

Teen Dating Violence

OVERVIEW



prepared by

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A project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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OVERVIEW

This information packet has been developed by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) as an introduction to the dynamics, prevalence and consequences of teen dating violence. The packet explores issues specific to teen dating violence, examines current provision of support services for teens and presents information about a variety of promising prevention and intervention strategies. While some awareness materials such as booklets, checklists and posters are included, the intent of packet contents is to examine some of the key dating violence issues currently facing teens and their advocates.

Though teen dating violence is a serious and prevalent threat to the welfare of youth, it has not received the same level of attention given to other forms of juvenile violence (Silverman, Raj, Mucci & Hathaway, 2001). Abuse in adolescent dating relationships has often been overshadowed by concerns about other threats to teen health and well-being – school violence, gang activity, abuse by family members, substance abuse, pregnancy, eating disorders, homelessness and suicide. Until recently, many communities have seen teen dating violence as neither prevalent nor sufficiently concerning. While extensive research, education, intervention and prevention efforts related to teen dating violence began in the 1980s and increased in the 1990s, teen dating violence has not, to date, received the same level of community or national response as other youth violence – particularly school violence and gang activity. These two forms of youth violence may have taken precedence over teen dating violence because of their perceived impact on the entire community. At the same time, teen dating violence has most often been considered less of a societal threat. Identified as the result of things such as a lack of experience in forming relationships, teen dating violence has rarely been viewed as a public problem worthy of large-scale studies, awareness campaigns or broad-based prevention efforts. Researchers, advocates and teens, however, continue to urge community members to recognize teen dating violence as prevalent, often closely tied to the high risk factors listed above, and potentially lethal.

Dating violence... a pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse, perpetrated by an adolescent against a current or former dating partner. Abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse. The abusive teen uses this pattern of violent and coercive behavior, in a heterosexual or homosexual dating relationship, in order to gain power and maintain control over the dating partner.

DEFINITION OF DATING VIOLENCE

Dating violence occurs in the intimate relationships of persons ranging in age from pre-teen through adulthood. Information within this packet is

specific to the violence and abuse found in the dating relationships of teens between the ages of 13 and 18 and is defined, for the purposes of this information packet, as follows:

a pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse, perpetrated by an adolescent against a current or former dating partner. Abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse. The abusive teen uses this pattern of violent and coercive behavior, in a heterosexual or homosexual dating relationship, in order to gain power and maintain control over the dating partner.

While the above definition could be used to describe domestic violence, it is important to distinguish between the two by considering the unique perspectives and experiences of teen victims and their batterers. Youth advocates know that they must understand and honor teens' perceptions of their relationships as well as teens' impressions of the support networks currently in place to help them. In order to effectively address teen issues, advocates and community members must take into consideration the limited legal rights of adolescents and the very real reasons that teen victims may deny the violence in their relationships and hesitate to seek support from community agencies.

Though the consequences of dating violence are serious for teen victims and their need for safety and support may be clear to adults, it is often difficult for young people to recognize and respond to abuse within their intimate relationships. Recognizing that the person you love, who professes to love you, is controlling, abusive or violent may be difficult for adult survivors of domestic violence. For teens who are just beginning to navigate the complexities of intimate relationships, recognition of control and abuse is even more difficult. When abuse is recognized, teens are reluctant to seek support and protection from adults in the community. Seeking help from others is often fraught with doubt, fear and confusion for adult survivors. Interventions, moreover, may not be as safe, confidential, and resource-enhancing to the survivor as is necessary and/or helpful. Teens, whose life experiences and rights are limited, may find reaching out even more intimidating.

DISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Teen concerns about disclosure vary according to individual experiences. Some victims fear that friends and acquaintances will tell their abuser about disclosures, or that mutual friends and acquaintances will side with the abusive partner and retaliate against them. Many teens fear that they will lose the respect of peers and adults if the violence is discovered. Teens in same-sex relationships struggle with the knowledge that disclosure may lead to being "outed" to friends, family and others in the community (Gurwich, 2001). Above all, most teens do not want to acknowledge that their relationships are in any way different from those of their peers. Nor do they want to lose the status of having a boyfriend or girlfriend.

Teens considering disclosure to school staff also may have concerns about confidentiality. Young victims are aware that school personnel must weigh honoring their confidentiality against considerations for the teens' safety. Even if they believe that adults will hold disclosures in confidence, teens are aware that they will be encouraged to speak with a school or community counselor, making parental notification a possibility. They

may not want parents to know about the abuse – or their relationship – fearing that parents will insist on an end to that relationship, or on notification to medical and/or legal authorities. Teens may be particularly resistant to police involvement, believing that police will ignore them because of their age, take them into custody in dual arrests, force them to return to abusive families, or report their parents to Child Protective Services. Parenting teens may worry that Child Protective Services will remove their children. Finally, many teen victims are involved with adult batterers, who take advantage of the younger partner's inexperience or immaturity and lack of resources to prevent the survivor from accessing safety and support. Advocates' efforts to reach teens are most successful when they include an appreciation of the multiple reasons that teens are not aware of services or choose not to access them. A commitment to designing services tailored to the needs of individual teens is critical.

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

With the recent release of results from several large-scale studies, positive strides have been made in helping communities recognize that teen dating violence is a form of youth violence that merits national attention and response. The Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey (1997-1999), for example, has revealed that approximately one in five adolescent girls in the ninth through twelfth grades have reported being physically and/or sexually hurt by a dating partner (Silverman, Raj, Mucci & Hathaway, 2001). Such studies are being used to validate the concerns of teens and their advocates and help them gain support for projects that will assist young victims and hold their abusers accountable. Advocacy has begun to involve collaborative efforts impacting legislative, criminal justice, academic and social systems. Innovative strategies are emerging nationwide as communities come to understand that, while educating young people about teen dating violence is important, effective teen prevention/intervention strategies must include diligent efforts to engage all segments of society (Wolfe, 2001).

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Information in this packet underscores the importance of including teens in the development of education, support, intervention and prevention work. It is imperative that policies and procedures designed to address teen dating violence validate and reflect the diversity within teen cultures. An increasing number of teen-driven projects are being created and implemented in order to educate communities, provide support to young victims and to effectively address the behavior of young batterers. Peer education programs and youth theater groups bring education and awareness to both teen and adult audiences. Young people are

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also taking part in the development of structured dating violence curricula. In addition to these traditional approaches, teens and their advocates are beginning to explore alternative avenues. Web sites are increasing in numbers and are designed to engage teens from diverse communities – as well as offering information about teen dating violence and appropriate dating dynamics. Other

mediums holding promise for future exploration – graphic novels, virtual simulation and role-playing games – are currently untapped as teen awareness resources. Many education/prevention options for teens and descriptions of promising programs are listed in the Resource section of this packet.

Today's growing awareness, along with increases in funding and other resources, promises innovative and effective responses to the needs of teens in abusive and violent dating relationships. Researchers, policymakers, advocates and youth continue to investigate the causes and trends of teen dating violence, take on the challenges inherent in creating here-and-now safety and support options for teens and explore more diverse and comprehensive approaches to education, prevention and intervention.

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ENCLOSURES

The enclosed materials (reprinted with permission) provide research findings, examples of promising projects and referral materials that offer basic information on teen dating violence:

Family Violence Prevention Fund (2003). *In their own words; teens speak out*. Retrieved September 1, 2003 from <<http://endabuse.org/programs/display.php3?DocID=225>>

Rennison, C.M. (October, 2001). *Intimate partner violence and age of the victim, 1993-1999*. (Publication #NCJ187635). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved September 1, 2003 from <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>>

Packet of dating violence handouts (National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, National Crime Prevention Council, Alternatives to Fear, SafePlace, Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

Liz Claiborne, Inc. (2000). *What you need to know about dating violence: A teen handbook*. Retrieved September 1, 2003 from <<http://www.lizclaiborne.com>>

Liz Claiborne, Inc. (2000). *A parent's guide to teen dating violence: 10 Questions to start the conversation*. Retrieved September 1, 2003 from <<http://www.lizclaiborne.com>>

Liz Claiborne, Inc. (2000). *A parent's handbook: How to talk to your children about developing healthy relationships*. Retrieved September 1, 2003 from <<http://www.lizclaiborne.com>>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information on these and other teen-related issues is available through the following:

- Technical Assistance/Public Education Team of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Telephone: 800-537-2238 and TTY: 800-553-2508

and other organizations comprising the Domestic Violence Resource Network (DVRN):

- Battered Women's Justice Project
Telephone: 800-903-0111, Ext. 1 (Criminal Justice), Ext. 2 (Civil Justice), Ext. 3 (Defense);
- National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Telephone: 888-792-2873 and TTY: 800-595-4889;
- Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody
Telephone: 800-52-PEACE (527-3223);
- Sacred Circle, National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women
Telephone: 877-733-7623

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KEY ISSUE

Public Policy



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KEY ISSUE

Public Policy

Federal legislation and public policy addressing teen dating violence is, historically, relatively new. Protecting the safety and controlling the behavior of adolescents and young adults – even those involved in abusive or violent intimate relationships – has been seen by most legislators, law enforcement officials and policy makers as the private responsibility of parents. Indeed, it wasn't until the last quarter of the 20th century that the phrases “battered woman” and “domestic violence” entered the U.S. public policy arena (Valente, Hart, Zeya & Malefyt, 2001). The recent attention to dating violence in adolescent relationships may be attributable in large measure to the foundational work of the anti-domestic violence movement – which spurred legal and social reforms since the 1970s – to recognize and respond to domestic violence against women and their children. Improving system responses to battered adult women and their children via federal and state laws and policies provides a critical first step for more intensive efforts concentrating on teen dating violence.

This *Key Issue* provides a brief overview of the recent federal action defining dating violence (VAWA II); federal funding for transitional housing assistance and services to minors fleeing domestic violence (PROTECT Act) and state action issues and challenges involving protection orders and legal sanctions for teen dating violence perpetrators.

Violence Against Women Act of 2000

The federal Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (VAWA II) added a definition of dating violence into federal law and incorporated dating violence into a number of VAWA activities. Dating violence is defined in VAWA II as:

“...violence committed by a person – (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship; (ii) the type of relationship; and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.”

Violence Against Women Act of 2000, 42 U.S.C. §3796gg-2(9)

Specific sections of VAWA II also expand funded activities to include dating violence in the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Violence against Women Formula Grants, Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Grants and Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus Program. Dating violence is not, however, currently part of the Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) grant program. VAWA II also expands judicial training on dating violence and specifically includes juvenile courts in this training (Office on Violence Against Women, 2001).

Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (PROTECT Act)

The PROTECT Act of 2003 amends the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to authorize funding for transitional housing services and related activities to “provide assistance to minors, adults, and their dependents” who are the following:

“(1) homeless, or in need of transitional housing or other housing assistance, as a result of fleeing a situation of domestic violence; and (2) for whom emergency shelter services or other crisis intervention services are unavailable or insufficient.”

PROTECT Act, P. L. No. 108-21, Title VI, Sec. 611 (to be codified as 42 U.S.C. §13975)

Authorized activities under the PROTECT Act are broad and include rental and utility assistance and support services for minors, adults, and their dependents. Grant programs are to be administered through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) of the U.S. Department of Justice (PROTECT Act, 2003).

