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| **Document Title:** | **Project D.A.T.E.: A Review of the Findings on Risky Relationships and Teen Dating Violence Among Low Income/Service- Receiving Adolescents in the Charlottesville Area** |
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# Project D.A.T.E.

*Demand Appreciation, Trust, & Equality*

A Review of the Findings on
Risky Relationships and Teen Dating Violence Among
Low-Income/Service-Receiving Adolescents in the
Charlottesville Area

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## The Problem:

- ~ 10% of high school students in the US have experienced physical dating violence in the past year, and 1 in 4 teens have experienced verbal and emotional abuse.
- Teen dating violence is linked to longstanding consequences, such as delinquency, risky sexual behavior, and adult partner violence.

## What We Did:

- The purpose of Project D.A.T.E. was to identify **risk** and **protective** factors related to teen dating violence among a sample of *service-receiving, low-income adolescents*.

## Next Steps:

- Despite a high rate of dating abuse in our sample, many teens also perceived their relationships as positive and caring. This suggests a need for further research examining how teens perceive relationship quality and define dating violence.
- Future research is needed to explore the *context* of teens' relationships and include the perspective of *both* partners.

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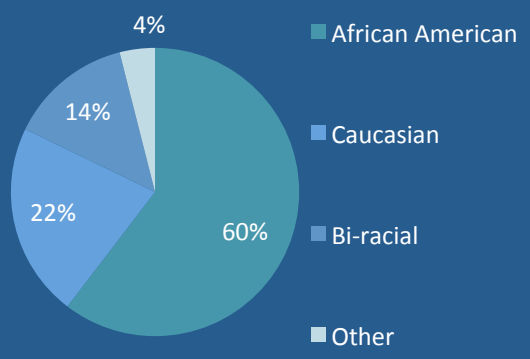
# Participants and Procedure:

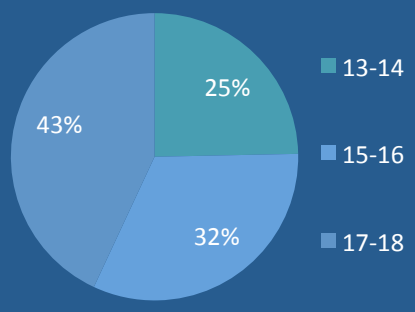
223 adolescents (58% female) completed two interviews that took place roughly a year apart. All participants:

1) Were between ages 13 and 18
2) "Dated someone" or had engaged in a romantic relationship that lasted at least 1 month
3) Received community-based and/or low-income services

Participant Race/Ethnicity:




Participant Age (in years):

