

Teen Dating Violence Hurts: *A Youth Participatory Action Research project of the CT Collaboration on Teen Dating Violence*

Presented at the Old Judiciary Room, CT State Capital

June 13, 2007

Capital Prep Magnet School

CT Office of the Child Advocate

Guilford High School-TEAR

The Institute for Community Research-YARI

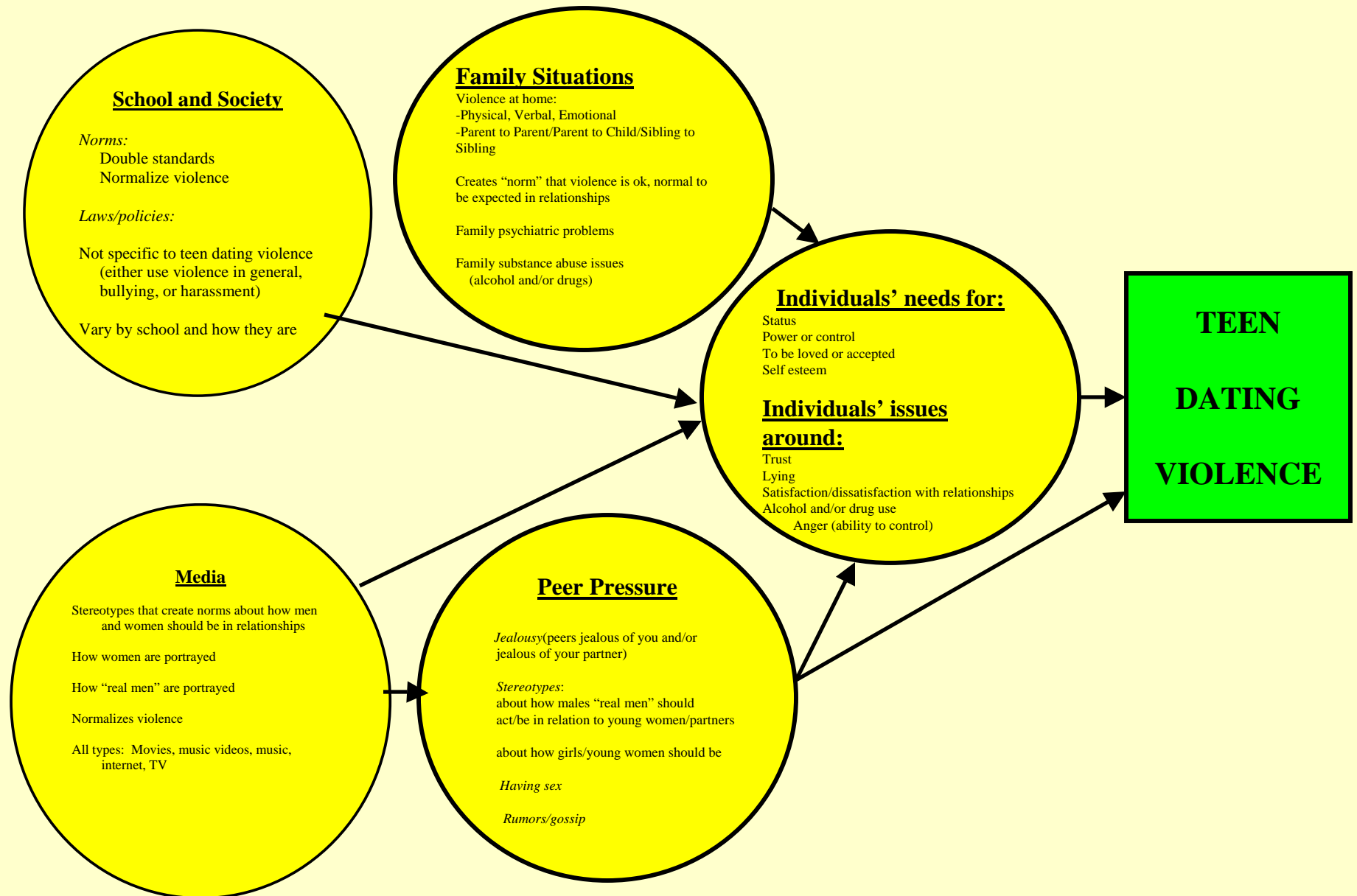
Killingly High School- Mosaic

Windham High School

Project Supported by:

- Funders:
 - CT Office of the Child Advocate, through a generous grant from the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA)
 - CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
 - The Perrin Family Foundation
- In-Kind:
 - Capital Preparatory Magnet School
 - Killingly High School
 - Guilford High School
 - Institute for Community Research
 - Windham High School

Research Model



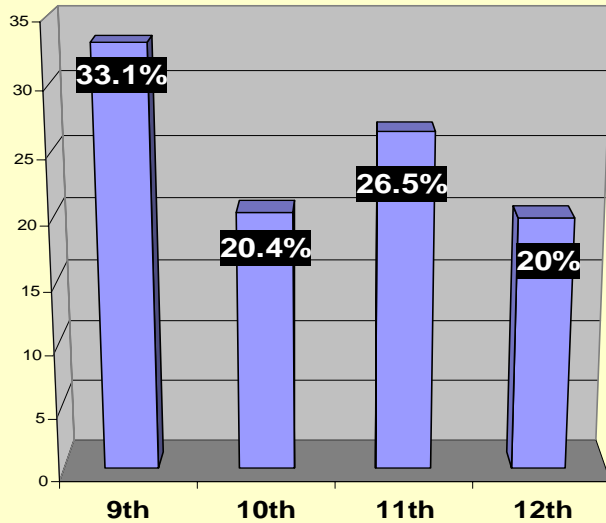
Research Methods

- Survey
428 High School Youth
- Interviews
25 total
 13 youth
 12 adults
- Pile sorts
20-30 collected from youth for each of the 4 sorts

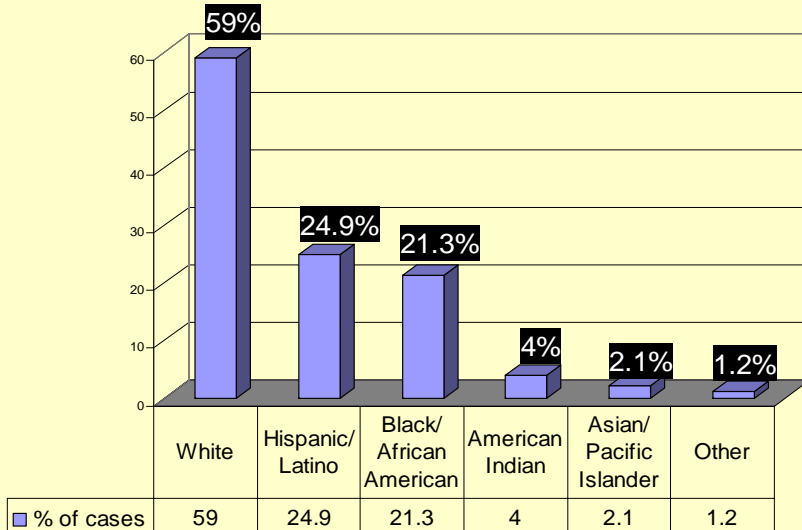
Demographics of Survey Respondents

(n=426)