PROTECTION ORDERS AND CRIMINAL SANCTIONS – STATE-BASED POLICY CHALLENGES

Civil protection orders can afford a survivor of domestic violence a variety of comprehensive remedies and a voluntary opportunity to request relief based upon individual need. There are, however, a number of barriers for teens in accessing protection orders. First, to qualify for a protection order, an applicant must have the requisite “covered relationship” – e.g., current and former spouses, intimate partners, and those with a child in common. Teen relationships marked by domestic violence often do not fit within one of these protective order classifications – although an increasing number of jurisdictions are adding “dating violence” to their protective order codes (National Center for Victims of Crime, 2003; Brustin, 1995). Second, many places require minors to have legal guardians apply for protection orders on the minor’s behalf and/or mandate notice of the proceeding to the teen’s parent or guardian. This can constitute a barrier to safety for teens living out of the home or those who are otherwise estranged from legal guardians. The breach of confidentiality caused by requiring another person to apply on behalf of the teen has its own safety risks. Finally, another complication may be whether or not the protection order can be obtained against a minor (National Center for Victims of Crime, 2003). This barrier eliminates the protective order remedy for some teen victims altogether.

Another primarily state-based public policy issue related to teen dating violence is how to best provide sanctions for young offenders. Historically, the juvenile justice system developed in the late 19th century as an alternative to the adult criminal legal system. The basic premise of juvenile justice was to differentiate between children and adults when it came to criminal sanctions. Rehabilitation and treatment were the primary values for structuring consequences of criminal acts by young offenders (Steinberg, 2003). Contemporary juvenile justice policy has changed significantly over the last century and is now characterized by legal changes that lower the age at which youths can be tried as adults and expansions in the range of offenses for which youth can be transferred to adult court (Steinberg, 2003). The tendency to treat youths as adults also comes at a time when the criminal legal system is scrutinized for its simultaneous

overrepresentation of communities of color broadly and continuing underutilization generally as a responder to violence against women.

In structuring analysis and responses to the challenges of holding teen batterers accountable, teen survivor safety concerns must be front and center. Safety issues for teens include the challenges and barriers to obtaining civil legal relief such as protective orders and accessing confidential support and advocacy services. Teen victim safety options are also impacted by a teen's ability to afford basic human needs such as a place to live, food, healthcare, and child care either separately from adult caretakers or in dependence upon them. Finally, it is important to monitor and assess law and policy that may tend to coerce teen victims into the accountability and rehabilitative measures directed at the young offender.

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- Violence Against Women Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-322 (codified in scattered sections of 8 U.S.C., 18 U.S.C., & 42 U.S.C.).
- Violence Against Women Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386 (codified in scattered sections of 8 U.S.C., 18 U.S.C. & 42 U.S.C.).

ENCLOSURES

The enclosed materials (reprinted with permission) provide information related to legislative and legal issues involved in advocacy for teens involved in violent dating relationships:

Office on Violence Against Women (2001) *The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (VAWA 2000)*.

Retrieved January 5, 2004 from http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/laws/vawa_summary2.htm

National Center for Victims of Crime (2003) *Overview of Legislative Issues*. Retrieved January 5, 2004 from <http://www.NCVC.org/policy/issues/datingviolence/index.html>

National Center for Victims of Crime (2003) *Minors' Access to Protective Orders*. Retrieved January 5, 2004 from <http://www.NCVC.org/policy/issues/datingviolence/orders.html>

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Telephone: 877-733-7623

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KEY ISSUE

Health Concerns for Survivors



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KEY ISSUE

Health Concerns for Survivors

Attention to the health care needs of teen dating violence survivors has gathered momentum in the past few years. One of the most recent and comprehensive accounts of the impact of dating violence on teen health are the 1997 and 1999 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Surveys. The findings from these researchers at the Harvard University School of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health indicate that young girls experiencing dating violence are at increased risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, pregnancy and suicide (Silverman, Raj, Mucci & Hathaway, 2001).

The teen perpetrator's use of violence, both physical force and emotional/psychological battery, can have additional negative consequences for the teen survivor in terms of behavioral risks and harm. The disempowerment and abuse, coupled with difficulty in accessing appropriate resources, can give a teen a sense of personal hopelessness that may lead to risky or self-harming coping strategies. Young victims may use or abuse substances in order to deal with mental and physical pain, in effect, self-medicating in response to the abuse. Victim substance use may also be coerced or forced by abusive partners. Eating disorders may arise in response to the abuser's derogatory comments about weight and/or as an attempt on the part of the victim to regain personal control. Risky sexual behavior can also be traced to the threats, coercion and/or physical assault of an abusive partner.

The batterers' use of sexual coercion and force around the use of protection and/or birth control can also compromise victims' sexual health in any number of ways. Exposure to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS, is a growing concern for teens and their advocates. In the U.S., more than half (53%) of adolescents newly infected with HIV are female and 25% of all new infections – approximately 10,000 cases per year – are estimated to occur in youth ages 13 to 21 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1999). When young people are involved in abusive relationships their ability to protect themselves from STDs may be compromised or entirely blocked by abusive partners. Even if the teen is committed to the use of precautions, the “if,” “when” and “under what circumstances” of sexual activity are often the decision of the abuser, not the victim.

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The prevalence and characteristics of male violence during teen pregnancy is receiving increasing attention from researchers, advocates and health care providers. Two recent studies that examine teenage pregnancies within abusive relationships are *Domestic violence and birth control sabotage: A report from the Teen Parent Project* (Center for Impact Research, 2000) and *Pregnant adolescents: Experiences and behaviors associated with physical assault by an intimate partner* (Wiemann, Agurcia, Berenson, Volk & Rickert, 2000).

Researchers working on the domestic violence and birth control sabotage study interviewed 474 pregnant girls, aged 11-21. Fifty-five percent of the adolescent mothers in the study experienced some level of domestic violence at the hands of their boyfriends in the past 12 months. The youngest girls (aged 11-15) reported the highest prevalence of domestic violence. Fifty-one percent of all participants reported experiencing at least one form of birth control sabotage. The most common form of reported sabotage was verbal abuse. Fewer participants (11%) reported behavioral sabotage. The second study, *Pregnant adolescents: Experiences and behaviors associated with physical assault by an intimate partner*, noted that 29% of the pregnant and parenting teens experienced some type of physical violence during the 12 months preceding their pregnancy. One out of eight young mothers reported having been physically assaulted by the father of their babies and those who reported partner assault also had a higher rate of concurrent emotional abuse.

It is becoming clear that teen mothers are at a high risk for violence from their partners during both pregnancy and the postpartum period. A study at a University of Texas Medical Center in 2002, *Prevalence and patterns of intimate partner violence among adolescent mothers during the postpartum period* (Harrykisson, Rickert & Wiemann, 2002), examines prevalence, frequency, severity and patterns of intimate partner violence during 24 months postpartum within an ethnically diverse group of adolescents. Findings indicate that violence was the highest at three months postpartum and the lowest at 24 months. Seventy-eight percent of mothers who experienced intimate partner violence during the first three postpartum months had not reported the abuse before delivery. Seventy-five percent of mothers reporting violence during pregnancy reported similar abuse within the 24 months following delivery.

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It is often assumed that teen parenthood will be difficult and that the causes of the difficulty will be related to the young parents' lack of experience when facing the overwhelming responsibilities of parenthood. Youth workers and health providers in the past did not necessarily associate dating or domestic violence as a primary stressor for this population. The studies mentioned above and others like them, however, illustrate the importance of connecting with teen parents about what is happening in their lives, asking about and watching for signs of abuse and being available as a resource to discuss issues other than those specific to parenting.

Homicide and suicide are the gravest consequences of teen dating violence victimization. For teens ages 15-19, homicide and suicide remain the second and third leading causes of death

Homicide and suicide are the gravest consequences of teen dating violence victimization.

respectively. According to the findings of *Intimate partner violence and age of victim, 1993-99*, a report of the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice, 22 percent of female homicide victims ages 16-19 are killed by intimate partners. Numbers are based on reported, documented cases in which the violence could be proven as the cause of death. This means that the number of homicides not recognized and/or recorded as directly resulting from intimate partner violence may be substantial. The number of suicides that result from abuse at the hands of a dating partner, like homicide, is a challenge to definitively ascertain.

The connections between dating violence and adolescent health risks are individual, diverse and complex. Fortunately, information available to teens, health care providers and youth advocates is more accessible than ever before. This growing awareness of teen health issues and domestic violence, advocacy and policymaker response is a promising development in the efforts to end violence against women and girls.

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Konieczny, M. E. (2000). *Domestic Violence and Birth Control Sabotage: A Report from the Teen Parent Project*. Chicago, IL: Center for Impact Research. Retrieved September 1, 2003 from <<http://www.impactresearch.org/policycenter/DVTeens.htm>>

Wiemann, C. Agurcia, C., Berenson, A., Volk, R., & Rickert, V. (2000). Pregnant adolescents: Experiences and behaviors associated with physical assault by an intimate partner. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 4 (2), 93-101.

Silverman, J., Raj, A., Mucci, L., & Hathaway, J. (2001). Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 286 (5), 572-579.

ENCLOSURES

The enclosed materials (reprinted with permission) provide research findings, examples of promising projects and referral materials that offer basic information for those concerned with health issues and teen dating violence:

Konieczny, M. E. (2000). *Domestic Violence and Birth Control Sabotage: A Report from the Teen Parent Project*. Chicago, IL: Center for Impact Research. Retrieved September 1, 2003 from <<http://www.impactresearch.org/policycenter/DVTeens.htm>>

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- Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody
Telephone: 800-52-PEACE (527-3223);
- Sacred Circle, National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women
Telephone: 877-733-7623

For comprehensive information on health issues related to teen dating violence, contact:

The National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence
383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 304
San Francisco, California 94103-5133
Phone: 888-Rx -ABUSE (792-2873) or TTY: 800-595-4889
Fax: 415-252-8991
E-mail: health@endabuse.org
Web site: www.endabuse.org/health

The National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence, a project of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, partners with and supports health care practitioners, administrators and systems, domestic violence advocates, local, state and federal policy-makers and survivors who seek to improve health care's response to domestic violence. The Center strives to build broad leadership in the field through model professional and public health education and response programs, advocacy and technical assistance. Since every family deserves to live free from violence, the Center focuses on culturally competent and comprehensive efforts in various public and private health professions, settings and departments. Specific products and services provided by the National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence include:

- personalized, expert technical assistance through our toll free number, on-line, via email, fax, regular mail and face-to-face at professional conferences and meetings throughout the nation;
- free health care information packets focusing on various specialties, populations and key issues that include the highest quality published literature, fact sheets, model programs and strategies, bibliographies and protocols;
- technical tools and materials, including clinical recommendations for adult and child health settings, an electronic business case tool for health institutions seeking to create comprehensive domestic violence programs, papers on issues ranging from health privacy principles for protecting victims of domestic violence to coding and documentation strategies in health settings, and screening and response training videos;
- low-cost comprehensive resource and training manuals, useful clinical reference tools and patient and public education materials;
- models for local, state and national health care and domestic violence policy-making;
- a national network of experts for training, public speaking and consultation;
- detailed organizing tools, strategies and personalized assistance for the annual Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day dedicated to professional and public health awareness raising and
- the biennial National Conference on Health Care and Domestic Violence which brings together the leading health, medical, and domestic violence leaders for a scientific meeting dedicated to examining the latest health research and programmatic responses to domestic violence.

