ECONOMIC ABUSE WITHIN ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIPS

Views, Attitudes, and Influential Factors

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.

Key Findings

Views on whether education/employment interference, financial control, or financial interference is dating or domestic violence

- Yes
- It Depends
- No

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<th>Yes</th>
<th>It Depends</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education/Employment Interference</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Control</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Exploitation</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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Economic abuse is “a deliberate pattern of control in which individuals interfere with their partner’s ability to acquire, use, and maintain economic resources.”
Respondents expressed neutral views around relationship priorities, partner roles and expectations, and gender roles within relationships including:

- "Being in a relationship with someone who can provide for my basic needs or give me a certain status or cool lifestyle is more important than being in a healthy relationship."
- "When a partner gives a gift or pays for a date, they should expect something in return."
- "Gender should determine a person's role in their relationship(s) related to who is the provider, who is the caregiver, and who controls household finances."

81% of respondents said their parent(s) or guardian(s) shape their views about healthy relationships.

78% of respondents said their parent(s) or guardian(s) and other family members shape their views around gender roles and norms.

Recommendations

Findings from this survey demonstrate a need for a greater focus on economic abuse within teen dating violence and domestic violence awareness efforts:

- Healthy relationships programs should incorporate information about economic abuse into existing content as well as address economic power dynamics and how they may impact relationship priorities, expectations, and gender roles.
- Add economic abuse to the Teen Dating Violence Power and Control Wheel.
- Provide parents and guardians with conversation guides around economic abuse to help teens establish healthy relationships and healthy financial practices.

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