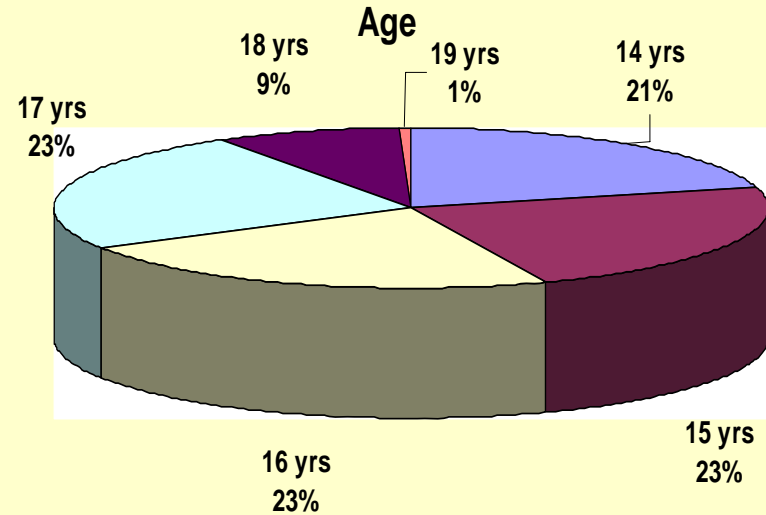
Current grade



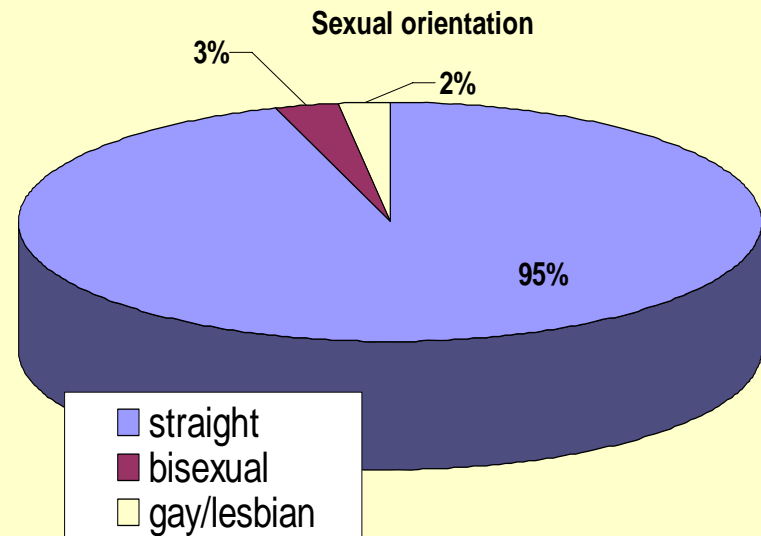
Race/Ethnicity



Age

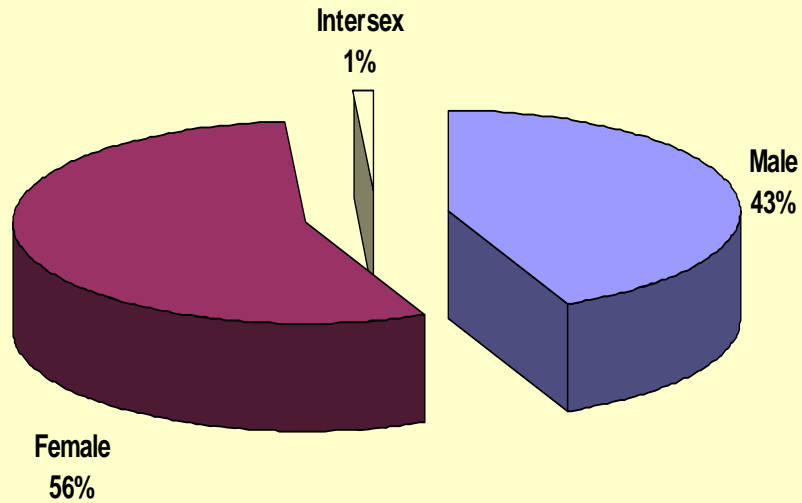


Sexual orientation

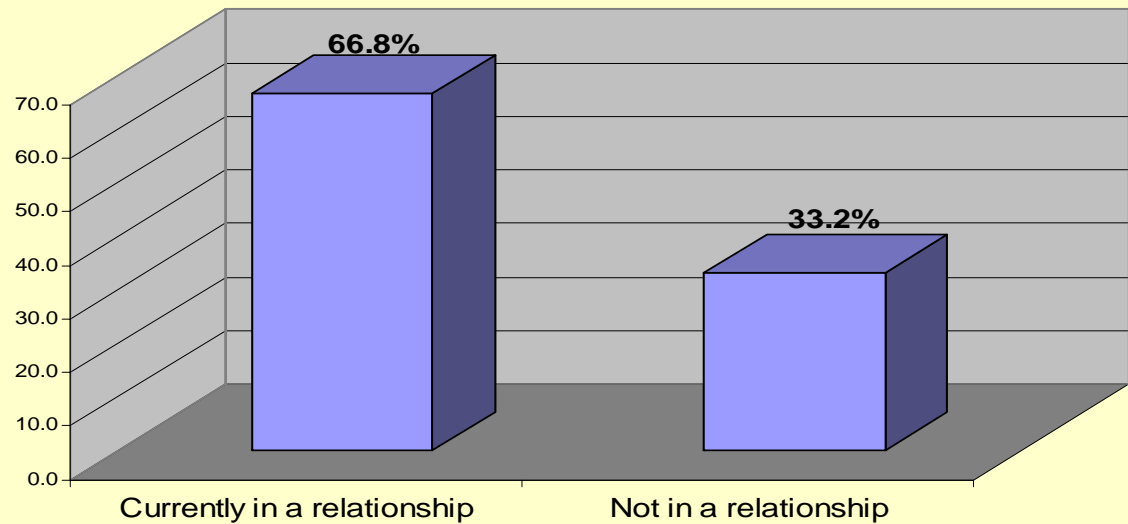


Demographics Continued

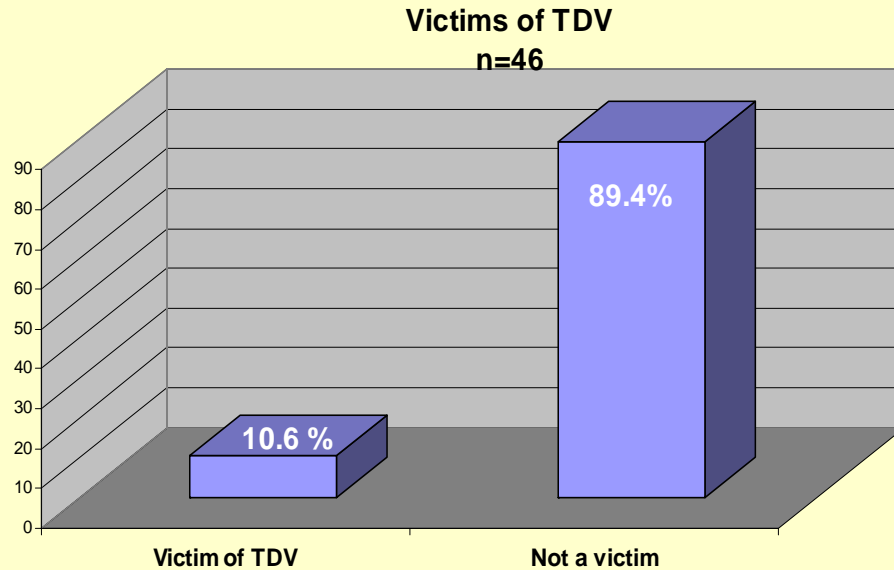
Sex



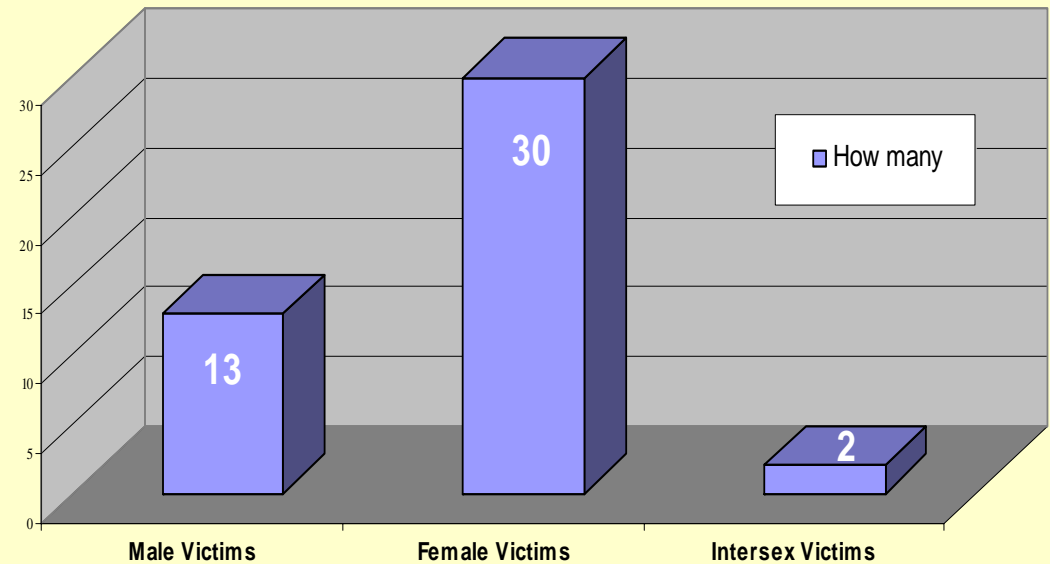