Teen Dating Violence

KEY ISSUE

Use of Violence by Girls and Boys in Heterosexual Teen Relationships



prepared by

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

A project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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KEY ISSUE

Use of Violence by Girls and Boys in Heterosexual Teen Relationships

Some studies about the dynamics and causes of violence in teen relationships have indicated that boys exposed to batterer behavior will repeat that behavior in their teen and adult relationships. It has also been suggested that girls who grow up witnessing batterer behavior will learn to accept violence from future intimate partners. This dynamic is known as the *intergenerational cycle of violence* and is loosely based on social learning theory, which emphasizes the importance of observing and modeling the behaviors, attitudes, and emotional reactions of others. Albert Bandura, originator of the theory, states that “most human behavior is learned observationally through modeling; from observing others one forms an idea of how new behaviors are performed, and on later occasions this coded information serves as a guide for action” (Bandura, 1971). Reports from shelter staff, children’s counselors and battered women have indicated that children exposed to batterer behavior appear to have learned to imitate the behavior they observed in their efforts to get their needs met or to deal with conflict. Many male children act out aggressively toward peers and many female children assume passive roles in play and in conflict. Information taken from high school students also suggests that many young men imitate the violent behavior of their adult male role models in their own dating relationships (Schwartz, O’Leary & Kendziora, 1997).

...the majority of information gathered over the years has indicated that teen dating violence, like adult domestic violence, involves male on female violence in most cases

While the intergenerational cycle of violence has remained an accepted explanation for violence in some abusive teen dating relationships, theorists have recently considered other possibilities. The nexus between teen dating violence and other forms of youth violence is being explored. Other theorists and advocates for battered women have encouraged examination of the influence of societal acceptance and glorification of interpersonal violence – particularly misogyny. Whatever the theorists propose, the majority of information gathered over the years has indicated that teen dating violence, like adult domestic violence, involves male on female violence in most cases (Levy, 1991; Foshee, 1996; Silverman, J. et al, 2001).

Some recent studies, however, have challenged the supposition that young men are more likely to be the perpetrators of violence in teen dating relationships. These studies suggest that use of violence by teen girls is as severe and as frequent as the use of violence by teen boys in dating situations. In one of the earlier studies, 228 11th grade students (122 males and 106 females) from two urban public high schools were asked if they were physically aggressive in their dating relationships. In the total sample, nearly one half of the females and less than 20 percent of the males reported engaging in at least one physically aggressive

behavior against a dating partner in the context of a disagreement (Lavoie, Robitaille & Hebert, 2000). More recent work has shown similar findings. In interpreting the results from an Oregon Youth Study, Deborah Capaldi of the Oregon Social Learning Center concludes, in part, that “young women were more likely to initiate physical aggression than young men” and “young men were injured as well as young women” and were sometimes afraid of their partners (Capaldi, 2003).

Use of self-reports to gauge the incidence and severity of abusive behavior may indicate a high percentage of female-on-male violence in teen dating relationships, but closer examination of the findings often uncovers more complex interactions between young dating partners. In 1999, Foshee, Bauman and Linder reported that, while females are more likely to *report* being perpetrators of violence in dating relationships, the reasons for that violence and the types of violence used differ for boys and girls. Teen girls most often cite self-defense as the reason for their use of violence. On the other hand, boys often report that their violence serves to “intimidate,” “frighten” or “force the other person to give me something” (Brustin, 1995). With regard to the types and severity of abuse, girls, significantly more often than boys, report that they are the victims of more severe violence, such as being punched or forced to engage in sexual activity against their will. Boys report that they are more likely to receive less severe forms of physical violence from their partners – such as pinching, slapping, scratching and kicking (Molidor & Tolman, 1998).

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The impact of dating violence also appears to differ for male and female victims. Boys report no effect (“did not hurt at all”) or little effect (“hurt me a little”) in more than 90 percent of incidents, whereas, nearly 50 percent of girls report serious harm (“hurt me a lot”) and physical injury (“caused bruises, needed medical attention”) in one third of violent incidents. Girls report not being hurt at all in less than ten percent of incidents (Lavoie, Robitaille & Hebert, 2000). Among female victims, the most common response to partners’ violence was “fear,” followed closely by “emotionally hurt.” Male victims, most frequently indicate that they “thought it was funny” or experience “anger.” It appears that girls’ response to dating violence implies greater emotional and psychological injury (O’Keefe & Treister, 1998).

Advocates and many researchers refute results indicating that young girls use severe violence as frequently as boys. They cite confusion between self-defense response and primary aggression as a factor that colors self-reporting in research findings. They also criticize the accuracy of measurement tools, such as the Conflict Tactics Scale (DeKeseredy & Swartz, 1998), which are used in many studies to equate female with male violence. Finally, interviews and surveys that rely on self-reporting come under professional scrutiny for their dependence on the participants’ ability to objectively assess their own behavior. Data taken from self-

reports is likely to misinterpret the dynamics between partners. Advocates and interventionists are aware of the inclination of victims to self-blame and the tendency of perpetrators to deny responsibility when describing incidents of violence.

Increased numbers of studies involving larger and more diverse teen populations and tools designed to accurately gauge the severity, frequency and intent of violent acts are needed in order to more accurately compare violence initiated by girls with that perpetrated by boys.

Advocates and interventionists are aware of the inclination of victims to self-blame and the tendency of perpetrators to deny responsibility when describing incidents of violence.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information on these and other teen-related issues is available through the following:

- Technical Assistance/Public Education Team of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
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and other organizations comprising the Domestic Violence Resource Network (DVRN):

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- National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Telephone: 888-792-2873 and TTY: 800-595-4889;
- Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody
Telephone: 800-52-PEACE (527-3223);
- Sacred Circle, National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women
Telephone: 877-733-7623

Teen Dating Violence

KEY ISSUE

Challenges in Service Provision



prepared by

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KEY ISSUE

Teen Dating Violence: Challenges in Service Provision

Age-appropriate, culturally diverse and fully accessible services are needed in order to adequately address the diverse needs of teens involved in violent dating relationships. Teens may face multiple challenges and risks in their daily lives and services designed to meet their needs require individualized, comprehensive and, in some cases long-term, approaches. Teen victims, who may be struggling with unplanned pregnancy, parenting, homelessness, ableism, oppression based on gender identity, racism, poverty and drug addiction, can benefit from the same types of holistic services offered to adult survivors. To be effective, teen services may need to include access to jobs, housing, transportation, childcare and a wide range of other resources.

AGE-BASED BARRIERS

Advocates often encounter age-based barriers in providing comprehensive services for teens. Confidentiality issues, for example, are more difficult to navigate when serving teen victims. Advocates for adult survivors of domestic or dating violence have learned the crucial role that confidentiality plays in trust building and the need for thorough exploration of victim options. State laws, however, create barriers for teens with regard to confidentiality by requiring parental notification and consent to services and mandating the reporting of abuse. Designed to protect minors, these laws often discourage or prevent young victims of dating violence from accessing the information and support they need. Teens may be reluctant to use community services when youth advocates clarify for them the ethical/legal reporting requirements that service providers must consider in dealing with youth, parents, child protection, law enforcement and/or the courts.

State laws, however, create barriers for teens with regard to confidentiality by requiring parental notification and consent to services and mandating the reporting of abuse.

Another age-related barrier is the availability of safe shelter for teen victims. To the extent that it is possible, adolescent survivors of dating violence and their advocates integrate safety planning into all aspects of counseling and support services. When a teen survivor's safety is seriously threatened, safe shelter needs to be an option. That option does not exist for the vast majority of teen victims. Most domestic violence shelters are unable to house teens, except in cases where they enter shelter with their mothers. Special state licensure is required to provide shelter services to minors – parental consent is often not sufficient for admission and for most programs the cost of meeting state requirements is prohibitive.

Special state licensure is required to provide shelter services to minors – parental consent is often not sufficient for admission and for most programs the cost of meeting state requirements is prohibitive.

In discussing provisions of safe shelter for teens, community members often raise the topic of teen emancipation. Generally speaking, emancipation is a legal process in which minors petition the court to be declared legal adults. It is frequently suggested that teen victims become emancipated in order to be eligible for adult support services, such as counseling and safe shelter. However, even if the emancipation process were simple, quick and feasible in crisis situations, it does not necessarily afford minors full adult legal rights. The extent to which emancipated minors are treated as legal adults varies from state to state, but usually means that the emancipated youth can enter into binding contracts, sue and be sued, establish a residence and consent to medical treatment on the same basis as an adult. Minors who marry or join the armed services generally qualify for emancipation, but not necessarily for the full range of rights afforded adults.

Additionally, laws governing the age at which minors may begin driving, voting and purchasing alcohol are not affected by emancipation and laws that set standards for service provision to teens are not necessarily relaxed. Because safe shelter is seldom an option, teens and their advocates understand that planning for safety at home, in school and throughout the community is imperative. An increasing number of communities are making information about dating violence and safety planning available in all teen venues – in schools, malls, medical offices, workplaces, youth centers, recreational facilities, juvenile detention centers and on the streets.

...even if the emancipation process were simple, quick and feasible in crisis situations, it does not necessarily afford minors full adult legal rights.

INDIVIDUALIZED SAFETY PLANNING

Any safety planning process must be specific to the needs, life experiences and capabilities of each victim and should involve more than strategizing around avoidance of physical assault and ending the violent relationship. In safety planning it is important to encourage young victims to explore the options and resources necessary for staying safe within the relationship as well as those necessary for ending the relationship. For many reasons breaking up may not be the most desirable – or safest – option. Ending the relationship may generate additional, and more lethal, risks. Violence may escalate when the abuser's control is interrupted. In addition, teens who live and/or parent with their batterers face economic, housing and childcare issues when leaving the relationship, creating life-generated risks similar to those faced by adults. Safety planning needs to be continuous, flexible and reflective of rapidly changing teen lives. Teen safety planning should include all elements that are considered in adult planning – reducing risks presented

Safety planning needs to be continuous, flexible and reflective of rapidly changing teen lives.

by the abuser, strategizing for staying safe in the relationship as well as leaving it, considering 'life generated risks,' such as poverty, housing, and childcare and developing both short and long-term time strategies (Davies, Lyon & Monti-Catania, 1998).

Finally, in order to assure comprehensive advocacy and promote effective safety measures for teen victims, agencies and organizations have begun to closely examine the economic context in which teen abuse occurs. While not all teens struggling against dating violence live in poverty, those who live with limited financial resources face challenges and barriers not experienced by more economically secure peers. Dating violence and economic hardship affect adolescents in a variety of ways – as children in poor families, as teens living out-of-home/homeless and as parenting teens. Information provided by national research and surveys has indicated that teens – particularly parenting teens – experience many challenges and barriers when interacting with current human service systems (Center for Law and Social Policy, 2001).

DEVELOPING HOLISTIC APPROACHES

While it is imperative for communities to address the complex needs of teen victims, it is also important to explore effective responses to the criminal behavior and rehabilitation issues of young batterers. In some communities, teen batterer intervention services are now being designed to enhance the safety of young victims and guarantee meaningful consequences for teen perpetrators.

Increased awareness about the importance of teen batterer containment and the implementation of age appropriate, culturally relevant intervention strategies have resulted in the creation of innovative programs nationwide. These programs attempt to hold young batterers accountable for their violence and to rehabilitate them, incorporating methods and strategies

...teen batterer intervention services are now being designed to enhance the safety of young victims and guarantee meaningful consequences for teen perpetrators.

as diverse as the individuals and their communities. Most programs have developed in relative isolation from one another, yet many have adopted ecological approaches to program design. According to Dean Peacock and Emily Rothman, the commonality of ecological approaches lies in *“the recognition that each participant serves as an important point of access to the family, community members, including peers, and institutions such as the faith community, schools, other community based agencies, the juvenile and family courts and to youth employment agencies. This access makes it possible to enlist family, community members and institutions in holding perpetrators accountable and ensuring victim safety”* (Peacock & Rothman, 2001).