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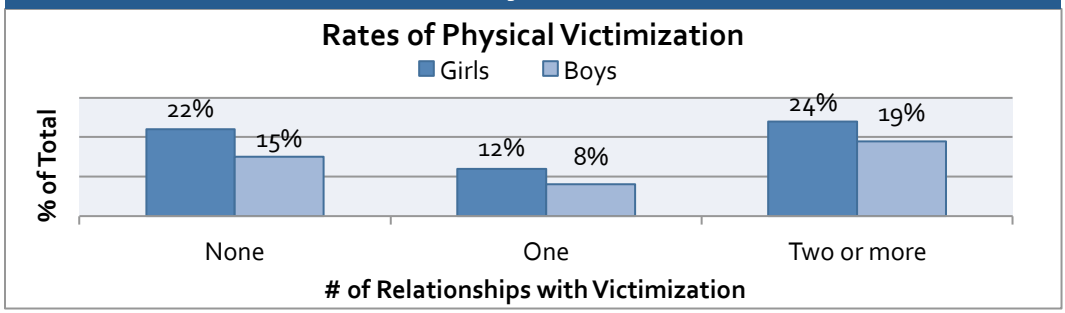
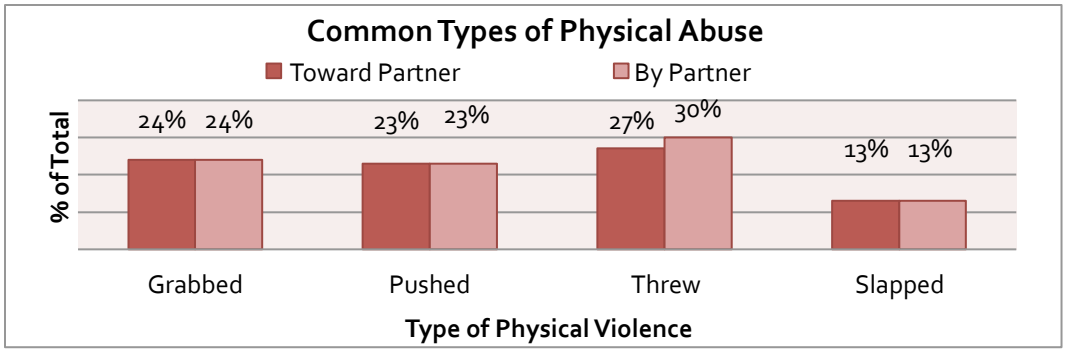
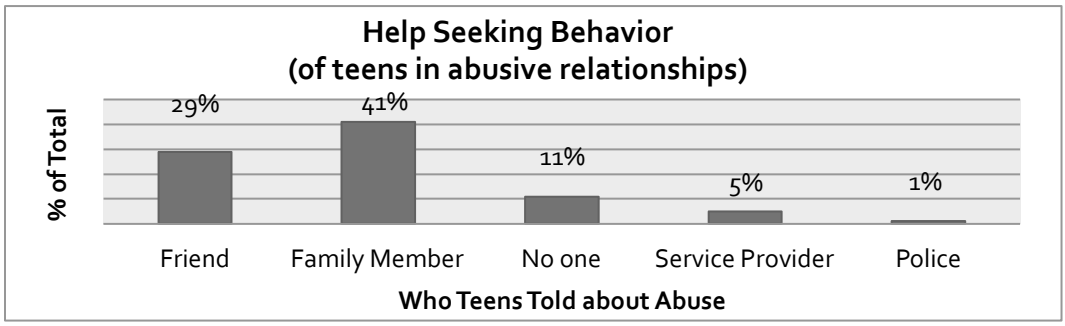
# Summary of Results

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# Key Findings

- Teens carry patterns of aggression learned in earlier relationships into later relationships. Early abuse experiences put teens at greater risk for later victimization.

- Most reported acts of physical violence were less severe (e.g. slapping, pushing) as opposed to more severe (e.g. broken bones, hospitalizations).

- Risk factors associated with experiencing a higher frequency of abuse included: depression, peer delinquency, partners' offending, and dating a much older partner.

- Protective factors associated with experiencing a lower frequency of abuse included: effective coping strategies, supportive parenting, and quality social support.

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# Primary Implications

1) Teen dating violence appears to be a problem in our community. Overall, 63% of teens experienced physical victimization in one or more relationship.

2) Abuse tended to be reciprocal; most boys and girls were both victims *and* perpetrators.

3) Most abusive relationships did *not* come to the attention of formal service providers. When teens did report violence, they usually told a peer or family member.

4) Given the high rates of violence among this group of service-receiving teens, service providers may be well positioned to screen for violence and refer teens to appropriate interventions.

5) Teens may not identify or define abuse in the same way as service providers. Screening procedures may be more effective if they include language that better matches with many teens' experiences of less-severe, often reciprocal relationship abuse.

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# Collaborators & Supporters

- Mike Murphy, The Attention Home, and the Community Attention Youth Internship Program
- Boys and Girls Club
- People Places
- Teen Health Center
- Charlottesville Court Service Unit
- Charlottesville Department of Social Services
- Westhaven Community Resource Center
- Friendship Court Community Resource Center
- Murray High School
- And many other excellent service providers

Keep in touch!
We plan to have more information in the future.
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## Thank you!

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