Currently in a Relationship



Who experiences Teen Dating Violence?



Victims of TDV by sex - Numbers

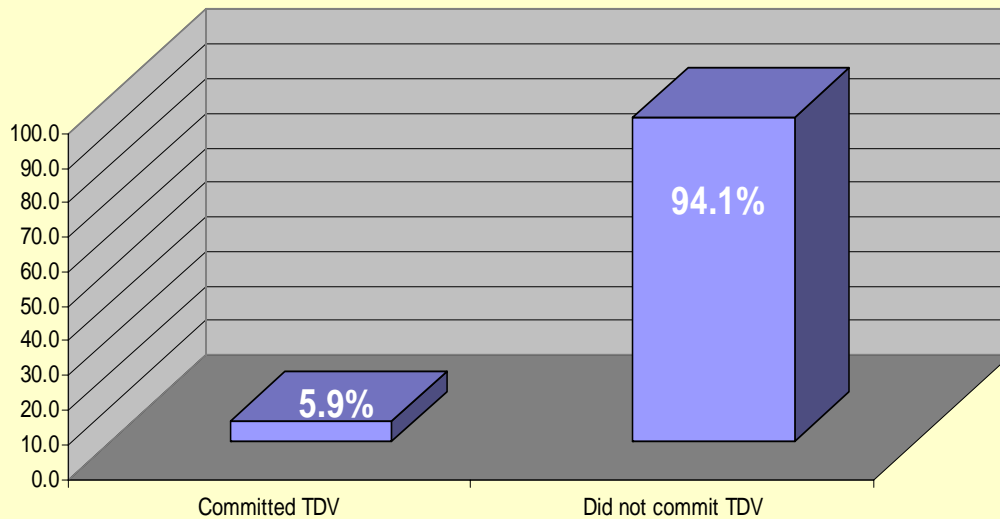


Percent who are Victims

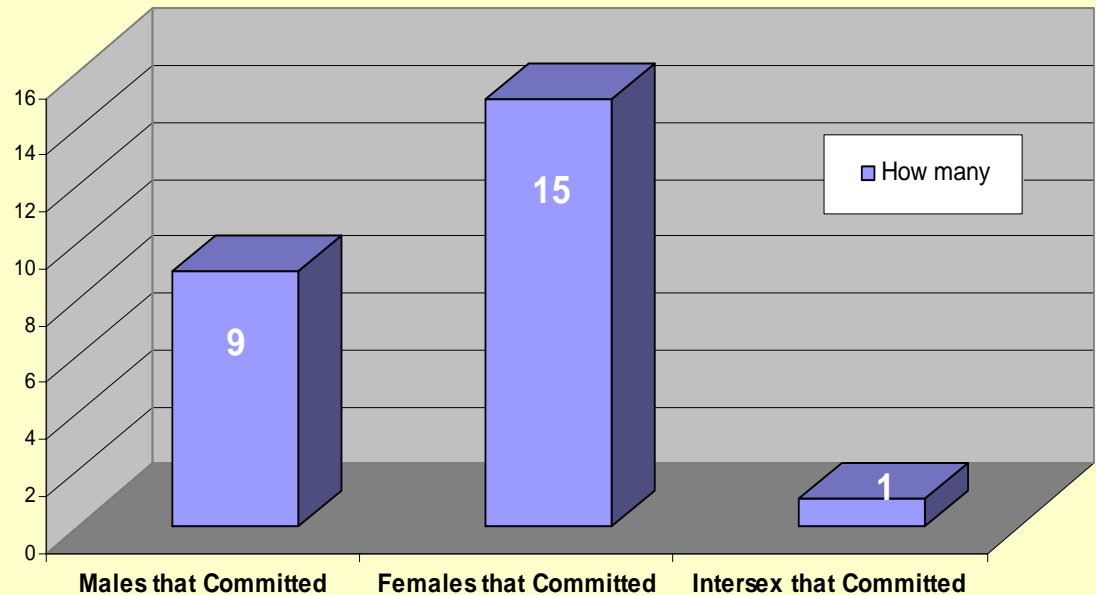
- 7.1% of Males
- 12.7% of Females
- 40% of Intersex

Who Reported Committing Teen Dating Violence?