Ecological models are being used with regularity in many communities of color. Youth providers and domestic violence intervention specialists have come together in Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, African-American and Tribal communities to develop models which involve perpetrators’ families and communities, include components connected to individual cultural heritage and hold participants to extensive and holistic accountability. Currently, many programs advocate the re-education of young men about their relationships and their use of violence with their partners, their families and their communities as an alternative or complement to incarceration.

Descriptions and contact information for innovative service programs addressing the diverse needs of teen victims and batterers can be found in the NRC DV Resource Lists within this packet.

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Teen Dating Violence

KEY ISSUE

Approaches To Prevention



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KEY ISSUE

Approaches to Prevention

Early teen dating violence prevention efforts fell most often into the category of primary prevention, focusing on educational presentations and awareness campaigns that took place in middle and senior high schools. Secondary prevention efforts, designed to reach teens identified as being at high risk, were most often designed for teens accompanying their mothers into safe shelter or into other community services offered by domestic violence programs. Prevention work in both of these settings usually included information about domestic violence as well as warning signs, dynamics and safety issues involved in teen dating violence. Advocates and teens doing the work today continue to expand on traditional messages and to create innovative approaches to the prevention of violence in intimate teen relationships.

Middle and high school classrooms have long offered space for rich discussion and spirited debate among teens, educators and advocates about the varied experiences, perceptions and beliefs that are part of violent teen dating relationships. At the same time, the presence of domestic violence program advocates in the classroom has been the subject of some controversy. In the minds of some educators and community members, information about dating violence is extraneous to the academic needs of students and unnecessarily burdensome to teacher workloads. In addition, domestic violence program advocates, whose time and resources are also limited, have sometimes had difficulty meeting the needs of battered women and their children while also devoting time to the development and implementation of classroom presentations. However, for many teens, advocates and educators involved in school-based collaboration, the importance of such work is a clear priority. School-based programs can play a vital prevention role in that they have the ability to address dating violence and promote positive alternatives, influence teen social norms regarding gender-based behavior and play an effective role in strengthening a school's ability to respond to on-site violence (Berkowitz et al. 2003). The messages of school-based programs are increasingly pertinent as they evolve to include information designed for specific populations such as pregnant and parenting teens, teens with disabilities and others who may have found earlier messages ill-suited to their life experiences.

School-based programs can play a vital prevention role in that they have the ability to address dating violence and promote positive alternatives, influence teen social norms regarding gender-based behavior, and play an effective role in strengthening a school's ability to respond to on-site violence.

Growing acceptance of the importance of dating violence information in educational settings has prompted some local and state communities to implement major campaigns to develop extensive policies and procedures related to dating violence prevention in schools. One of the earliest and most comprehensive prevention programs was instituted in 2001 by the state of Massachusetts, and involved legislation which allocated funds to secondary schools for the development of domestic violence prevention/education programs. The Teen Dating Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (TDVIP) of the Massachusetts

Department of Education provided funds to public middle and high schools across the Commonwealth for use in the implementation of comprehensive dating violence prevention and intervention programs. Using a model that emphasized community collaboration, schools offered teen dating violence prevention education, implemented policies and procedures addressing all aspects of teen dating violence on campus and provided on-site support services to survivors and intervention services to adolescent abusers. Similar far-reaching education/prevention campaigns are in place in Michigan, Rhode Island, California, New Hampshire and other states. Across the U.S., teens and youth advocates continue working to establish strategies for coordinating dating violence prevention efforts throughout their educational systems and communities.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

While school-based services and awareness campaigns have done much to create and ensure continued attention to and prevention of violent teen relationships, there is growing realization that it is also necessary for prevention efforts to take place outside traditional educational settings in order to address the complex and unique needs of individual teens. Youth advocates, recognizing that all U.S. teens do not spend their days in neighborhood schools or in any other traditional setting, seek to explore avenues not previously considered in prevention education. Teens who attend alternative schools, who drop out or never attend school at all, teens who live on the streets or are socially isolated because of poverty, cultural or health constraints, teens who reside in treatment centers and those who are incarcerated often do not receive the information they need to successfully navigate intimate relationships. In addition, prevention/education materials continue to be designed to speak primarily to young people who are close in age, racially similar, middle class, English-speaking, able-bodied and identified as heterosexual.

As dating violence prevention work gains momentum, teens and youth advocates are faced with the challenge of designing materials and approaches that are meaningful to a highly diverse population of young people. In developing adequate, wide-ranging strategies, advocates have increasingly come to understand that it is imperative to involve teens themselves in the design and implementation of any program. Because adolescence is usually a time when peer influences on behaviors and beliefs are strongest, teen audiences generally respond best to the voices that mirror their age and experience. Authentic interpersonal dynamics and language relevant to varied teen cultures are vital in the creation of education/prevention material. Just as they work to create material that reflects their experience for use in presentations and awareness campaigns,

Teens who attend alternative schools, who drop out or never attend school at all, teens who live on the streets or are socially isolated because of poverty, cultural or health constraints, teens who reside in treatment centers and those who are incarcerated often do not receive the information they need to successfully navigate intimate relationships.

...it is imperative to involve teens themselves in the design and implementation of any program.

teens take on the roles of peer educators in classrooms and performers in teen theater.

As it becomes increasingly clear that teens must be included in the development and implementation of prevention strategies,

there is a growing awareness of the importance of more fully engaging young men in the process of preventing violence in dating relationships. Research regarding overall youth violence has indicated that the most effective deterrent to teen violence may be mentoring arrangements between teens and adults or older teens (CSPV, 1999). This has been a successful framework for the inclusion of boys and men in education

...the most effective deterrent to teen violence may be mentoring arrangements between teens and adults or older teens.

and awareness campaigns. In mentoring programs that utilize male and female participants and adult-to-teen and teen-to-teen collaborations, an approach can be developed to address dating violence by framing the role of young men and women as proactive and empowered bystanders who confront abusive peers and support peers who are being abused.

Many newly established dating violence programs – especially those being implemented in Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, African-American and Tribal communities – have used these mentoring methods with dating violence victims and perpetrators. Reports from these programs indicate that the mentoring approach is highly effective, especially in amending the behavior and belief systems of young perpetrators. This belief that mentoring and community involvement in prevention efforts is valuable is validated in the findings of the Blueprints for Violence Prevention Initiative, designed and implemented by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) at the University of Colorado. In assessing youth violence prevention programs in the U.S., the Initiative found that effective prevention programs most often involve working with community-based and individually focused services – an ‘ecological approach’ that involves the youth, the family and the community (CSPV, 1999).

A COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE

It is important to remember that “one-size fits all” approaches are seldom effective in any prevention effort. Particular attention must be paid to informing teens of the dynamics and risks implicit to dating violence, providing them with resources and safety information pertinent to their individual lives and making certain that the necessary, appropriate and effective community safety nets are in place in answer to their needs. In addition to the efforts of individual teens, advocates and youth serving agencies, prevention efforts by all local, state and national youth serving systems are required in order for prevention efforts to be successful. According to former Surgeon General David Thatcher, “The most urgent need now is a national resolve to confront the problem of youth [dating] violence systematically, using research-based approaches and to correct damaging myths and stereotypes that interfere with the task at hand” (Office of the Surgeon General, 2001).

In addition to the efforts of individual teens, advocates and youth serving agencies, prevention efforts by all local, state and national youth serving systems are required in order for prevention efforts to be successful.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information on these and other teen-related issues is available through the following:

- Technical Assistance/Public Education Team of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Telephone: 800-537-2238 and TTY: 800-553-2508

and other organizations comprising the Domestic Violence Resource Network (DVRN):

- Battered Women's Justice Project
Telephone: 800-903-0111, Ext. 1 (Criminal Justice), Ext. 2 (Civil Justice), Ext. 3 (Defense);
- National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Telephone: 888-792-2873 and TTY: 800-595-4889;
- Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody
Telephone: 800-52-PEACE (527-3223);
- Sacred Circle, National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women
Telephone: 877-733-7623

Teen Dating Violence

FACT SHEET



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FACT SHEET

- **The highest rates of intimate violence affect women ages 16 to 24.** [Greenfeld, L., Rand, M., Craven, D., Klaus, P., Perkins, C., Ringel, C., Warchol, G., Maston, C., & Fox, J. (March 1998). *Violence by intimates – Analysis of data on crimes by current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends*. (Publication #NCJ167237). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook.]
- **One in five teen-age girls is a victim of dating violence.** [Silverman, J., Raj, A., Mucci, L. & Hathaway, J. (2001). Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 286 (5), Aug 1, 572-579.]
- **Physical and sexual dating violence against adolescent girls is associated with increased risk of substance use, unhealthy weight control behaviors, sexual risk behaviors, pregnancy and suicidality.** [Silverman, J., Raj, A., Mucci, L. & Hathaway, J. (2001). Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 286 (5), Aug 1, 572-579.]
- **Teen girls, significantly more often than boys, reported that they experience severe violence. Girls were much more likely to be punched and to be forced to engage in sexual activity against their will. Boys were more likely to be pinched, slapped, scratched and kicked.** [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]
- **Among female victims, the most common response to partners' violence was "fear," followed closely by "emotionally hurt." Among male victims, the effects indicated most frequently were "thought it was funny," followed closely by "anger." Thus the females' response to the violence implies a greater emotional and psychological injury.** [O'Keefe, M. & Treister, L. (1998). Victims of dating violence among high school students: are the predictors different for males and females? *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 195-223.]
- **Some teen aggressors are reported to be proud of their behavior; their peers sometimes did not consider them "woman beaters" and offered excuses for their behavior.** [Lavoie, F., Robitaille, L., & Hébert, M. (2000). Teen dating relationships and aggression: an exploratory study. *Violence Against Women*, 6 (1), 6-36.]
- **Teen girls' use of violence in self-defense was perceived by their peers as preferable to passive victimization.** [Lavoie, F., Robitaille, L., & Hébert, M. (2000). Teen dating relationships and aggression: an exploratory study. *Violence Against Women*, 6 (1), 6-36.]

Teen Dating Violence

STATISTICS



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STATISTICS

Subjects in the following studies range in age from 13 to 20 years and are students at high schools in metropolitan areas in the western and mid-western United States, as well as in New Zealand. Subjects represent racially and ethnically diverse communities. The U.S. studies utilized groups of 600-4,000 students; the New Zealand study was composed of 304 students. Female and male students were represented in comparable numbers.

