2nd Annual Conference
September 4, 2013
Media, Pop Culture and Teen Dating Violence

Amber McKeen- Child Abuse Prevention Trainer
Kara Klein- Child Life Specialist

Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children
Objectives

• Recall 3 risk factors and consequences of Teen Dating Violence.

• Give an example of at least one current event in pop culture relating to Teen Dating Violence.

• Discuss gradual shifts in public perception regarding violence in relationships.
What is Teen Dating Violence?

“The pattern of repeated actual or threatened acts that physically, sexually, or verbally abuse a member of an unmarried heterosexual or homosexual couple in which one or both partners is between thirteen and twenty years old”

Forms of Abuse


Teen Power and Control Wheel
Electronic Aggression and TDV

• Texting/Calling
  - Boost mobile - “Where you at?”

• GPS location
  - Checking In

• Facebook, Twitter, Blogger, etc...
  - Harassment
Cell Phones and “Sexting”

• 1 in 4 teens in relationships report they text their partner every hour between 10pm and 5am

• Experts estimate teens text on average over 3,000 times per month

• Sexting- sending sexually explicit photos or videos via cell phones or other social media
  – 50% of teens admit they feel pressured to “sext”
Cycle of Violence

Tension → Explosion

“Honeymoon”

Love the Way
You Lie

Break the Cycle: www.breakthecycle.gov

Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
Risk Factors

- **Individual** - biological and personal history factors
- **Relationship** - peers, intimate partners, and family members
- **Community** - schools, characteristics of neighborhood
- **Society** - media, geographic region

[Man Down - Rihanna](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7l_05E9RlTw)

[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/overview/social_ecologicalmodel.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/overview/social_ecologicalmodel.html)
Risk Factor- Child Abuse

• Children who have witnessed or experienced family violence and trauma are more likely to perpetrate or be a victim of teen dating violence
  • Including those who are physically punished

• One study found that 45% of girls who had experienced CSA experienced physical violence in their dating relationships
  — Duration of sexual abuse, violence and completed intercourse significantly contributed to experiencing TDV

• Early traumatic experiences can delay or alter brain development
TDV and Brain Development

- Adolescent Brains are not fully developed
- Prefrontal Cortex
  - Impulsivity
  - Interpreting Emotions
  - Judgment
  - Consequences of actions
  - Decision making
Recognizing Teen Dating Violence When:

Teen is a Victim…

• Loss of interest in normal activities and hobbies
• Unexplainable bruises or injuries
• Appears fearful or angry when unable to access their cell phone
• Withdrawing from family and friends
• Fearfulness around dating partner or when his or her name is mentioned
• Making excuses for partner’s violent behavior
  – Reviving Ophelia clip
• Noticeable changes in eating or sleeping patterns and alcohol and drug use
• Loss of self-confidence

Red Flags

Recognizing Teen Dating Violence When:

Teen is a Perpetrator…

• Insults dating partner in public or private
• Attempts to control dating partner’s friends, activities, or even what they wear
• Demands to know where dating partner is at all times
• Blames the dating partner for his or her actions
• Displays extreme jealousy
Consequences to the victim

- Injuries, death, suicide
- Mental health
- PTSD
- Low self-esteem
- Declines in school achievement
- Engaging in unhealthy behaviors
- Increased risk of STIs- HIV
- Pregnancy
- Cycle of Violence

Perpetrators have consequences too…

• Alienation from friends and family

• Expulsion from school

• Depression

• Criminal record

• Potentially build poor lifelong relationship habits
National Prevalence of TDV

- 41% of females and 37% males report victimization; 1 in 3 teens report perpetration

- Males more likely to report sexual perpetration; females more likely to report physical perpetration

- Rates of physical victimization similar across all income levels, race and ethnicity

- Females between 16-24 experience the highest rate of IPV- almost triple the national average

16% of teens report dating violence

# 1 in the US

Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011
Reporting Teen Dating Violence

- Only 1 in 11 episodes of dating violence reported
- Variety of reasons why teens do not report:
  - Unaware it is abuse
  - Denial
  - Stigma
  - Self-blame

- Adult beliefs:
  - 81% believe DV is not a teen problem
  - Fail to validate teens feelings for partner
  - Teen relationships are not serious, easy to get out

Differences in Reporting

Cannot use the same rules

– Safety issues for the victim
– May not recognize they are in a unhealthy or violent relationship
– Parental involvement
– Not “mandated to report”
– Reporting agencies
Media and Pop Culture Influences

Be thinking about…

• Teen role models and influences

• How can we use our knowledge of this information to challenge common beliefs about relationship norms and what is acceptable
It gets worse...