Committed TDV



Committed TDV by sex

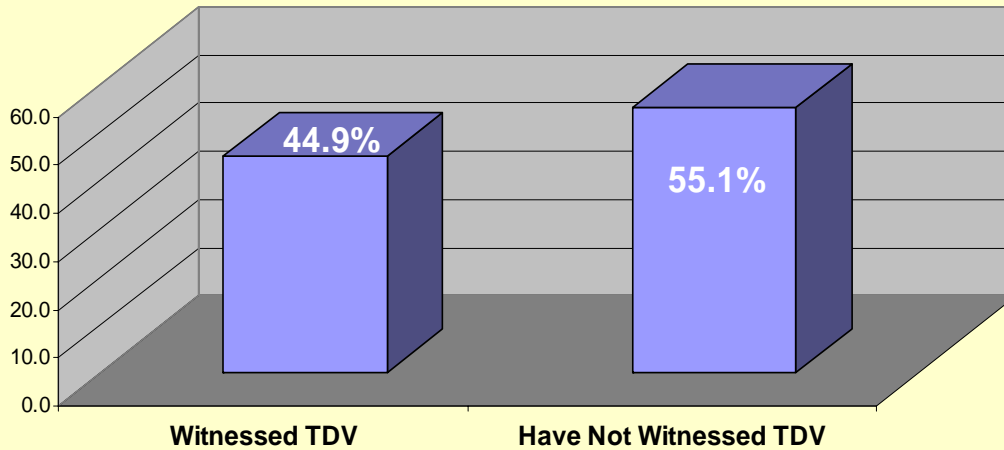


Percent that Committed TDV

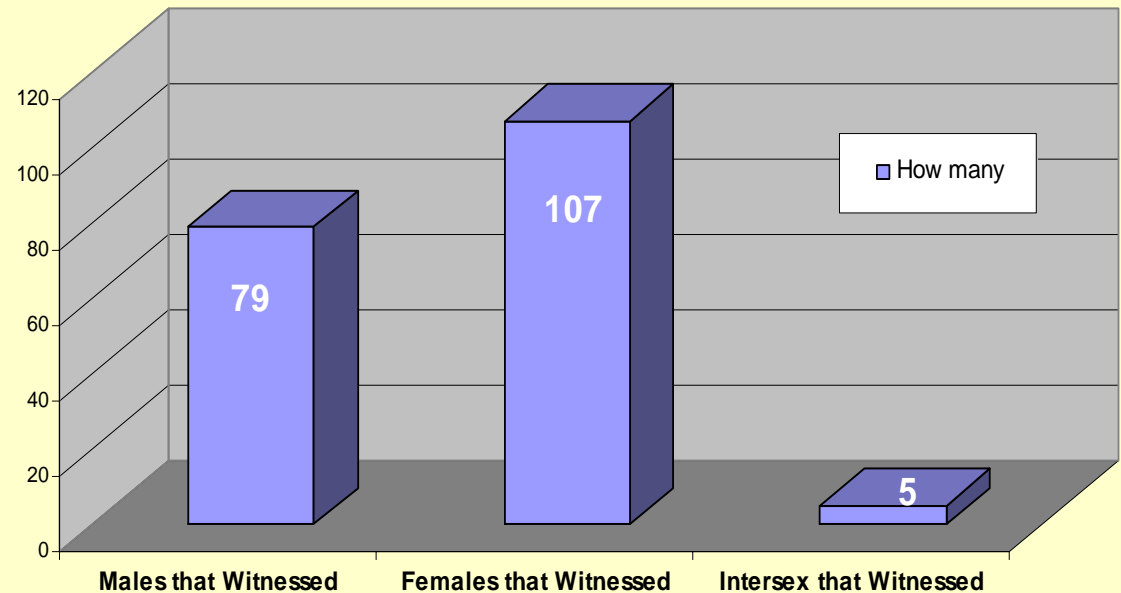
- **4.9% of Males**
- **6.3% of Females**
- **20% of Intersex**

Who Reported Witnessing Teen Dating Violence?

Witnessed TDV



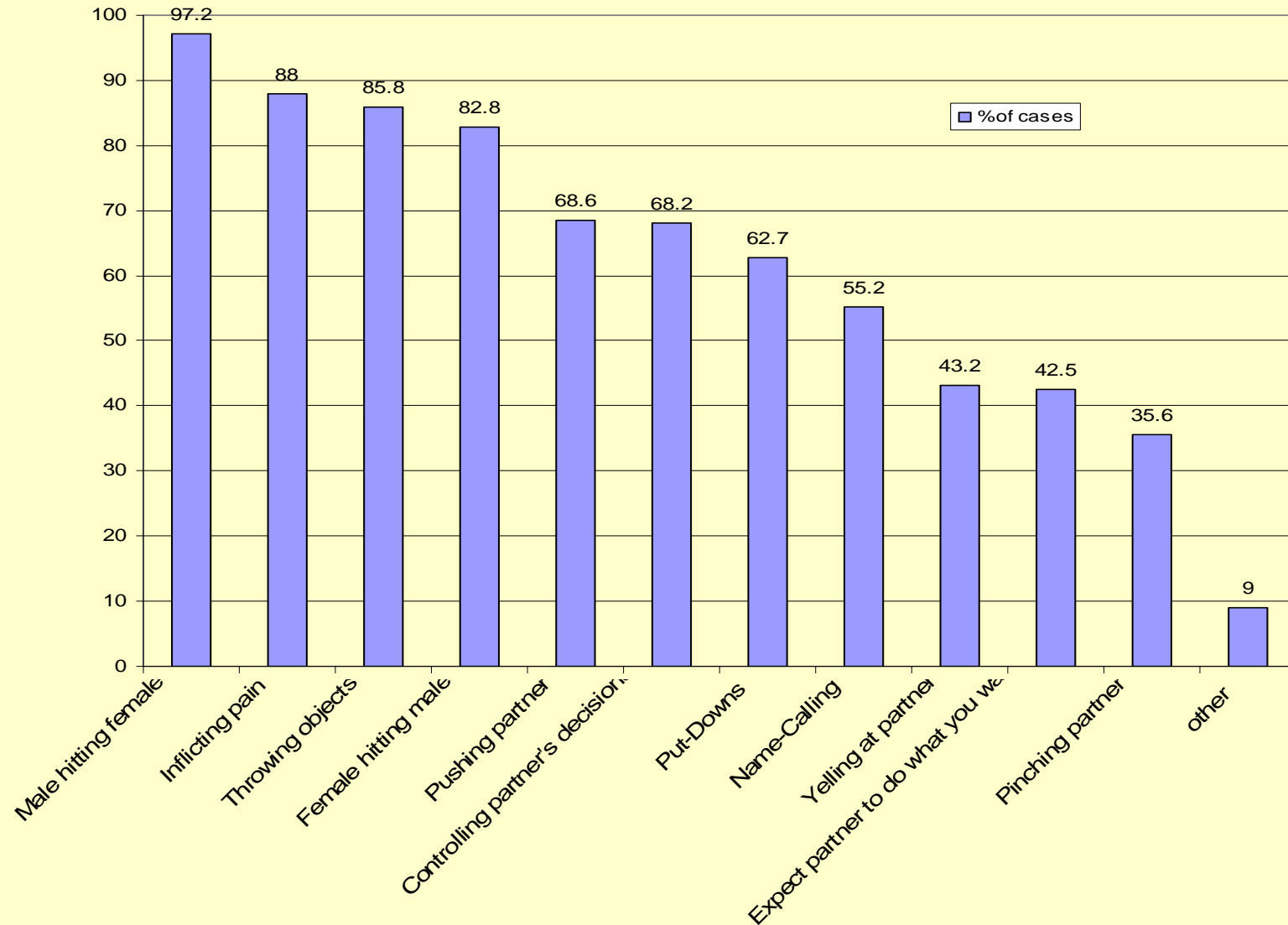
Witnessed TDV by sex



Percent that Witnessed TDV

- 43.4% of Males
- 45% of Females
- 100% of Intersex

What do teens consider Violence in a Relationship?



