

# TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

## SAFETY AWARENESS TIPS



Teen dating violence is defined as the physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual violence within a dating relationship, including stalking. It can occur in person or electronically and can occur between a current or former dating partner.

### DID YOU KNOW?



**1 in 3 teens** will experience dating abuse **before high school graduation.**

-CDC

**25% of female** and **17% of male abuse survivors** reported missing at least one day of school due to abuse.

-CDC Intimate Partner Violence Prevention

**Only 33%** of teens in an abusive relationship **ever told someone** about the abuse.

-loveisrespect.org

About **16 million women** and **11 million men** who reported experiencing contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime said that they first experienced these forms of violence **before the age of 18.**

-CDC

### PREVENTION



End it before it begins – help preteens and young teens know and recognize teen dating violence warning signs.

Become a nonjudgmental helpline:

- **Notice** behavior changes in your child
- **Initiate** conversations with your child. They might want to talk but may not be sure how to start the conversation
- **Talk** in a comfortable environment – away from siblings and distractions. You are more likely to get answers when your child feels safe, rather than confronted
- **Listen** respectfully and allow them to share fully before offering solutions
- **Support** your child and confirm to them you are a good, nonjudgmental resource
- **Give** your child realistic strategies for confronting the problem effectively
- **Empower** bystanders with ideas on how to get help

### CONVERSATION



- How are things going? *Your teen may not respond in the way you want, remain calm and be sincere about wanting to know how things are going in their life*
- What are your friends' dating relationships like? Do they make any kind of commitment to each other? Do kids talk to each other about their feelings for their boyfriend or girlfriend? Are there certain things boys want that girls don't? Girls want but boys don't? *This question will give you insight on how your teen values relationships*
- Have you ever seen any kind of abusive behavior between two people who are going out? For example, a boy sees his girlfriend talking to another guy, so he pulls her by the arm and yanks her away. *Give examples and then ask your teen if they consider it violence*
- Why do you think someone would abuse someone they were dating? *This may bring up uncomfortable disagreements or questions about what you personally believe*
- Why might a person stay in an abusive relationship?
- What makes a relationship healthy? *If your teen is dating, ask them how the relationship is going. If they aren't dating anyone at the time, ask them, "When you think about going out with someone, what are some behaviors that would be okay and/or what are some you would have a problem with?"*
- What can you do if you have a friend who is threatened – or a friend who is abusive?



## WHERE TO REPORT

If you are in danger,  
immediately call  
**911**

If you suspect abuse of a minor,  
you must report to DFPS at  
**1-800-252-5400**

National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline  
**1-866-331-9474**  
CHAT: [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org)  
TEXT: **LOVEIS** to 22522



## PARTNERS & RESOURCES

- **Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC):** is a 501©3 organization with a mission "to create social change by taking action against personal and societal patterns of violence and oppression." [hawc.org](http://hawc.org)
- **AVDA:** is a nonprofit organization that has served the Houston community for 40 years with the mission to end family violence by advocating for the safety and self-determination of victims, promoting accountability for abusers and fostering a community response to abuse. [avda-tx.org](http://avda-tx.org)
- **Texas Health and Human Services:** mission to serve the health, safety and well-being of Texans with good stewardship of public resources. [hhs.texas.gov](http://hhs.texas.gov)



## SAFETY PLANNING FOR YOURSELF OR A LOVED ONE



The decision to leave an abusive relationship can be a dangerous one. In order to protect your safety or the safety of a loved one during this process, it is essential to prepare a safety plan.

Identify a friend and a safe space



Memorize phone numbers



Purchase gift cards



Direct deposit any raise from work to another account



Make a list of important documents



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