INCIDENCE

- Approximately one in five female students (20.2% in 1997 and 18.0% in 1999) reported being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. [Silverman, J., Raj, A., Mucci, L. & Hathaway, J. (2001). Dating violence against adolescent girls and associated substance use, unhealthy weight control, sexual risk behavior, pregnancy, and suicidality. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 286 (5), Aug 1, 572-579.]
- For students who had ever dated, 36.4% of the girls and 37.1% of the boys reported they had experienced physical violence in the dating relationship. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]
- 45.5% of females and 43.2% of males reported they had received some form of physical aggression during the course of dating. [O’Keefe, M. & Treister, L. (1998). Victims of dating violence among high school students: are the predictors different for males and females? *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 195-223.]
- 17.5% of the girls and 13.3% of the boys reported having had at least one experience of physical violence in a dating relationship. [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students’ dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15 (1), 23-36.]
- 40% of teenage girls ages 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hurt or beaten by a boyfriend. [Children Now/Kaiser Permanente, December 1995]
- 89% of teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18 say they have been in dating relationships. [Children Now/Kaiser Permanente, December 1995]

USE OF VIOLENCE BY BOYS VS. USE OF VIOLENCE BY GIRLS

- Girls reported that their dating partners were the ones who started the abuse 70% of the time; whereas boys reported their dating partners to be initiators of abuse only 27% of the time. The boys were much more likely to state that they initiated incidents. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]
- For boys reporting they had been subject to a partner's use of physical violence, 17.1% reported that the reason for this violence was because they (i.e. the boys) had been making sexual advances toward their dating partner. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]

TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse

- Of high school girls, ages 14 to 18, surveyed in the Massachusetts Youth Behavior Survey, about 20% reported that they had been hit, slapped, shoved, or forced into sexual activity by a dating partner. [Massachusetts Youth Behavior Survey, 1999]
- Girls in the study reported they were victims of physical violence significantly more often while their male partners were making sexual advances. 37% of the girls reported the reason they were subjected to physical violence was because their partner had been making sexual advances toward them, whereas only one male reported the same. This suggests that a large percentage of girls are being abused because they are refusing unwanted sexual advances. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]

Emotional/Psychological Abuse

- Regarding emotional violence, which included monopolization (keeps tabs on where I am going), degradation (slams down my opinions) and isolation (ignores me as if I don't exist), 81.5% of females and 76.3% of males reported having experienced at least one such insult in a dating relationship. [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15 (1), 23-36.]

Sexual Abuse

- 76.9% of female students and 67.4% of male students reported that they had experienced one or more incidents of unwanted sexual activity (e.g. unwanted kissing, hugging, French kissing, genital contact – “being felt up” – and sex). [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence, 15* (1), 23-36.]
- Possible reasons for engaging in unwanted sex:
 - to show that they loved their partner 34.7 % females 44.2% males
 - thought it was what their partner wanted 36.9% females 35.6% males
 - alcohol/drug use 26.9% females 29.8% males[Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence, 15* (1), 23-36.]

SETTINGS

- A substantial number of abusive incidents occurred in a school building or on school grounds. 42% of the males and 43.2% of the females who reported abuse stated that this abuse occurred in a school building or on school grounds. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women, 4* (2), 180-194.]
- 50% of the female students and 40% of the males reported that unwanted sexual activity had occurred at parties. Other places included a partner's house, a friend's house, hanging out with friends, and at school. [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence, 15* (1), 23-36.]
- During the time of the abuse, 40% of the girls and 49% of the boys reported that either another boy or girl or group of people was present. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women, 4* (2), 180-194.]

PERCEPTION OF CAUSES/REASONS FOR ABUSE

- 25 - 33% of adolescent male abusers reported that their violence served to “intimidate,” “frighten,” or “force the other person to give me something.” [Brustin, S., (1995). Legal Response to Teen Dating Violence, *Family Law Quarterly*. 29 (2) 336.]
- Reasons given for the violence were:

• Anger	21.1% females	41.7% males
• Alcohol	21.1% females	29.2% males
• Jealousy	15.8% females	20.8% males
• Getting own way	15.8% females	20.8% males
• Retaliation	21.1% females	16.7% males

[Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15 (1), 23-36.]

- 18.4% of females reported that the reason their boyfriends used physical violence was to “show who was boss.” [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15 (1), 23-36.]
- Young people tend to interpret the violence of their partner as signifying love. In one study, 25-35% of the victims interpreted violence as love, 60% felt it had no effect on the relationship, and 40% felt it worsened their relationship. [Levy, B. (1993). *In love and in danger: A teen's guide to breaking free of abusive relationships*. Seattle, WA: Seal Press.]

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND DATING VIOLENCE

- Of 117 boys who reported physical abuse, 36.8% reported they were drunk at the time of the violence. Only 9.4 % of girls reported they were drunk when they were hit. 55% of girls reported that their partners were drunk at the time of the incident. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]

CONSEQUENCES OF ABUSE

- 49% of all female homicide victims in New York City are killed in intimate partner homicides. Of these intimate partner homicides, teenagers comprise approximately 8% of the total victims. [Wilt, Susan, Susan Illman and Maia Brodyfield, *Female Homicide Victims in New York City, 1990-1994*, New York City Department of Health, 1996]
- 21% of female students reported having been physically hurt in a dating relationship. 56% of that 21% described the impact as “hurt at the time, but didn’t last,” but 40% also indicated more lasting effects, such as bruising. 19% of male students reported having been physically hurt by a female partner, and 71% indicated that the hurt was immediate but not lasting. [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students’ dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15 (1), 23-36]
- Boys reported no effect (*did not hurt at all*) or little effect (*hurt me a little*) in more than 90% of the incidents. Girls, 47.8% of them, reported serious harm (*hurt me a lot*) and physical injury (*caused bruises, needed medical attention*) in 33.6% of the incidents. Girls reported not being hurt at all in only 8.7% of the incidents. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]
- More than 50% the of boys reported “laughing” at the experiences of a physical altercation, whereas 33.3% reported “ignoring it.” Girls significantly more often reported having “fought back,” having “tried to talk to their partner,” or having “obeyed their partner,” after experiencing violence. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]
- 36% of the girls indicated they defended themselves when they experienced a violence act by their partner. This is one way of accounting for some of the incidents of violence that boys report occurring toward them. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]
- Girls reported that their relationships worsened or ended 64% of the time, when severe violence occurred in the dating relationship, and they reported their relationships worsened or ended 55.9% of the time, when they were victims of moderate violence. The girls reported their relationships improved only 4% of the time after severe violence and 6.8% of the time after moderate violence had occurred. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]

SEEKING SUPPORT

- After students talked to someone about the violence, a majority of them felt supported (62.5% females, 62.5% males) and some felt the issue was sorted out (40% females, 18.8% males). [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15 (1), 23-36.]
- Girls did not talk to anyone in 55.2% of the cases and told a friend in 41.4% of the cases. Boys did not tell anyone in 45.5% of the cases and told a friend in 18.2% of the cases. [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15 (1), 23-36.]
- Of those students who did reach out for comfort, 30% of the girls and 40% of the boys felt supported. [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15 (1), 23-36.]
- Less than 3% of students overall reported a violent incident to an authority figure (e.g. police, social worker, counselor, or teacher). Only 6% of physically or sexually abused adolescents recounted the incident to a family member. 61% percent of the adolescents who reported abuse stated they told a friend. Over 30% told no one at all about being victimized by their dating partner. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]
- Girls who reported experiencing severe abuse reported this to a family member, teacher, social worker, or other authority figure only 6% of the time. Boys stated they told an authority figure or family member only 11% of the time. These findings suggest that when severe abuse is occurring in dating relationships, parents, teachers, counselors, and other authorities are not informed and therefore cannot intervene to change it. [Molidor, C. & Tolman, R. (1998). Gender and contextual factors in adolescent dating violence. *Violence Against Women*, 4 (2), 180-194.]
- The students either did not tell anyone about the sexual violence (46.1% females, 46.8% males), or only told a friend (53% females, 43.2% males). [Jackson, S., Cram, F., & Seymour, F. (2000). Violence and sexual coercion in high school students' dating relationships. *Journal of Family Violence*, 15 (1), 23-36.]

Teen Dating Violence

BIBLIOGRAPHY



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“This handbook follows the story of teenagers Angela and Joe, who are involved in a violent dating relationship. The story contains special sections that help teens identify warning signs of dating violence and discuss options.”

Hicks, J. (1996). *Dating violence: True stories of hurt and hope*. Brookfield, MA: Millbrook Press.

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RESOURCE LIST

Prevention/ Education & Direct Services



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E-mail: info@breakthecycle.org
Web: <http://www.breakthecycle.org>

“Break the Cycle’s (BTC) mission is to end domestic violence by working proactively with youth. BTC provides *prevention and education* services through “Ending Violence: A Curriculum for Educating Teens about Domestic Violence and the Law” and other education and outreach services to young people in middle and high schools, colleges, juvenile detention facilities and community youth groups, and to parents, social service providers and concerned community members. The *legal services* program provides early intervention services, including legal advice, counsel and representation, to youth, ages 12 to 22, assisting them to escape abusive relationships or homes. Finally, BTC conducts *federal and local public policy* initiatives, working with national, state and local governments to impact legislation and policies on intimate partner violence. All of Break the Cycle’s services are provided free of charge.”

The Interpersonal Violence Prevention Peer Education Program

Collaborative Program involving:

Boulder County Safehouse
835 North Street
Boulder, CO 80304
Phone: 303-449-8623
Fax: 303-449-0169
Email: info@bouldercountysafehouse.org
Web: <http://www.bouldercountysafehouse.org>

Moving to End Sexual Assault (MESA)
2885 East Aurora Avenue, Suite 10
Boulder, CO 80303
Phone: 303-443-0400
Fax: 303-443-0187
Web: <http://www.joinmesa.org>

PEER EDUCATION PROGRAMS (continued)

“The Interpersonal Violence Prevention Peer Education Program is a program through which trained teams of high school students, Peer Educators, give presentations on interpersonal violence prevention in middle and high schools in the Boulder Valley area. The Peer Education Program is a collaboration between Boulder County Safehouse and MESA – Moving to End Sexual Assault (formerly the Boulder County Rape Crisis Team).

The Peer Education Program aims to empower young people by giving them the knowledge and opportunity to speak out against interpersonal violence. Since 1996, Peer Educators have given presentations and generated dialogue among their peers, reaching more than 25,000 students in Boulder County on the issues of dating abuse, sexual assault, and sexual harassment.”

Lyric House

123-127 Collingwood Street
San Francisco, CA
Phone: 415.703.6150
Fax: 415.703.6153
Email: lyric@lyric.org
Web: <http://www.lyric.org/>

“LYRIC was founded in 1988 by a group of women, men and young people to address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. LYRIC brings LGBTQ youth together to build a peer-based community that empowers them to end isolation; create a progressive queer youth voice; increase well-being and self-esteem; and change the communities in which they live. LYRIC accomplishes this by offering peer-based education, advocacy, recreation, information, and leadership opportunities. LYRIC is guided by the philosophy that young people are not only capable of empowering themselves as individuals, but are also able to take leadership in creating services for their own communities. All of LYRIC’s programs have been created and developed using the energy and direction of young people at every level and in every phase, from program design to program evaluation. LYRIC’s peer-led approach serves as a model for other youth development programs around the country.”

Peer Solutions Inc.

Jennifer Rauhouse
PO Box 24148
Phoenix, AZ 85074-4148
Phone: (602) 225-0942
Fax: (602) 225-0982
Email: info@peersolutions.org
Web: <http://www.peersolutions.org/Default.htm>

“Peer Solutions facilitates student and staff workshops designed specifically for each school or organization and implements on-going events linking schools and communities across Arizona. Activities include but are not limited to: awareness campaigns, local, state and national student conferences, leadership retreats, community service and junior high school peer education projects. Peer Solutions strives to involve the community, including students, in the development, implementation, and evaluation of all program efforts. Peer Solutions also hosts STAND & SERVE (S&S), a city wide and individual school student-run club in Tempe, Arizona. Students promote education and prevention activities addressing: emotional, physical, gang, gun, domestic and sexual violence as well as eating disorders, suicide, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, racism, breast cancer and homophobia.”