Behaviors Actually Experienced in Relationships

FEMALES

POSITIVE (78/1%)

Friendship	201
Honesty	184
Conversation	180
Trust	179
Understanding	171
Gift Giving	168
Support	165
Love	145
Acceptance	144
Intimacy	114

NEGATIVE (21.9%)

Yelling	93
Name Calling	75
Expecting Partner to do what you want	54
Put Downs	50
Controlling Partner's Decisions	39
Female hitting male	38
Pushing Partner	31
Male Hitting Female	18
Throwing Objects	17
Inflicting Pain	16

MALES

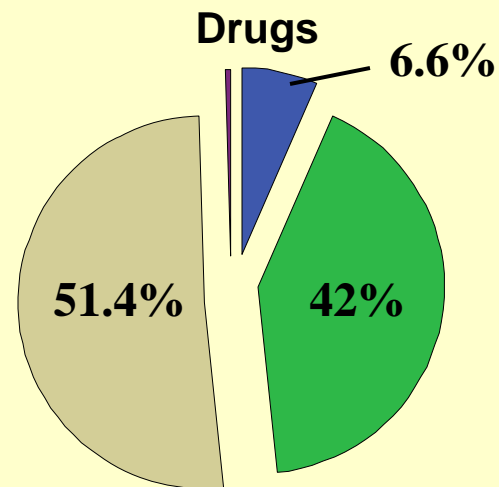
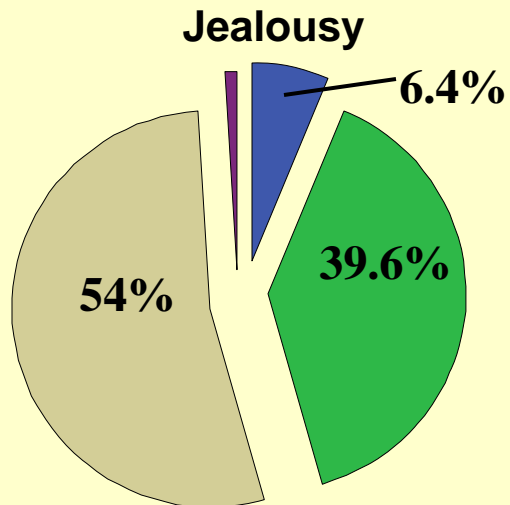
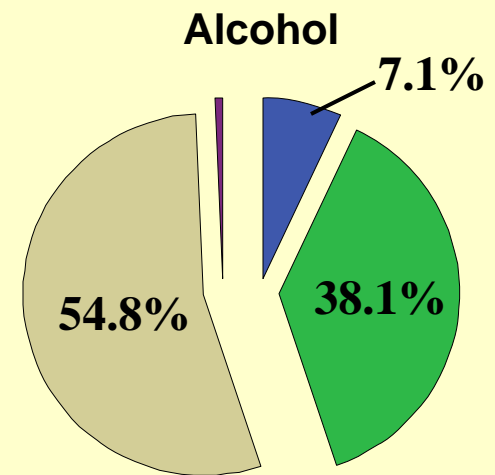
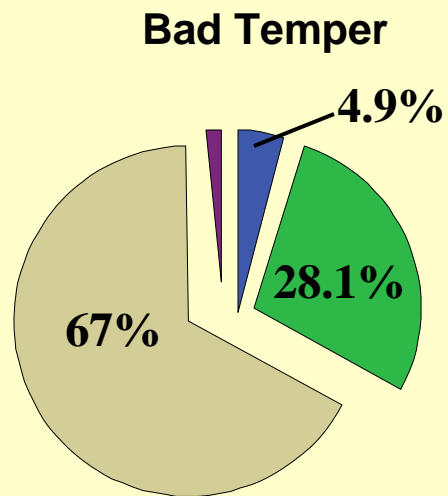
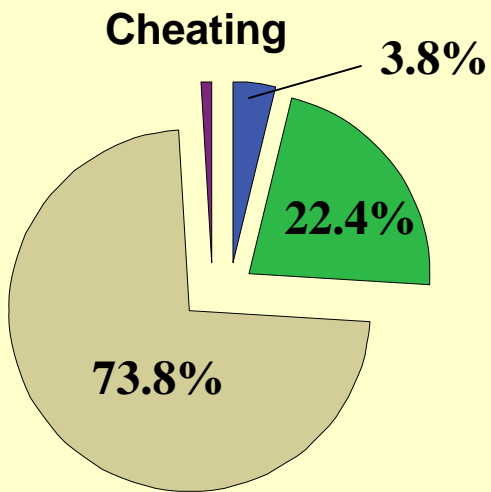
POSITIVE (83.7%)

Friendship	157
Trust	146
Gift Giving	140
Honesty	135
Conversation	135
Understanding	129
Support	126
Love	106
Acceptance	111
Intimacy	88

NEGATIVE (16.3%)

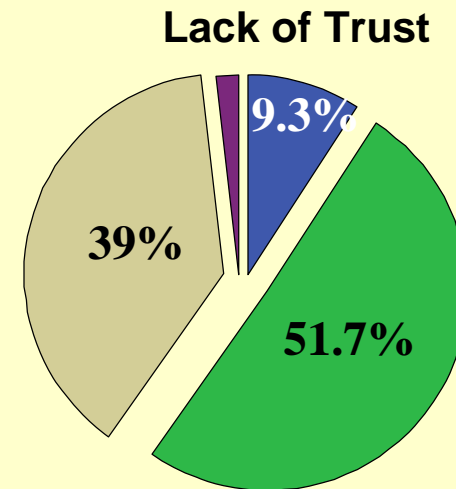
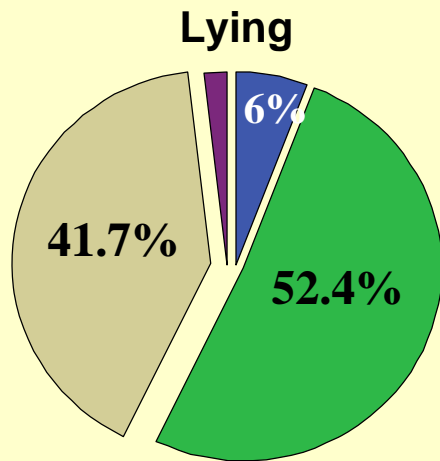
Name Calling	51
Yelling	49
Put Downs	28
Female hitting male	23
Male Hitting Female	20
Expecting Partner to do what you want	20
Controlling Partner's Decisions	19
Pushing Partner	17
Throwing Objects	3
Inflicting Pain	7

What Contributes to Teen Dating Violence and How Much?

