



School years riskiest for relationship 'violence'

Two-fifths of young adults say they have been victims: study

Shannon Proudfoot
Canwest News Service

Tuesday, July 08, 2008

More than two in five university-aged adults have been victims of some form of relationship violence, and almost one in five has been a perpetrator.

Forty-two per cent of the young adults have been the victims of violence at some point in their lives, according to a U.S. study released yesterday, including 53 per cent of women and 27 per cent of men.

At the same time, 17 per cent admit to inflicting such violence, and 15 per cent say they have been both victims and perpetrators.

Those who admit being the perpetrators of relationship violence include 19 per cent of women and 15 per cent of men. The true figures, the authors say, are likely even higher -- especially for men on the receiving end.

"Men may under-report victimization because of shame, embarrassment and fear that their masculinity may be questioned," the researchers from Pennsylvania write in the July issue of the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.

Violence rates rise most sharply between the ages of 15 and 17 and continue climbing through the postsecondary years, the researchers found, and such violence is most likely to happen at the hands of a romantic partner.

"It could be a 40-year-old person or it could be a 14-year-old person -- when you're deep into it, you don't realize it, because it starts off so subtle," says Cheryl-Lynn Roberts, a counsellor at Kids Help Phone in Canada.

In the study, the researchers asked college students about physical violence such as pushing or grabbing, emotional

"violence" such as being put down or isolated from family and friends, and sexual violence like being pressured or forced into sexual contact.

© The Ottawa Citizen 2008

CLOSE WINDOW

Copyright © 2008 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.
CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.