

FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION:



DISRUPTING FINANCIAL CONTROL AMONG TEEN DATING PARTNERS



A survey of nearly 3,000 13-19 year-olds, conducted by Futures Without Violence, in partnership with University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and The Allstate Foundation in 2021, found that economic abuse – when a partner interferes with one's education, work, or finances – is common among teen dating partners.

These early experiences of economic abuse can have devastating effects on teens' educational attainment, career pathways, and future economic security.

Economic abuse is a deliberate pattern of control in which individuals interfere with their partner's ability to acquire, use, and maintain economic resources.

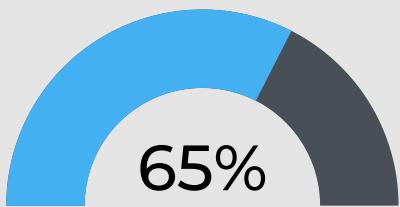
What does financial control look like?



Being pressured to:

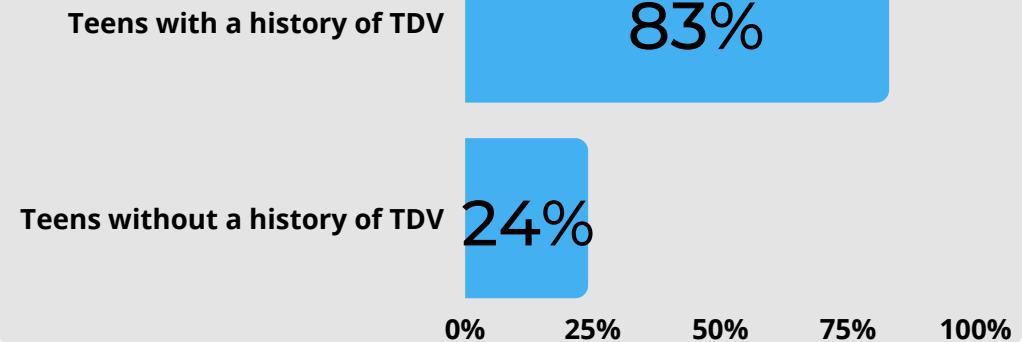
- let their partner manage their money
- spend money on their partner when they don't want to
- give their partner money
- pay for most or all dates/activities they do together
- being told how to spend their money

Key Findings

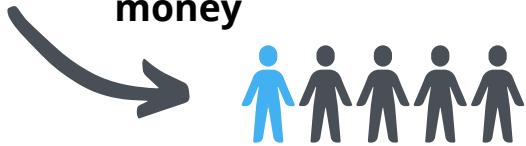


of all respondents reported experiencing some form of financial interference

Percent of teens who experienced financial control by history of teen dating violence (TDV)



67% said their partner **told them how to spend their money**



one in five teens reported that they spent their money as they were told because they felt **threatened, scared, or bullied** by their partner

67% reported that their partner tried to convince them to allow them to **hold on to or manage their money**

23% allowed them to because they felt threatened, scared, or bullied into it by their partner



38% reported that a past or current partner interfered with or sought to control how they used their own money

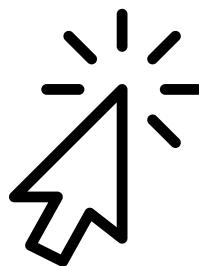
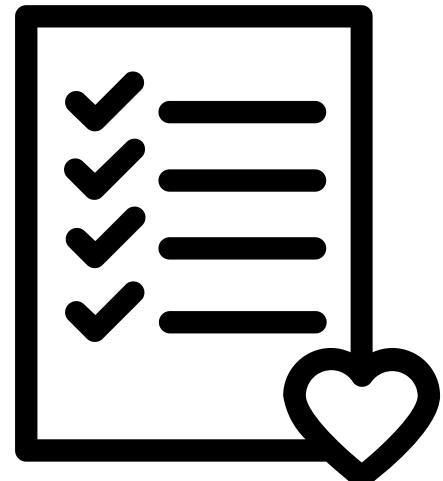
Who are most impacted?

Among respondents, individuals who identified as gender-diverse (transgender or gender-non-conforming), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or between 15 and 17 years old reported experiencing the highest rates of educational interference AND using such behaviors in their relationships.

Take Action

Financial educators, parents and guardians, and youth serving individuals can play an important role in modeling safe financial relationships. Get started with these steps:

- 1** Educate financial literacy educators on economic abuse and what financial sabotage, control, and exploitation can look between teen dating partners
- 2** Adapt economic abuse and financial safety planning content from the [Moving Ahead Curriculum](#), a financial education program for survivors of domestic violence, for existing financial literacy programming
- 3** Provide parents with guidance on how to discuss financial safety and boundaries with their children
- 4** Ensure that teens have access to comprehensive financial literacy programming
- 5** Educate teens on the elements of a healthy financial relationship and what boundaries are appropriate for teen dating partners, what actions may be controlling, and how healthy financial relationships differ between youth and adults
- 6** Develop resources to educate teens on financial intimacy within relationships and how to safely enter a financial relationship with an intimate partner



For more information visit:
[www.futureswithoutviolence.org/
teenDV/](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/teenDV/)