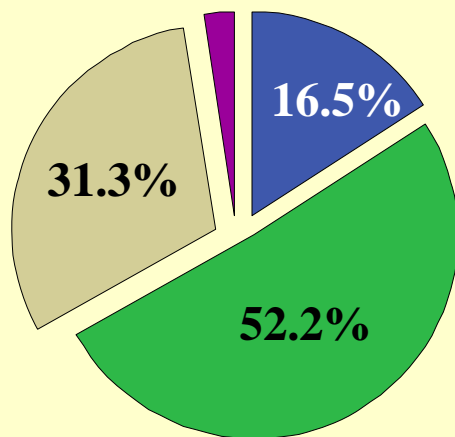


- Not at all
- Some
- A lot
- Missing

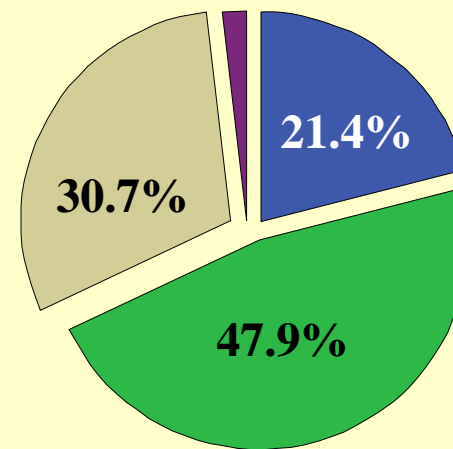
What Contributes to TDV Continued



Gossip/Spreading Rumors

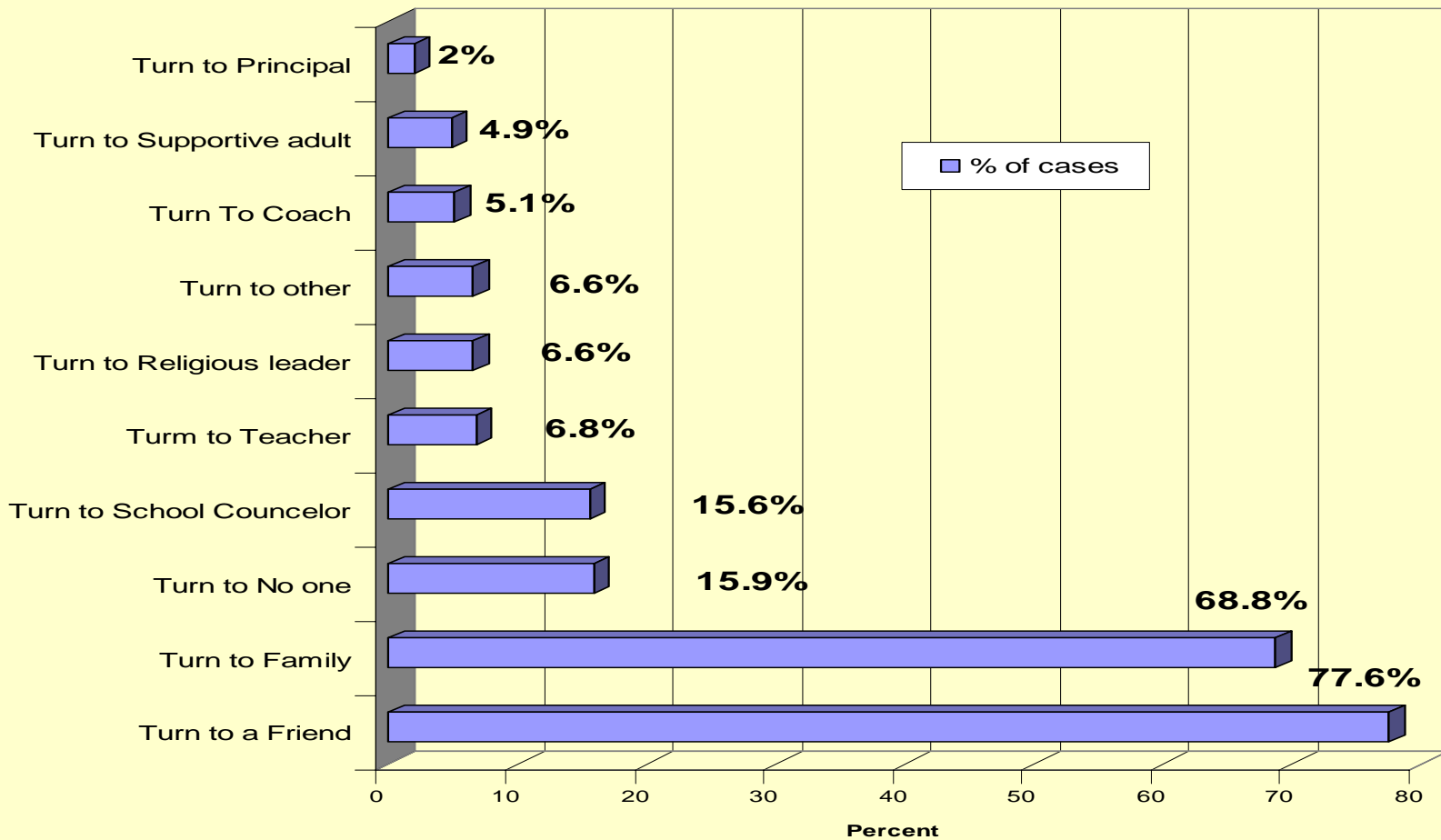


Low Self-Esteem



- Not at all
- Some
- A lot
- Missing

Who would teens turn to if experiencing Teen Dating Violence?



INTERVIEW DEMOGRAPHICS

A total of 25 interviews were conducted

- Medical Professionals: 2 Females
- Security Guard/Hall Monitor: 2 Males
- Principal/Dean of Students: 2 Males
- Teachers: 2 Females
- Parents of Teens: 2 Females
- Counselors: 2 Females
- Peer Educator: 1 Male
- Teen Females: 5
- Teen Males: 7

DEFINITION OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Question: How do adults and youth define Teen Dating Violence?

The adults agree with the teens when they say physical abuse is part of teen dating violence. Only two adults put verbal abuse in their definition, while 70% of the teens did.

It can be anywhere from hitting to shoving to verbal violence.

Medical Professional - Female

TEEN REACTIONS AND EMOTIONS

How do you react when you argue with your with your partner?

Respondents vary: Some look at partner, others sit down, walk away, talk and/or make eye contact.

I just walk away from it or sit down and talk to her about it.

Male Teen

What emotions do teens feel when they break up with their partner?

All said that they would be sad. Both males and females would cry if they really cared. Some said they would be less motivated.

If you've been with that person at least two to three years your going to end up crying because you miss that person a lot and that was basically your partner for life.