PEER EDUCATION PROGRAMS (continued)

Urban High School Interpersonal Violence Prevention Peer Education Program

CORSA (Citizens Committee on Rape, Sexual Assault and Sexual Abuse)

95 Franklin St., Room 280

Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone: 716-858-7878

“The program is a collaboration between the Citizens Committee on Rape and Sexual Assault (CORSA) and Hispanics United of Buffalo (HUB). CORSA and HUB have combined their experiences and skills specific to peer education training and interpersonal violence prevention to develop this program. The program seeks to meet the challenge of effective violence prevention by addressing the dangers—family violence, street violence, gang violence, injury, and even death—facing many urban high school students. CORSA’s curriculum provides activities for working effectively with adolescent populations and is not intended to be used as an all-inclusive educational approach to interpersonal violence prevention. Rather, it provides a structure from which to introduce sensitive topics, teach personal development skills, and discuss issues that are highly relevant to adolescents.”

Voices Changing Choices: Students Promoting Rights In Relationships

Abused Women’s Advocacy Project

P.O. Box 713

Auburn, ME 04212

Phone: 207-784-3995

“This peer education program for students grades five through twelve is designed to impact attitudes about dating and dating violence behavior. Students learn alternatives to violence and ways to handle conflict nonviolently in their personal relationships. The program has both prevention and intervention components. Although presentations vary according to students’ needs, each includes role-playing, scenarios, and discussion. The goals of each presentation are to discuss characteristics of healthy relationships, identify abusive relationships, teach that violence is a choice, provide options for helping friends in abusive relationships, acknowledge violence in gay and lesbian relationships, and encourage youth to commit to safe dating relationship through a Healthy Dating Contract.”

STAR (Sisters Teaching About Relationships)

Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc.

PO Box 180019

Boston, MA 02118

Phone: 617-521-0100

Web: <http://www.casamyrna.org/index.html>

“STAR is an innovative dating violence prevention project comprised of young women who are hired as peer educators. STAR creates and delivers engaging workshops about the extent of abuse in teen relationships and the importance of understanding the qualities that define healthy relationships. In its sixth year, STAR has reached out to hundreds of young people in after-school programs, community centers, girls groups, peer leader programs and other youth organizations annually.”

SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION/ EDUCATION CURRICULA & PROGRAMS

The Adopt-A-School Initiative: A School-based Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program and Working with Teenagers Involved in Abusive Relationships: A Curriculum for Training Service Providers

Who Work with Teenagers

Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor

New York, NY 10038

Phone: 212-341-3889

Fax: 212-788-2798

Web: <http://home.nyc.gov/html/ocdv/html/pubs.html>

“Adopt-A-School/Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP) is a comprehensive, school-based teen relationship abuse program that promotes healthy relationships, intervenes in the cycle of teen intimate partner violence, and prevents destructive patterns of relationship abuse from extending into adult relationships.

The program pairs high schools with local domestic violence organizations.

Implemented jointly by the schools and the domestic violence service providers, the program provides students with effective teen relationship abuse prevention and intervention services, while being responsive to the needs of the individual schools. The program's focus on prevention, intervention, professional development, community outreach and parent education allows for full integration of the services throughout the school community while ensuring a “zero-tolerance” approach to abuse in all of its forms.”

Chance for Change

Phone: (503) 232-7805

“Chance for Change is a coalition of domestic and sexual violence intervention agencies in Oregon that provides specialized presentations on teen dating violence and date rape for young people. The coalition has developed a two-week curriculum for classroom teachers, which includes posters and brochures designed to incorporate the names and numbers of local resources. Materials also include a comprehensive manual about domestic and sexual violence for teachers or community educators to use in classroom presentations. The manual includes information, exercises, discussion topics, and handouts.”

Dating Violence Youth Education Package

Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign for Teens

Office of the Governor

State of Michigan

Web: http://www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5460_7261-52522--,00.html

“The Dating Violence Youth Education Program (DVYEP) includes background information, lesson plans, educator sheets, student surveys and handouts, as well as a poster in both English and Spanish. It is designed for use in high school health classes, but is appropriate with any group of high school-aged youth. We encourage educators to partner with their local domestic violence program, as they may have a Dating Violence Prevention Program and are fully trained to respond to students who disclose abuse.”

**SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION/
EDUCATION CURRICULA & PROGRAMS (continued)****Expect Respect: A School-Based Program Promoting Safe and Healthy Relationships for Youth and
Kid & Teen Safe: An Abuse Prevention Program for Youth with Disabilities**

SafePlace

PO Box 19454

Austin, TX 78760

Phone: 512-267-7233 (SAFE)

TTY: 512-927-9616

Fax: 512-385-0662

Email: info@austin-safeplace.orgWeb: <http://www.austin-safeplace.org>

“The *Expect Respect* program works to prevent dating and sexual violence and promote healthy relationships for all youth. Four program components include 1) Counseling and support groups for students who have experienced abuse and students who have witnessed domestic violence; 2) Classroom presentations on the topics of dating violence, sexual harassment/assault, and healthy relationships; 3) Staff and parent training for preventing bullying, sexual harassment and gender violence, and 4) the Summer Teen Leadership Program.”

“The *Kid & Teen Safe* program is a project of SafePlace’s Disability Services ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program) and provides abuse intervention and prevention services for children and youth who have disabilities.”

Helping Teens Stop Violence

A Practical Guide for Counselors, Educators, and Parents

The Oakland Men’s Project

1203 Preservation Park Way, Suite 200

Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 510-835-2433

Fax: 510-835-2466

“Based on programs developed by the Oakland Men’s Project, this book offers a proactive, multicultural approach for getting at the roots of violent behavior. The activities and workshops described in the book explore how violence manifests in families and dating; how issues of race, gender, and age are involved; and how teens can work to stop the violence in their lives. It includes curricula for classrooms and support groups, and strategies to support peer counselors and help abused teens.”

In Touch With Teens: A Relationship Violence Prevention Curriculum for Youth

In Touch With Teens Youth Violence Prevention Program

Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW)

6043 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 200

Los Angeles, CA 90028

Phone: 213-462-1281

Email: info@lacaaw.orgWeb: <http://www.lacaaw.org>

“Project TAP (Teen Abuse Prevention) is a culturally sensitive violence prevention outreach program that educates teens throughout Los Angeles County. The project seeks to empower local communities through education, support, and counseling networks for a wide variety of teens—from those in “mainstream” middle and high school settings to youth identified as “high risk” for violence, including incarcerated, pregnant/parenting, and homeless youth. *In Touch With Teens: A Relationship Violence Prevention Curriculum for Youth* is a dynamic and culturally responsible curriculum developed by Project TAP for use with youth ages 12 to 19.”

SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION/ EDUCATION CURRICULA & PROGRAMS (continued)

Making the Peace

A 15-Session Violence Prevention Curriculum for Young People
The Oakland Men's Project
1203 Preservation Park Way, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: 510-835-2433
Fax: 510-835-2466

“Making the Peace is written to help young people break away from violence, develop self-esteem, and regain a sense of community. It provides exercises, role-plays, in-class handouts, homework sheets, and discussion guidelines to explore issues such as dating violence, gangs, interracial tension, suicide, sexual harassment, and the social roots of violence. The authors outline a 15-session program that is grouped into three units. Part One explains basic concepts and establishes a framework of safety and respect within the class. Part Two looks at the forms that violence takes. Part Three focuses on healing from the past and introduces individual and group activities that can help to make the peace. The opening chapter, “Before You Begin,” offers guidelines to teachers for doing violence prevention work with young people.”

Prevention Programs Addressing Youth Dating Violence

School-based Violence Prevention Programs
RESOLVE Alberta
SS854, c/o Department of Anthropology
University of Calgary,
2500 University Drive NW,
Calgary AB Canada T2N 1N4
Phone: 403-220-8634
Fax: 403-210-8117
Email: resolve@ucalgary.ca

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/resolve/violenceprevention/English/reviewprog/youthdintro.htm>

“This site provides links to a variety of youth dating violence program descriptions as well as information on program manuals. The RESOLVE site includes contact information for or links to each manual produced by listed programs.”

Preventing Teen Dating Violence: A Three-Session Curriculum for Teaching Adolescents

Dating Violence Intervention Project
PO Box 530
Harvard Square Station
Cambridge, MA 02238
Phone: 617-868-8328

“This is a prevention manual with step-by-step instructions for implementing a three-session course, including sections on what staff need to know in order to speak effectively about teen violence, how to talk with young victims and perpetrators, and classroom handouts. The illustrated classroom activities are designed to help students recognize the difference between abuse and respect.”

SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION/ EDUCATION CURRICULA & PROGRAMS (continued)

Project R.A.P (Relationships and Power): A Curriculum Exploring the Misuse of Power and Control in Relationships for Students in Grades 6-8

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women
2620 Whitehorse Hamilton Square Road
Trenton, NJ 08690-2718
Phone: 609-584-8107
Email: info@njcbw.org
Web: <http://www.njcbw.org/index.html>

“This is a school-based curriculum on various forms of abuse and violence in interpersonal relationships. It is intended for use with grades six to eight. Five units cover gender and violence in society, child abuse and neglect, sexual harassment in the schools, dating violence and sexual assault.”

The QUIET Storm Project

Central Minnesota Task Force on Battered Women
915 First Street South, Suite 14
St. Cloud, MN 56301
Phone: 320-251-7203
Toll Free: 877-600-2225
Fax: 320-251-0369 (ATTN: Jacque)
Email: tqspin@thequietstormproject.com

Web: [http://www.thequietstor\[RTFbookmark start:}_Hlt496932722m\[RTFbookmark end:}_Hlt496932722project.com](http://www.thequietstor[RTFbookmark start:}_Hlt496932722m[RTFbookmark end:}_Hlt496932722project.com)

“Six non-profit domestic violence prevention organizations in Minnesota collaborated to develop the QUIET Storm Project. The QUIET Storm Project contains three professionally produced film modules, a written step-by-step instructor guide with an attachments and activities packet, a measurement tool, and a web site. The Project materials can be adapted for use with youth ages 10 and older.”

Skills for Violence-Free Relationships Curriculum for Young People ages 13-18

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW)
1821 University Avenue West, S-112
St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 646-6177
Email: mcbw@mcbw.org
Web: <http://www.mcbw.org>

“This curriculum is a collection of educational presentations and activities for classes of adolescents. Common myths are dispelled surrounding battering and concrete facts are provided about why battering occurs. Additionally, skills are taught that will reduce the likelihood of adolescents becoming the abused or the abuser in a relationship.

The variety of activities makes the curriculum very adaptable to different grade levels and subject ideas. The teachers guide provides teachers with more comprehensive background on the issues of battering, additional classroom activities and information on violence in dating relationships.”

SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION/ EDUCATION CURRICULA & PROGRAMS (continued)

Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Program (TDVPIP)

Massachusetts Department of Education

P.O. Box 398114

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 781-338-6312

Email: pbrashler@doe.mass.edu

Web: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/hssss/program/teen.html>

“This program seeks to create a school culture where dating violence is intolerable. The program goals are to develop school-based teen dating violence prevention and intervention strategies with training and support from experienced practitioners to educate school personnel and community members to recognize warning signs, and to link schools with resources and support services that are available in their communities.” Comprehensive Updated Guidelines for Schools on Addressing Teen Dating Violence are accessible online at: < <http://www.doe.mass.edu/hssss/tdv/toc.html>>

Teen Dating Violence Resource Manual

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) (1997)

PO Box 18749

Denver, CO 80218-0749

Phone: 303-839-1852

Web: <http://www.ncadv.org>

“This manual on teen dating violence contains information, poems, stories, and surveys. It describes the problem of teen dating violence and suggests strategies and options for dealing with the problem as well as safety planning and public education/awareness techniques. Programs and resources are also listed.”