- Rihanna Victim Blaming
- Rappers Happy to Defend Chris Brown but “not my daughter”
- Twitter responses
New Media, or “will to representation”

- Ability to now record ourselves via photo, video, or print on the internet and/or news media
  - “Happy Slapping”- surprise assault peers, then post online
    - Spread to attacks on strangers, even assault, rape & homicide
  - 3 males witness woman collapse on the street, one proceeds to urinate on her proclaiming “this is youtube material!”
  - 8 teens sexually assault, urinate & attempt to set fire to a female. Attempted to sell DVD at nearby schools
- Steubenville Rape Case
- OneDirectioners attack The Bert Show

[Link](http://www.usatoday.com/videos/life/music/2013/06/26/2458805/)
Family Guy Clip

Horton Hears Domestic Violence
What can we do?
Everyone interacting with teens could...

- Model healthy behaviors
- Recognize red flags
- Listen to teens without judging when they ask for help
- Be supportive, and do not criticize their partner
- Be aware of resources that can help teens involved in abusive relationships
As a Caregiver - talk to your kids EARLY

• Teach teens about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships
• Teens need to know that you are ready to talk
• They need to feel secure talking to you
• Create a supportive environment
  – Be available
  – Show respect for each other
  – Need to be able to trust you
  – Show interest by asking questions in a comfortable order and style

Choose Respect: www.cdc.gov/chooserespect
Guidelines for Introducing Conversation

• Start with a general question
• Let your teen be the expert on his/her world
• Relate your discussion to things they are interested in
  – Use examples we discussed, or find your own
• Ask about peer pressure
• Ask how you can help
  – Try to avoid passing judgment
  – Avoid criticizing partner
Create Rules

• Teens want rules (even though they won’t admit it)
• Set an age for dating
• Make sure your teen is not spending a lot of time in unsupervised situations
• Set guidelines for your teen’s outings
• Be aware of what your teens are doing and who they are with
Encourage and Educate

• Be on the lookout for red flags and use them as opportunities to talk if necessary
• Help teens build their own values and goals
• Educate them about age differences and dating expectations
• Help teens have a voice
• Remind them that you are there to keep them safe and share experiences with you
Educating Teens

- [http://www.loveisrespect.org/](http://www.loveisrespect.org/)
- It’s ok if you don’t have all the answers – be honest and offer to help find out the facts together
- Teens can really benefit from hearing what your values are
- Teach teens that healthy relationships are based on respect, caring, and trust
  - Some signs of “love” are actually signs of jealousy and controlling behavior
- Lil Wayne [How to Love](http://www.loveisrespect.org/)
Warning signs to discuss with teens:

• Your Partner:
  – Tells you what to do or wear
  – Makes false accusations or constantly accuses you of cheating
  – Only wants you to hang out with them
  – Blames you for their problems
  – Has huge mood swings and goes from being really angry to very sweet in short periods of time

• You:
  – Apologize for the behavior or make excuses for it
  – Frequently worry about making them angry
  – Stop doing things that are important to you to make them happy
  – Cancel plans with friends at the last minute
  – Are afraid to break up because they may hurt you, or themselves
What if you find a teen is in a potentially abusive relationship?

• Brainstorm with teens — who to call, where to go if in imminent danger, what they should take with them

  — Encourage them:
    • To tell parents or family members they are afraid of their partner
    • To try not to be alone with their partner— go out in public places, try to always keep a cell phone on them, let other’s know where they are
    • If they’re breaking up, don’t break up in person/alone
    • Always tell an adult or someone who can help if their partner threatens violence
    • Change passwords & block access to social networking

• **Safety Plan**
Resources - Teen Dating Violence


• National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

• National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

• National Center for Victims of Crime: www.ncvc.org

• Nat’l Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center: www.safeyouth.org
Resources - Teen Dating Violence

• Choose Respect Initiative: www.cdc.gov/chooserespect

• Safe Dates: Prevention program for dating abuse
  http://www.crimesolutions.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?ID=142

• Healthy Relationships curriculum http://www.m4c.ns.ca/

• Futures Without Violence http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/

• Safety Plans- www.endabuse.org and www.ndvh.org

• Respect Works! http://www.respect-works.com/
Questions?

More training opportunities
www.choa.org/cptraining

Amber McKeen
Amber.McKeen@choa.org

Kara Klein
Kara.Klein@choa.org
This project was supported in part by the Governor’s Office for Children and Families through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CFDA 93.590). Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Governor’s Office for Children and Families or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CFDA 93.590).