Male Teen

SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES AMONG TEENS BY GENDER

How do you think family influences your relationship with your partner, past or present?

- Most males felt that their parent's help/support their relationship by asking questions about their relationship as well as their partner.
- Most females felt that since they have a healthy and open relationship, they could talk to their mom and that their mom could guide them when it was needed.

What is the most common reason teen relationships end?"

Males: Jealousy is a huge part.

Females: Cheating is the most common reason for relationships to end.

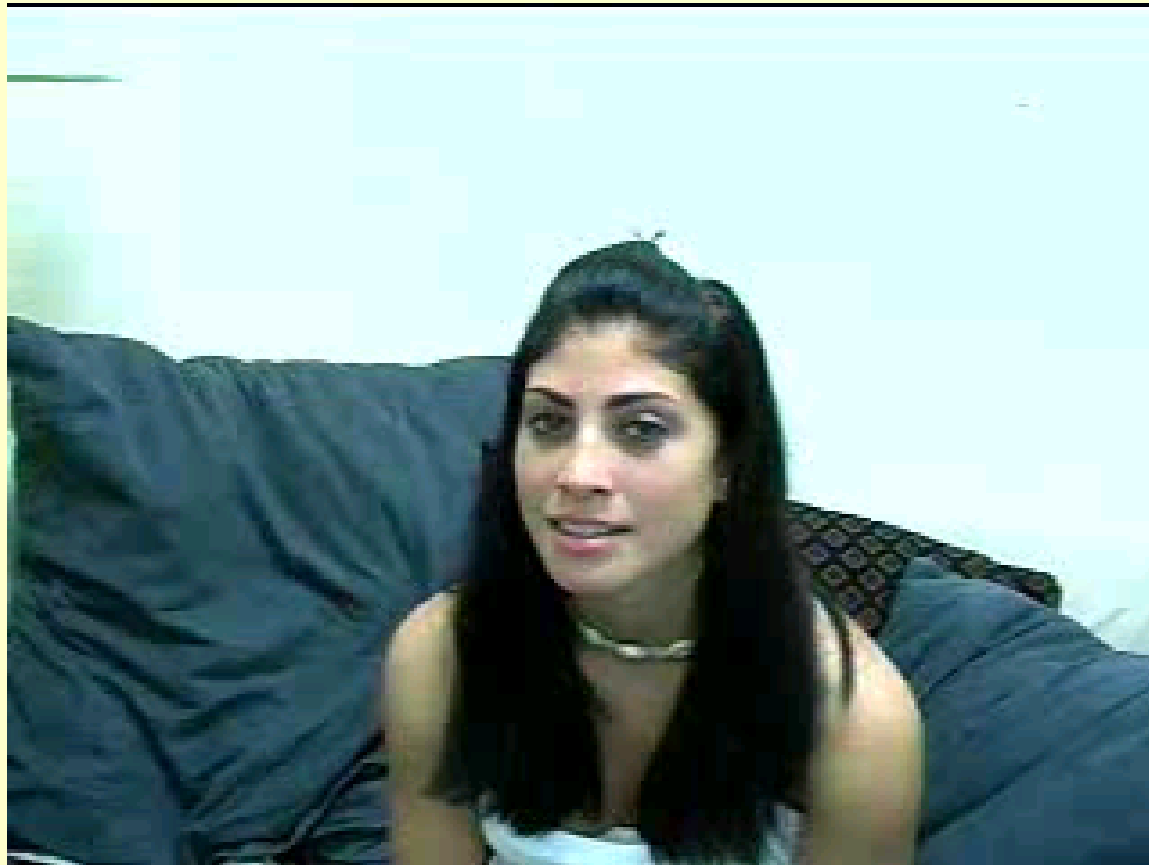
How are males/females similar in their thinking?

Most respondents answers were the same no matter if they were male or female but there were a few differences between the sexes. For example, when asked what types of emotions are felt after breaking up with their partner both respondents answered the same by saying...

I feel she don't wanna be with me no more so it makes me feel a little bit less motivated then I feel sad and stuff like that. It brings me down. That was said by a male.

The female said: *If you've been with them for at least 2 to 3 years you're going to end up crying because you miss that person a lot and that was basically your partner for life that you wanted to be.*

So they both said that they would cry if they were with that person for a long time and really cared about them



Jennifer – Guilford High School - TEAR

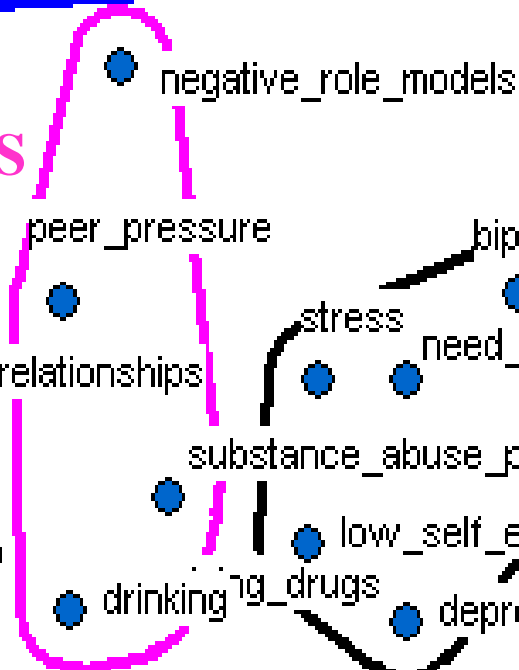
What Causes Teen Dating Violence?

MEDIA

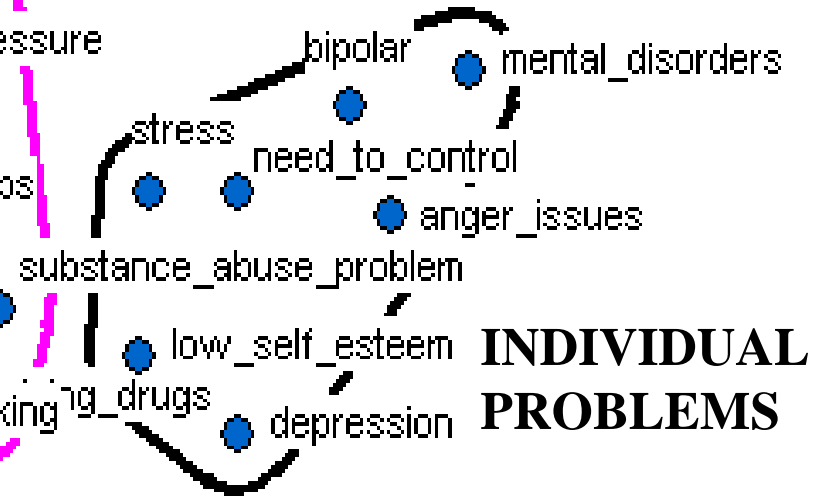
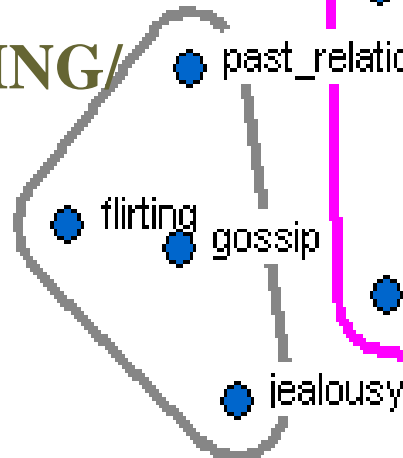