Youth Relationships Project

The University of Western Ontario

Department of Psychology

Room 7440 Social Science Centre

London, Ontario N6A 5C2

Phone: 519-679-2111, ext. 4726

Email: pittman@uwo.ca

Web: <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/psychology/faculty/project/yr-project/>

“The project is designed to provide interpersonal, problem solving, coping, and social action skills to adolescents who are at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of violence. The program examines the media’s role in enhancing and glamorizing violence. Issues of power and control in familial, societal, and relationship contexts are explored. The Youth Relationships Project is an 18-week program in which adolescents meet in small groups for two hours per week. A male and female facilitator lead the group through a number of learning and educational activities (i.e., videos, print materials, discussions, exercises, guest speakers, and action projects). The facilitators are usually social workers from the community who are familiar with the issues of violence and adolescent behavior.”

YOUTH THEATER GROUPS

Heart to Heart

The Shelter for Battered Women
PO Box 220312
Charlotte, NC 28222
Phone: 704-332-2513

“A group created in 1994 by The Shelter for Battered Women, a division of United Family Services, the teen theater project has been developed to provide an opportunity for experiential questioning, sharing and learning among teens. The focus of Heart to Heart is to address the problem of teen dating violence. The teen group uses theater as a way to reach their peers – educating them and encouraging empathy, while brainstorming solutions to issues of violence and abuse in dating relationships. The dramatic performances are interspersed with statistical information about domestic violence.”

Teen RAVE (Rape, Abuse, and Violence Education) Theater Group

706 West Green Street
Ithaca, NY 14851
Phone: 607-273-5589
Fax: 607-273-3608
Email: fts@cornell.edu

“Through interactive theater performances, the Teen RAVE Theater Group addresses problems of sexual harassment and other forms of teen dating violence. Teen RAVE actors perform age-appropriate theatrical role-plays, and facilitate question-and-answer periods with their peers in the audience. While remaining in character the teen actors allow audience members the opportunity to ask about the characters’ specific reactions and responses to their traumatic experiences with sexual harassment and physical violence.”

The Yellow Dress and Remote Control

Deana’s Fund
38 Montvale Ave., Suite 245
Stoneham, MA 02180
Phone: 781-438-5604
Fax: 781-438-6129
Email: sbecker@deanasfund.org
Web: <http://www.deanasfund.com>

“*The Yellow Dress*, a one-woman play about a young victim of dating violence, is an educational tool for middle and high school students and assists them in understanding the warning signs and outcomes of a violent dating relationship. The play integrates important facts and statistics on dating violence into the theatrical performance. The carefully constructed program stimulates thought-provoking post-show discussion about relationships.”

“*The Remote Control* dating violence prevention program is designed for both middle and high school audiences. The program explores issues and beliefs about relationships and promotes skills designed to encourage healthy decision-making about dating relationships and friendships. The program can help establish a community/school climate that discourages abusive behavior and offers teen important information in a non-threatening and entertaining format.”

YOUTH THEATER GROUPS (continued)

You The Man

Add Verb Productions

Contact: Cathy Plourde, Executive Director

Email: cathy.plourde@att.net

Web: <http://home.att.net/~cathy.plourde/home.htm>

"You The Man is a one-man show addressing unhealthy relationships, dating violence and sexual assault. It is a monodrama suitable for college and high school audiences, as well as ideal for training adults for work with young adults around issues of dating violence and sexual assault. This production can be adapted for orientations, wellness trainings, and community awareness."

TEEN BATTERER INTERVENTION CURRICULUM

Group Work with Adolescents: Ending the Intergenerational Cycle of Domestic Violence

14 Session Curriculum

Domestic Abuse Project (DAP)

204 West Franklin Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: (612) 874-7063

Email: dap@mndap.org

“The adolescent treatment program presented in this manual, and which at Domestic Abuse Project (DAP) has called the “Emerging Young Men’s Program,” is based on the following core beliefs promoted by the DAP: violent behavior is learned; violence is a chosen behavior; violence is motivated by a desire for power and control; violence and other forms of abuse are not acceptable ways to control another person, to release stress, or to express feelings; violent behavior is not caused by alcohol or other drugs; and, violent behavior is not caused by poor intimate relationships or by job frustrations, sexual problems, or child-rearing problems.”

STATE AND NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS/ PROJECTS

Coaching Boys Into Men: A Campaign To Prevent Violence Against Women and Children

Family Violence Prevention Fund

383 Rhode Island St. Suite #304

San Francisco, CA 94103-5133

Phone: (415) 252-8900

Fax: (415) 252-8991

TTY: (800) 595-4889

Email: info@endabuse.org

Web: <http://endabuse.org>

“Coaching Men into Boys, a national campaign launched in 2002, provides information to help men learn appropriate ways to talk to boys about violence against women and girls. The campaign invites men to be part of the solution, while educating them about the problem, motivating them to move beyond complacency and providing them with the tools and information necessary to break the cycle of intimate partner and family violence.”

Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign for Teens

Office of the Governor

State of Michigan

(Search under “dating violence.”)

“The Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign for Teens is one component of the State of Michigan’s new Domestic Violence Prevention Laws. The plan includes dating violence educational brochures for students that include the national domestic violence hotline number to call for help; public service announcements discussing dating violence that will feature Jerry Stackhouse of the Detroit Pistons; and an educational curricula on dating violence for middle and high school students around the state – information is posted on this statewide Web site, allowing educators to download a variety of educational materials for students.”

Teen Dating Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (TDVIP)

Health, Safety and Student Support Services Programs

Massachusetts Department of Education

Web: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/hsss/program/teen.html>

“The Teen Dating Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (TDVIP) of the Massachusetts Department of Education provides funds to public middle schools and high schools across the Commonwealth, to implement comprehensive dating violence prevention and intervention programs. Using a model emphasizing community collaboration, grant recipients provide teen dating violence education and training opportunities, implement policies and procedures addressing all aspects of teen dating violence, and provide on-site support services to survivors and intervention services to adolescent perpetrators of dating violence.”

STATE AND NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS/ PROJECTS (continued)**Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program**

Northeastern University's

Center for the Study of Sport in Society

360 Huntington Avenue, Suite 161 CP

Boston, MA 02115-5000

Phone: 617-373-4025

Fax: 617-373-4566 / 2092

Email : sportinsociety@neu.eduWeb:<http://www.sportinsociety.org/mvp.html>

“The Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program is a gender violence prevention and education program based at Northeastern University’s Center for the Study of Sport in Society. The multi-racial, mixed gender MVP team is the first large-scale attempt to enlist high school, collegiate, and professional athletes in the effort to prevent all forms of men’s violence against women. Utilizing a unique bystander approach to gender violence prevention, the MVP Program views student-athletes and student leaders not as potential perpetrators or victims, but as empowered bystanders who can confront abusive peers. Program participants develop leadership skills and learn to mentor and educate younger boys and girls on these issues.”

Teen Dating Violence

WEB SITE RESOURCE LIST

Prevention/Education & Direct Services



prepared by

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

A project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112

800-537-2238 ■ TTY: 800-553-2508 ■ Fax: 717-545-9456

www.nrcdv.org ■ www.vawnet.org

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WEB SITE RESOURCE LIST

Prevention/Education & Direct Services

FOR TEENS

By Girls For Girls

Relationship violence

<http://www.bygirlsfor girls.org/relationships.html>

Houston Area Women's Center – Teen Dating Violence

<http://www.hawc.org/topics/teen/teens.html>

“This site provides a straightforward, colorful and concise presentation of the facts about dating violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault. The site defines each dynamic, provides warning signs for dating violence and gives vital information about date rape drugs Rohypnol, GHB and Ketamine.”

Love Is Not Abuse

<http://www.loveisnotabuse.com/home.asp>

“A part of Liz Claiborne's extensive campaign to provide information on intimate partner violence to adults and teens, this teen site provides clear information about all aspects of dating violence and abuse. The site is colorful, well designed and easy to navigate. *A Teen's Handbook: What You Need To Know About Dating Violence* can be downloaded from the site, copied and distributed by programs to their constituents.”

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Toll Free: 800-799-SAFE (7233)

Dating Violence Information

<http://www.ndvh.org/index.html> (Click ‘Teens and Dating Violence’)

Dating Violence Links

<http://www.ndvh.org/links.html#teens>

“The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides callers with information they might otherwise have found difficult or impossible to obtain. In fact, for approximately 60 percent of the callers, calling the Hotline is their first step in finding safety from the violence plaguing their lives.”

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

reachoutnh.com (Reach Out New Hampshire)

<http://www.reachoutnh.com/>

“This Web site is part of a statewide campaign and provides information on relationship violence, healthy relationships, victim safety, sexual abuse/harassment, stalking, tips on how to obtain help for a friend, legal issues, a listing of available resources and more. On the site, teens can read stories of others who have experienced dating violence and can take a quiz to assess their own relationships.”

FOR TEENS (continued)

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence: Dating Violence

<http://www.ricadv.org/violence.html>

“This Web site, specifically geared to teens, includes online information on dating violence including myths and facts, warning signs, safety planning, statistics, contrasts healthy and violent relationships, offers information on how to end a violent relationship and provides teens with a dating questionnaire that allows them to look at behaviors in their own dating relationships.”

What Is Teen Dating Violence?

<http://www.abanet.org/domviol/teendatingviolence.html>

“This site provides information on teen dating violence gathered by the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence. The site offers statistics, information on myths and facts of dating violence, warning signs, difficulties of leaving the relationship, safety and support for victim/survivor, ways to help a friend and options for social action.”

Teen Health Website

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Health/TeenHealth/>

“The Teen Health Homepages are a project created by students and staff of Dalhousie University (Canada) in the 1990s. The purpose of the web pages is to promote individual responsibility for health. Information provided by the “Teen Health Project” includes material on issues of teen sexual health, including sexual harassment and assault.”

TeenPCAR (Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape)

<http://teenpcar.com/>

“An inviting, dynamic and interactive web site, that offers information about every teen’s right to sexual health and safety, encourages teens to become activists against sexual assault in their schools and communities and provides information about getting help, if they, or someone they know, has been victimized. Teens can also download music from the TeenPCAR *Xpose* CD and *Teen Esteem Magazine*.”

Teen Relationship Web site (TRW)

<http://www.teenrelationships.org/>

“The Teen Relationship Web site provides information, resource links and a chat room for teens who want to explore and discuss relationship issues with someone close to their own age. The TRW chat room is facilitated by a group of teens and young adults who have completed 40 hours of training on issues of dating violence, sexual assault/harassment and healthy relationships.”

Teen Victim Project

<http://www.ncvc.org/tvp/>

“The Teen Victim Project Web site is accessible in both Spanish and English and provides teens, parents and advocates with information and resources related to dating violence, sexual violence and stalking and also provides links to other organizations.”

FOR TEENS (continued)**When Love Hurts, a guide on love, respect and abuse in relationships**

<http://www.dvirc.org.au/whenlove/>

“Winner of the 2001 Australian Violence Prevention Award, this Web site for young women offers “space” for both getting information and for thinking through relationship issues. The site links to the “girls help kit” and also to a “true stories” section. The stories section offers links to personal stories, and advice from teen survivors. The survivors describe what happened in their relationships, how they utilized their coping skills, the ways in which the relationships evolved and then suggests effective ways to help a friend caught in an abusive/violent dating situation.”

