

Dating/Intimate Partner Violence- FAQs

Dating/Intimate Partner Violence is more common than you may think, approximately 32% of college relationships include physical assault.¹

What is Dating/Intimate Partner Violence?

Dating/intimate partner violence is violence, force, or threat that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury committed by a person who is or has been in a close relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the other person. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

What does Dating/Intimate Partner Violence look like?

Dating/intimate partner violence can seem sudden or escalate over time; it may include actions or threats of actions such as:

- Constantly insulting or putting down partner and/or humiliating partner in public or in front of loved ones
- Coercing or forcing partner to engage in unwanted or nonconsensual sexual acts
- Controlling partner's movements or decisions and/or finances
- Threatening partner bodily harm or harm to loved ones or pets
- Using physical violence such as choking, pushing or hitting
- Stalking partner before, during or after the end of a relationship
- Continuous repeated attempts to communicate with partner via phone, emails, social media, internet, etc.

Victims can experience more than one type of abusive behavior. The majority of women (81%) who experienced stalking also experienced physical violence by their intimate partner. 57% of the rapes experienced by college students happened on dates.³ This shows that sexual assault and/or stalking can sometimes be components of dating/intimate partner violence.

What can you do if you or someone you know is a victim of Dating/Intimate Partner violence?

- It is important to seek support to understand what your options mean and seek accompaniment through the process. Committing Dating/Intimate Partner Violence is a crime and against NOVA student conduct policy. For more information on NOVA's sexual misconduct policy, visit the [Title IX](#) webpage. NOVA's Office of Wellness and Mental Health can help you think about your options and talk about how the incident(s) has impacted you. You have the right to file a police report, file a report with the Office of Wellness and Mental Health, or contact the Title IX Coordinator.
- Go to a safe place and seek medical attention, if needed. If you are a victim and need shelter or basic needs, call the Title IX Coordinator at 703-323-2262. We can also give you referrals to local resources.
- In case of an emergency, first call 911 or notify campus police at 703-764-5000.
- If you are a victim of Dating/Intimate Partner violence, know that the abuse is never your fault and there are resources available for you.

1. Mahoney, P., Williams, L. M., & West, C. M. (2001). Violence Against Women by Intimate Relationship Partners. In *Sourcebook on Violence Against Women* (p. 143). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
2. Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N. (1998). *Stalking in America: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Study*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/169592.pdf>
3. Warsaw, R. (1994). *"I Never Called it Rape:" The Ms. Report on Recognizing, Fighting, and Surviving Date and Acquaintance Rape*. New York, NY: Harper Perennial.