RELATIVES

TEMPTATIONS



SOCIALIZING/ SOCIAL ISSUES

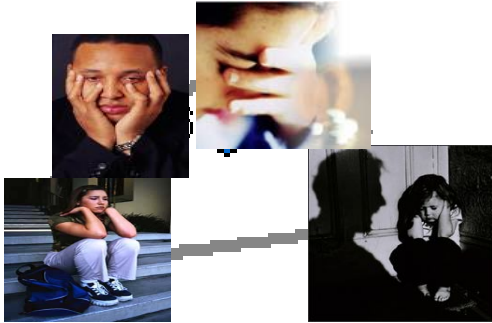


INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS

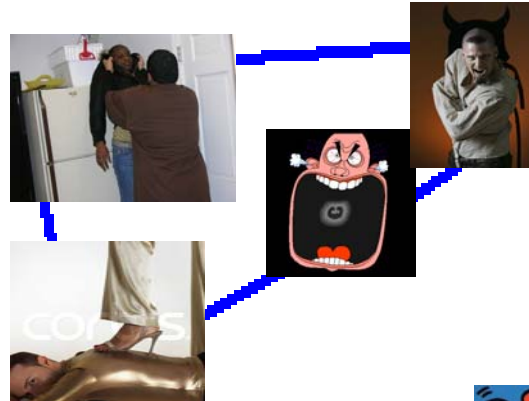
SOCIAL TO PERSONAL →

Causes in Pictures

Emotional Impact



Anger Issues



Individual, Family, and Group Factors



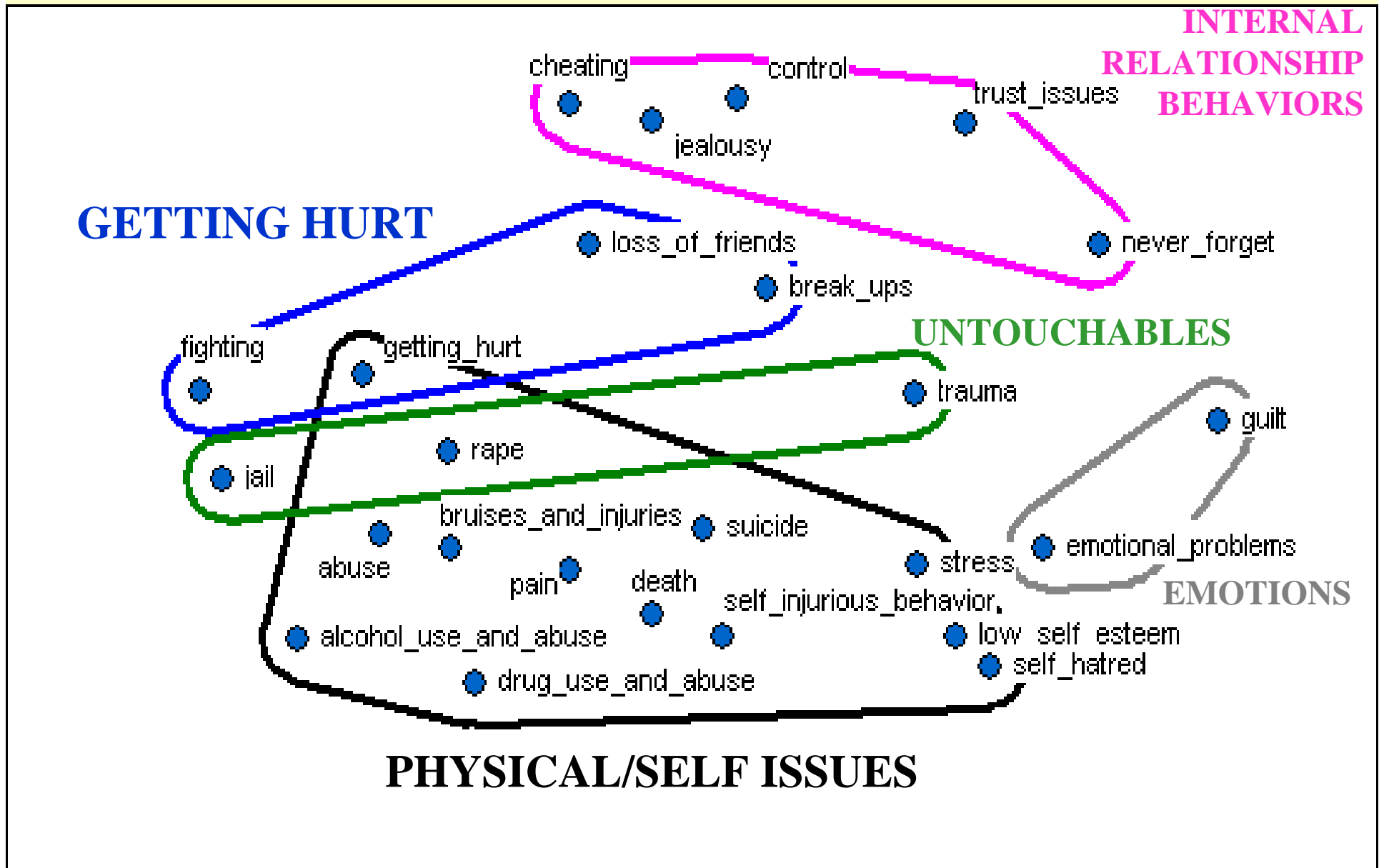
External Influences that affect family behavior



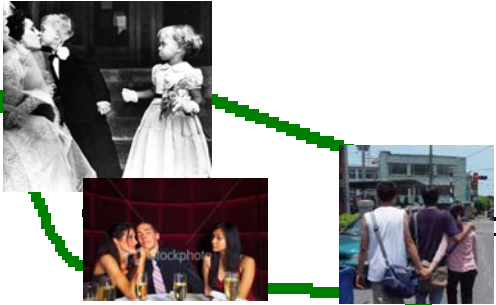
Substance Use and Peers



What are the Consequences of Teen Dating Violence?



Consequences in Pictures



Relationship Problems



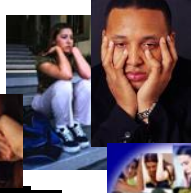
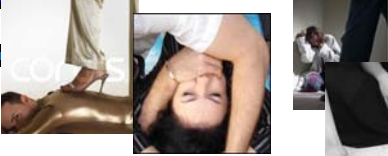
Substance Abuse



Final Stages of Teen Dating Violence



Effects of an Argument



Physical & Emotional Issues



Where do we go from here?

- Peer to Peer Interventions
- Including Teen Dating Violence as a topic in health classes
- Creating skits on TDV using Forum Theater to present at schools and start conversations with teens around the issue.