You Have The Right

<http://www.uhavetheright.net/home.html>

“This site contains spoken work CD tracks with information on healthy and unhealthy relationships, ideas for helping someone who is in an abusive relationship and resources and links to other sites. The CD tracks were developed by students at the High School for Recording Arts in Saint Paul, MN and recorded by the student-operated label Another Level records.”

Youth Resource, a Project of Advocates for Youth Dating Violence

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fsdating.htm>

“Youth Resource is a Web site created by and for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) young people 13 to 24 years old. The site takes a holistic approach by offering support, community, resources, and peer-to-peer education about issues of concern to GLBTQ young people. YouthResource has four focus areas: health, advocacy, community, and issues in our lives.”

INFORMATION FOR ADVOCATES, PARENTS/ GUARDIANS & EDUCATORS

The Adolescent Transitional Living Program (ATLP)

Casa Myrna Vásquez

<http://www.casamyrna.org/programs/residential.html>

“The Adolescent Transitional Living Program (ATLP) is a unique resource in New England that addresses the needs of pregnant and parenting teen mothers and their children who have been affected by domestic violence. The ATLP supports teen mothers in their efforts to achieve their personal and educational goals. The program also emphasizes the importance of developing healthy relationships while strengthening young mothers' decision making and parenting skills.”

Break the Cycle

<http://www.breakthecycle.org>

“Break the Cycle’s (BTC) mission is to end domestic violence by working proactively with youth. BTC provides prevention and education services through “Ending Violence: A Curriculum for Educating Teens about Domestic Violence and the Law” and other education and outreach services to young people in middle and high schools, colleges, juvenile detention facilities and community youth groups, and to parents, social service providers and concerned community members. The legal services program provides early intervention services, including legal advice, counsel and representation, to youth, ages 12 to 22, assisting them to escape abusive relationships or homes. Finally, BTC conducts federal and local public policy initiatives, working with national, state and local governments to impact legislation and policies on intimate partner violence. All of Break the Cycle’s services are provided free of charge.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov> (Search under “teen dating violence.”)

- **Fact Sheet on Dating Violence**
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/yvpt/datviol.htm>
 - **Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action**
(Available in Spanish)
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/bestpractices.htm>
-

Center for Impact Research

<http://www.impactresearch.org>.

Recent Reports:

- Helping with Domestic Violence: Legal Barriers to Serving Teens in Illinois
- Add It Up: Teen Parents on Welfare. . . Undercounted, Oversanctioned, Underserved
- Is Teen Marriage A Solution?

**INFORMATION FOR ADVOCATES, PARENTS/
GUARDIANS & EDUCATORS (continued)**

Coaching Boys Into Men: A Campaign To Prevent Violence Against Women and Children
<http://endabuse.org>

Coaching Men into Boys, a national campaign launched in 2002, provides information to help men learn appropriate ways to talk to boys about violence against women and girls. The campaign invites men to be part of the solution, while educating them about the problem, motivating them to move beyond complacency and providing them with the tools and information necessary to break the cycle of intimate partner and family violence.

Girls' Coalition of Greater Boston

Tips for Practitioners: What Works?

<http://www.girlscoalition.org/workfall01.html#teen>

Site contains the following articles:

- *Teen Dating Violence among Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Girls*, G. Gurwitsch
 - *Creating a Safe Space for Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Girls*, C. P. Moniz
 - *Training and Education*, H. Holland
-

Los Angeles Commission Against Assaults on Women [LACAAW]

In Touch With Teens Youth Violence Prevention Program

<http://www.lacaaw.org/home.html> (Click 'LACAAW Services,' 'In Touch With Teens')

"LACAAW's In Touch With Teens program was developed in response to the growing awareness of violence in teen relationships. The purpose of the ITWT program is to prevent relationship violence through education, advocacy and organizing. In order to achieve this goal to help teens create violence-free relationships, LACAAW has been implementing the Teen Relationship Violence Prevention curriculum, *In Touch with Teens*, since 1991 in junior high and high schools, juvenile detention centers, and other community based youth organizations. The program received it's initial funding from the Office of Criminal Justice Planning in 1992."

Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

Teen Action Campaign

http://www.janedoe.org/About/about_tac.htm

"The Teen Action Campaign is a public engagement campaign – a broad based effort that moves beyond raising awareness to giving young people concrete tools for action. The project is designed to engage young people in creating a climate where abuse and violence are actively rejected."

Massachusetts Department of Education

Updated Guidelines for Schools on Addressing Teen Dating Violence

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/hssss/tdv/toc.html>

"This site provides information on developing a comprehensive response to teen dating violence, establishing an advisory board on teen dating violence, developing a written school policy, training for the school community to increase awareness, developing intervention, resource and referral services and fostering a school climate that has zero tolerance for dating violence."

INFORMATION FOR ADVOCATES, PARENTS/ GUARDIANS & EDUCATORS (continued)

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program

<http://www.sportinsociety.org/mvp.html>

“The Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program is a gender violence prevention and education program based at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. The multi-racial, mixed gender MVP team is the first large-scale attempt to enlist high school, collegiate, and professional athletes in the effort to prevent all forms of men's violence against women. Utilizing a unique bystander approach to gender violence prevention, the MVP Program views student-athletes and student leaders not as potential perpetrators or victims, but as empowered bystanders who can confront abusive peers. Program participants develop leadership skills and learn to mentor and educate younger boys and girls on these issues.”

National Center For Policy Research (CPR) For Women & Families

News You Can Use on Kids and Violence

<http://www.cpr4womenandfamilies.org/violence.html>

“The National Center for Policy Research for Women & Families is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is dedicated to providing unbiased, research-based information that can be used to improve the lives of women and families. News You Can Use on Kids and Violence provides summaries of recent research findings, with information about how you can obtain copies of the original articles describing the research.”

National Electronic Network on Violence Against Women (VAWnet)

Teen Dating Violence Resources

<http://www.vawnet.org>

- Campus Stalking
<http://www.vawnet.org/Intersections/OtherViolenceTypes/Stalking/>
- Expect Respect
http://www.vawnet.org/NRCDVPublications/TAPE/Papers/NRC_Expect-full.php
- Healthy Relationships/Valentine's Day Materials
http://www.vawnet.org/NRCDVPublications/TAPE/Packets/NRC_valentine02.php
- Making the Peace
http://www.vawnet.org/NRCDVPublications/TAPE/Papers/NRC_MTP-full.php
- Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
http://www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR_Prevention.php
- Organizing College Campuses Against Dating Abuse
http://www.vawnet.org/NRCDVPublications/TAPE/Papers/NRC_camp-full.php
- Working with Young Men Who Batter
http://www.vawnet.org/DomesticViolence/Research/VAWnetDocs/AR_juvperp.php

**INFORMATION FOR ADVOCATES, PARENTS/
GUARDIANS & EDUCATORS (continued)****Project PAVE (Promoting Alternatives to Violence through Education)**

2051 York St.

Denver, CO 80205

Phone: 303-322-2382

Fax: 303-322-0032

<http://www.projectpave.org/>

“Project PAVE (Promoting Alternative to Violence through Education) is a non-profit organization providing violence prevention and intervention services to youth, families, and schools in the five county Denver metro area. Services include violence prevention education curriculum for K-12 classrooms and community organizations which help children learn what triggers violence, how to protect themselves, and how to choose alternatives to violence when faced with conflict. A teen dating violence/building healthy relationships program is offered at the high school level. PAVE also provides counseling services for youth ages 8-18 who have been victims, witnesses or perpetrators of relationship violence, as well as parent and family support services.”

The Quiet Storm Project<http://www.thequietstormproject.com>

“The QUIET Storm Project focuses on the prevention of relationship violence for youth. The project is designed for students in grades 5 through 12 and for students who are in college. The project integrates easily into lesson plans and can be used as a stand-alone domestic violence prevention learning module or it can integrate into an existing domestic violence prevention curriculum. Project collaboration consists of six non-profit domestic violence organizations located in Minnesota.”

SafePlace, Austin, TX<http://www.austin-safeplace.org/>

“SafePlace helps those who have been hurt by sexual and domestic violence and abuse to heal and empower themselves. They provide prevention, intervention, education and advocacy so that women, children, and men may lead safe and healthy lives. SafePlace coordinates the Expect Respect program – a comprehensive school based education program and A.S.A.P. – a program for students with disabilities.”

RELATED RESOURCES FOR TEENS AND ADVOCATES

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV)

<http://www.Colorado.EDU/cspv/>

“The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) was founded in 1992 with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to provide informed assistance to groups committed to understanding and preventing violence, particularly adolescent violence. In an effort to establish more complete and valuable information to impact violence-related policies, programs, and practices, CSPV works from a multi-disciplinary platform on the subject of violence and facilitates the building of bridges between research communities, practitioners and policy makers. Within CPSV, the Information House serves to collect research literature and resources on the causes and prevention of violence and provides direct information services to the public by offering topical searches on customized databases. CSPV also offers technical assistance for the evaluation and development of violence prevention programs, and CSPV maintains a basic research component through data analysis and other projects on the causes of violence and the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs.”

Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services (G.L.A.S.S.)

<http://www.glassla.org/>

“G.L.A.S.S. is a private, non-profit (501(c)3) social service agency with a mission to provide out-of-home care and support services to children and adolescents, their families of origin, their foster and adoptive families, and the community. Since its origin in 1984, G.L.A.S.S. has focused on providing essential intervention services to address the special needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. G.L.A.S.S. has developed and currently operates numerous outreach, residential and treatment services to meet the needs of those youth what are wards of the court as well as those who are homeless, runaways, throwaways and who engage in survival prostitution, engaged in substance abuse and are at risk for HIV infection.”

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)

<http://www.glsen.org>

“GLSEN is an education organization creating safe schools for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Thousands of volunteers participate in a national network comprised of local chapters. These chapters work with local school boards, principals, educators and school librarians to create positive change in hometown schools.”

National Center for Victims of Crime

<http://www.ncvc.org>

- *Our Vulnerable Teenagers: Their Victimization, Its Consequences, and Directions for Prevention and Intervention and related resources*
<http://www.ncvc.org/teens/>

RELATED RESOURCES FOR TEENS AND ADVOCATES (continued)**National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC)**

<http://www.nyacyouth.org/>

“NYAC'S Primary Membership consists of local, community-based LGBTQ youth service providers. This site is not specific to dating violence issues, but does offer information on many issues faced by LGBTQ youth. The site includes links to local service providers.”

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center

<http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/index.asp>

“The National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center (NYVPRC) was established as a central source of information on prevention and intervention programs, publications, research, and statistics on violence committed by and against children and teens. The resource center is collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies. Together, the NYVPRC Web site, www.safeyouth.org, and call center, 1-866-SAFEYOUTH (723-3968), serve as a user-friendly, single point of access to federal information on youth violence prevention and suicide.”

Welfare Information Network: Teen Parents

<http://www.financeprojectinfo.org/WIN/teen.asp>

“The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 subjects teen parents who are TANF recipients to time limits and work requirements. In addition, these teens are subject to stay-in-school and live-at-home provisions. States may not spend TANF funds on minor, unmarried, custodial parents who do not live at home or in an adult supervised setting. States also may not provide TANF funds to teen parents who are not participating in high school or other equivalent training programs.”

