

# Teen Dating Violence & Technology

The survey was conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) for Liz Claiborne Inc. Teens surveyed range in age from 13-18. Key Findings Include:

Teens report dating abuse via technology is a serious problem:

- 71% of teens regard boyfriends/girlfriends spreading rumors about them on cellphones and social networking sites as a serious problem.
- 68% of teens say boyfriends/girlfriends sharing private or embarrassing pictures/videos on cell phones and computers is a serious problem.

Cell phone calls and texting at unimaginable frequency mean constant control day and night: Nearly one in four teens in a relationship (24%) communicated with their partner via cellphone or texting HOURLY between midnight and 5 a.m.

- One in three teens (30%) say they are text messaged 10, 20, 30 times an hour by a partner inquiring where they are, what they're doing, or who they're with.

Parents do not know about dating teens' constant contact

- 67% of parents whose teens were checked up on 30 times per day on their cell phone were unaware this was happening.
- 82% of parents whose teens were emailed or texted 30 times per hour were unaware this was happening.

Cell phones and Internet have become weapons of teen dating abuse

- One in four teens in a relationship (25%) say they have been called names, harassed, or put down by their partner through cellphones and texting.
- One in five teens in a relationship (22%) have been asked to engage in sex by cellphone or the Internet when they do not want to.

Parents do not know about this abuse

- 71% of parents were unaware that their teen is afraid of not responding to a cell phone call, text or IM message or email for fear of what their partner might do.
- 67% of parents were unaware that their teen was asked to have sex or engage in sexual acts via cell phone, email, IM, or texting when they did not want to.
- 57% of parents believe that computers and cell phones make abuse in teen dating relationships more likely to occur. And 53% of parents believe that computers and cell phones make abuse easier to conceal.
- But roughly one in four parents of teens (28%) say they limit their teenager's use of a cell phone and online communications with a partner.



Information provided by the Mary Kay Ash Foundation.  
For more information, contact the Indiana Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence at (317) 917-3685 or visit [www.violenceresource.org](http://www.violenceresource.org)  
Statewide toll free hotline 1-800-332-7385