Interventions Aimed to Prevent or Reduce Violence in Teen Dating Relationships. *Review of Educational Research*, 2016.