

*Teen Dating Violence
Information for Teachers*

What is it?

Teen dating violence is abusive, controlling, and forceful behavior in a dating relationship. It demonstrates the abuser's need to dominate and control the victim. Violent behavior can include verbal, emotional, sexual, or physical abuse.

Verbal and emotional abuse includes:

- Name calling, threats, screaming, criticizing, and ridiculing

Sexual abuse includes:

- Unwanted sexual touching and kissing, intimidating the victim to participate in any form of sexual activity, and rape

Physical abuse includes:

- Pushing, punching, slapping, kicking, choking, and any other actions that cause physical

Why do we care?

Students who are victims of dating violence are likely to:

- perform poorly in school.
- isolate themselves from their friends and classmates.
- show sudden changes in their mood or personality.
- display a lack of interest in school or other extracurricular activities.

Students who are perpetrators of dating violence are likely to:

- have been exposed to in-home violence as a child.
- exhibit anger management problems.
- have a history of fighting or aggressive behavior.

What can we do about it?

- **Learn how to recognize the mental and physical warning signs associated with dating violence.**
- **Incorporate lesson plans that address dating violence.** Teach students how to recognize the signs that tell them whether they are at risk of entering an abusive relationship or are already involved in one.
- **If a student is either a victim or perpetrator in a violent dating relationship, encourage him/her to seek help from professional that specializes in relationship violence or a community-based organization that offers assistance to those involved in abusive relationships.**

References

Responding to Students Involved in Dating Violence. National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center. <http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/faq/respdating.asp>

Facts for Teens: Teen Dating Violence. National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center. <http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/faq/dateviolfacts.asp>

Intimate Partner Violence: Fact Sheet. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC. http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/ipv_factsheet.pdf

Helpful Links

Love Doesn't Have to Hurt Teens
American Psychological Association
www.apa.org/pi/pii/teen/homepage.html

Tools for Action: Youth Relationship Violence
Transforming Communities: Creating Safety and Justice for Women and Girls
http://www.transformcommunities.org/resources_yrv.html

Twisted Love: Dating Violence Exposed (video)
www.pbs.org/inthemix/shows/show_dating_violence.html

Dating Violence Lesson Plans
<http://www.pbs.org/inthemix/educators/lessons/index.html>

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