



Social Groups May Help Protect Teen Girls from Partner Abuse

When it comes to preventing teenage dating violence, a girl's group of friends may play a key role. A new study from the University of Vermont has found that circles of friends set the rules and social norms for dating relationships, and that the risk of abuse is greatest when a relationship takes place farthest away from the circle. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one out of 11 adolescents reports physical abuse from a boyfriend or girlfriend each year.

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For more information on Youth Development [click Here](#).

Parents: YOU Do MATTER!

Parents who are intolerant of drug use and let their children know it are less likely to have kids who use drugs, according to researchers at Brigham Young University.

HealthDay News reported Dec. 9, 2005 that researchers asked about 4,000 7th- through 12th-graders to rate their parents' tolerance toward marijuana on a five-point scale. For every degree of tolerance, frequency of youth marijuana use increased 33 percent; for every degree that students believed their parents were monitoring their behavior (a separate question), marijuana use declined 10 percent.

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Want to know what is happening in each of the 7 HCTC communities? [Click Here](#)

FOCUS ON ALCOHOL, CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

Most American communities are a mosaic of diversity and include a broad range of cultures and traditions. These traditions shape how people see the world and can influence their attitudes toward alcohol use. For example, some cultures believe that it is masculine for men to drink, but place sanctions on women for the same behavior. In other cultures, use of alcohol by teenagers may be viewed as a relatively harmless rite of passage and not as an illegal and sometimes dangerous practice.

Facts

- ☑ Acculturation has an enormous impact on drinking patterns. Research shows that while many new immigrants have low alcohol use rates, drinking rates rise among those who become assimilated into the mainstream U.S. culture (NIAAA)
- ☑ Although highly variable among tribes, alcohol abuse is a factor in the five leading causes of death for American Indians, including motor vehicle crashes, cirrhosis, suicide, and homicide (Ibid)
- ☑ Alcohol is the main substance used by Hispanic/Latino youth. Approximately 2 out of every 10 Hispanic/Latino teens report using alcohol recently (SAMHSA)

What to Do

- ☑ Encourage parents to talk to their kids about the traditions behind alcohol and their own family
- ☑ Educate parents and youth about how underage drinking has affected other countries with lower minimum drinking age laws. [Click here for more information on this topic](#)