

Physical Assault in Dating Relationships Quiz and Answer Key



1. A one-time incident of pushing or slapping a person can be considered physical assault.

Answer:



TRUE. Physical assault may include a single episode or repeated episodes. At times, it can take place in a pattern called the “cycle of violence”.

2. Only males use physical assault in relationships, because they are bigger and stronger.

Answer:



FALSE. Both males and females use physical assault in their relationships. However, there are some differences in how they use and experience physical violence:

- Females are more likely to use physical assault in self-defense, both in response to physical assault by their partner and in response to their partner’s efforts to control their behaviour through emotional abuse.
- Females are more likely to experience severe physical violence.
- Physical assault used by males often results in greater and more serious injury than physical assault used by females.

3. Alcohol and drugs are the cause of physical assault in relationships.

Answer:



FALSE. Anger, jealousy, and the desire for power and control are the most common reasons for physical violence in relationships. Alcohol and drugs can be a contributing factor.

4. Physical assault only happens in heterosexual or straight relationships.

Answer:



FALSE. Physical assault can happen in all relationships, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. The dynamics of physical assault in LGBTQ2S relationships are similar to the dynamics of physical assault in straight relationships. However, issues such as finding support or being willing to disclose (especially if the individual is not out) may prevent LGBTQ2S youth from speaking out or getting help.

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5. One of the reasons that people stay in physically violent relationships is because they love the person.

Answer:



TRUE. A person may stay in a physically violent relationship because of love for their partner. Although people who are being physically assaulted may want the violence to stop, they may not want the relationship to end. They may also stay due to fear, financial dependency, or a false belief that violence is normal.

6. Many individuals provoke physical assault through their actions and behaviour.

Answer:



FALSE. No one asks to be assaulted. No one is responsible if someone physically assaults them.

While assault may be triggered by an external event, it is the OFFENDER'S inability to handle anger, fear, or jealousy, or the OFFENDER'S desire for power or control of the situation, that is responsible for the violence.

Offenders will often try to justify their actions by blaming others, but the blame belongs squarely on the person who used physical violence.

7. Physical assault is against the law, and a youth can be charged with a crime.

Answer:



TRUE. Hitting is not a sign of love or part of a healthy relationship, and youth can face legal consequences. Physical assault is a criminal offence under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.