

# Domestic Violence Quiz

## Myth or Fact?

State whether you think the following 12 statement is a **myth** or if you think it is a **fact**. After taking the quiz, check the correct answers below.

1. Domestic violence usually only happens in married adult couples.
2. Boyfriends and girlfriends sometimes push each other around when they get angry, but it rarely results in anyone getting seriously hurt.
3. While females can be abusive and abuse happens in same-sex couples too, it is much more common for males to abuse their female partners.
4. If a mother is abused by her children's father; the children are also likely to be abused.
5. Most people will end a relationship if their boyfriend or girlfriend hits them.
6. People abuse their partners because they can't control their anger.
7. Most men who abuse their partners grew up in violent homes.
8. If a person is really being abused, it's easy to just leave.
9. Most rapes are committed by strangers who attack women at night on the streets.
10. A pregnant woman is at an even greater risk of physical abuse.
11. Relationship abuse happens most often among Blacks and Hispanics.
12. People who are abused often blame themselves for their abuse.

## Answers

1. **MYTH** - The fact is that a many as one-third of all high school and college-age young people experience violence in an intimate or dating relationship. (Levy, B., *Dating Violence: Young Women in Danger*, The Seal Press, Seattle, WA, 1990.) **Physical abuse is as common among high school and college-age couples as married couples.** (Jezel, Molidor, and Wright and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, *Teen Dating Violence Resource Manual*, NCADV, Denver, CO, 1996.)
2. **MYTH** - The fact is that Domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 - 44 in the U.S. -more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined. (*Uniform Crime Reports*, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1991.) Of the women murdered each year in the U.S., 30% are killed by their current or former husband or boyfriend. (*Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 1995.)
3. **FACT** - About 95% of know victims of relationship violence are females abused by their male partners. (Straus, M.A., and Gelles, R.J. (eds), *Physical Violence in American Families*, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, NJ. 1990.)
4. **FACT** - 50% of men who frequently abuse their wives also frequently abuse their children. (Stacy, W. and Schupe, A., *The Family Secret*, Beacon Press, Boston, MA, 1983.) **A child who lives in a family where there is violence between parents is 15 times more likely to be abused.** (L. Bergman, "Dating violence among high school students," *Social Work* 37 (1), 1992.)

5. **MYTH** - The fact is that **nearly 80% of girls who have been physically abused in their intimate relationships continue to date their abuser after the onset of violence.** (*Uniform Crime Reports*, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1991.)
6. **MYTH** - The fact is that **People who abuse are usually not out of control, they do it to gain power and control over the other person. They often use a series of tactics besides violence including threats, intimidation, psychological abuse and isolation to control their partners.** (Straus, M.A., Gelles R.J. & Steinmetz, S., *Behind Closed Doors*, Anchor Books, NY, 1980.)
7. **FACT** - Men who have witnessed violence between parents are three times more likely to abuse their own wives and children than children of non-violent parents. The sons of the most violent parents are 1000 times more likely to become batterers. (Barbara Hart, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1988.)
8. **MYTH** - There are many very complicated reasons why it's difficult for a person to leave an abusive partner. One very common reason is fear - women who leave abusers are at a 75% greater chance of being killed by the abuser than those who stay. (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey, 1995.)
9. **MYTH** - About 80% of rapes and sexual assaults are committed by a partner, friend or acquaintance of the victim. (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey, 1995.)
10. **FACT** - Pregnant women are especially at risk for abuse. It is estimated that more than one-third of pregnant women are abused. (Berry, Dawn Bradley, *The Domestic Violence Sourcebook*, Lowell House, Los Angeles, 1996.) It is common for physical abuse to begin or escalate during pregnancy.
11. **MYTH** - Women of all races are equally likely to be abused by a partner. (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Violence by Intimates*, March 1998.)
12. **FACT** - Most people who are abused blame themselves for causing the violence. (Barnett, Martinex, Keyson, "The relationship between violence, social support, and self-blame in battered women," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1996) However, the fact is that **NO ONE is ever to blame for another person's violence - violence is always a choice, and the responsibility is 100% with the person who is violent.**