

From research to action: Disrupting education interference among teen dating partners



a project by teens for
teens and the adults who
support them

The Basics



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.

This can include education sabotage/interference, employment sabotage/interference, and financial control and exploitation.

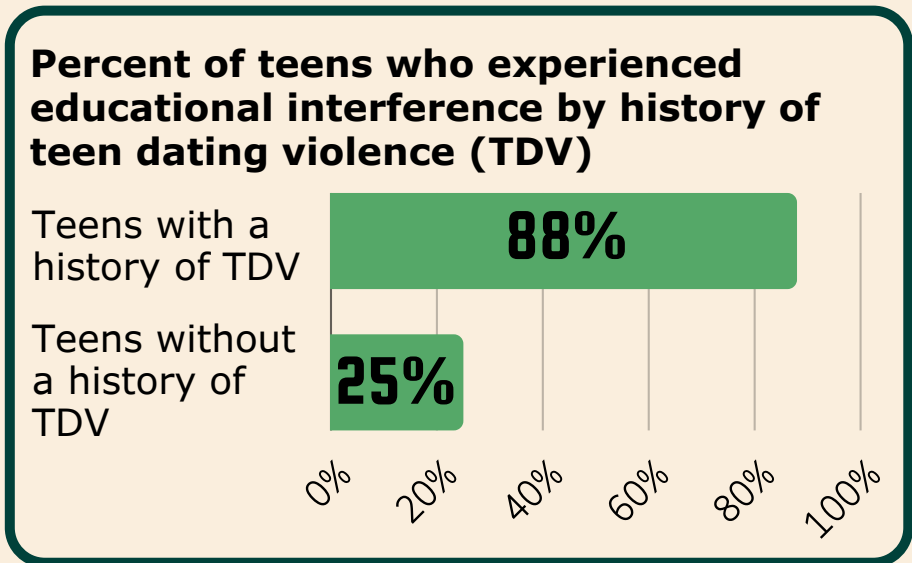
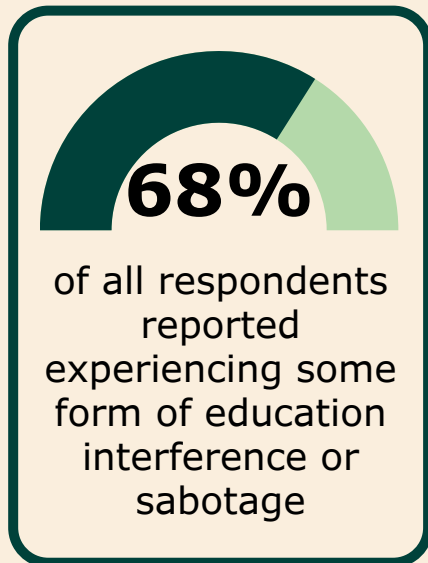
What does economic abuse involving education look like?



When someone pressures their partner to:

- spend less time studying
- skip class or school
- drop out of school
- drop out of an important extracurricular activity or club
- only participate in the same activities
- change post-graduation plans

Key Findings



two thirds said their partner **tried to convince them to skip class or school**



22% did skip class or school because they felt threatened, scared, or bullied by their partner

60% reported that their partner tried to **convince them to change their post-graduation plans**



one in five did change their post-graduation plans because they felt threatened, scared, or bullied by their partner

35% shared that a past or current partner **discouraged or put them down for working towards their career goals**

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.