



School Nurses Screening for Dating Abuse and Promoting Healthy Relationships

National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence
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Mission:

SafePlace exists to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention and social change.

Vision:

A community free of rape, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

24-hour Hotline 267-SAFE (7233) or
927-9616 for the Deaf community
www.SafePlace.org



Goal: To promote safe and healthy relationships and prevent dating and sexual violence among youth

- School-based support groups
- Youth leadership programs
- Professional training
- Community partnerships



Start Strong
 National Start Strong Initiative
 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Map callouts include:
 - Idaho: Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
 - Indiana: Change Health
 - Massachusetts: Boston Public Health Commission
 - Minnesota: Family Violence Law Center
 - New York: SUNY Westchester, SUNY Broome-Tekomon Hospital
 - California: Peace Over Violence
 - Texas: Safe Place Austin
 - Kansas: Catholic Charities
 - Georgia: Emory University
 - Tennessee: Tennessee Home

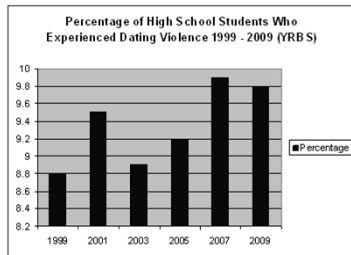
“School nurses have the unique ability to address problems holistically, from a physical, emotional, & social perspective. School nurses are prepared to deal with the physical & emotional results of violence, to contribute to positive youth development & academic success, & to collaborate with school & community teams toward violence prevention & intervention.”

National Association of School Nurses, Inc., 2000

Teen Dating Abuse

- Insults, name-calling, put downs
- Jealous and controlling behavior
- Threats to hurt self or others
- Hitting, choking, kicking, restraining
- Forced or coerced sexual activity
- Birth control sabotage
- Isolation of partner from friends/family
- Use of technology to harass or intimidate

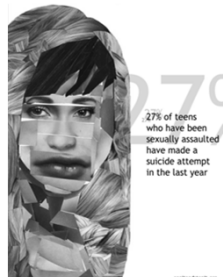
1 in 10 High School Students



The percentage of high school students who experienced physical dating violence defined as "hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during 12 months before the survey." National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, CDC, 1999-2009

Health Risks

- Depression/anxiety
- Substance abuse
- Unhealthy weight control
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy
- Suicide



Silverman, et al., 2001; Silverman et al., 2004; Decker et al., 2005; Kim-Godwin, et al. 2009; Bossarte, et al., 2008; Ackard & Neumark-Sztainer, 2002; Coyne-Beasley, et al, 2003; Roberts et al, 2005.; Raneri et al., 2007

Sexual and Reproductive Coercion

- Sexual pressure, threats violence
- Forced condom non-use
- Attempting to impregnate partner against her will
- Controlling pregnancy outcomes
- Intentionally exposing partner to STI/HIV



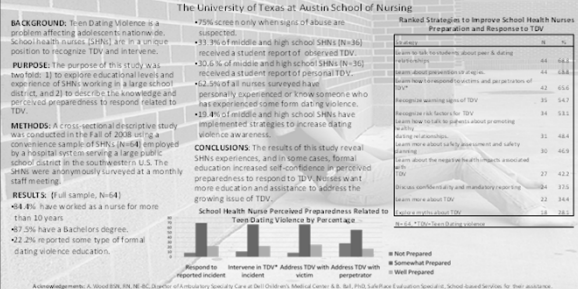
Healthcare Education, Assessment & Response Tool for Teen Relationships (HEART) Primer, 2011

"I'm not gonna say he raped me... he didn't use force, but I would be like, "No," and then, next thing, he pushes me to the bedroom, and I'm like, "I don't want to do anything," and then, we ended up doin' it, and I was cryin' like a baby, and he still did it. And then, after that... he got up, took his shower, and I just stayed there like shock..."

Miller, et al., 2007

School Nurse Survey

What School Health Nurses Say About Their Educational Preparation, Experiences, and Ability to Respond to Teen Dating Violence (TDV)
Erin Byrne, RN; Nina Fredriand, PhD, RN, CS, FNP; Carol Gaskamp, PhD, RN



Summary of Results

- About the nurses
 - 62% --Personal experience
 - 22% --Formal training
 - 75% --Screen only when signs are present
 - 30% --Received student disclosure
 - 19% --Implemented awareness strategies
 - Majority felt somewhat prepared
- Ranked Strategies
 - 69% --Learn how to talk about peer and dating relationships
 - 69% --Learn about prevention strategies
 - 69% --Learn how to respond to victims and perpetrators
 - 55% --Learn how to recognize warning signs

Screening and Response Protocol

- Introductory statement
- Confidentiality
- Screening questions
 - If you are concerned...
 - Assess risk
 - Document
 - Safety plan
 - File Complaint, SRO
 - Link to support services
- Closing statement



Futures Without Violence, 2011

Student Health Services Dating Abuse Screening and Response Protocol, 2009

Why Screen?



- Identifies victims, so they can get help
 - Helps in identification and treatment of symptoms
 - Allows students to talk about it
 - Conveys that abuse is a health issue
- www.endabuse.org/section/programs/health_care, Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence

How to Screen

- Meet privately and apart from parent or partner.
- Ask questions in the student's primary language whenever possible.
- Don't ask a family member or acquaintance to translate.

■ Screen to End Abuse, Video (2003) Futures Without Violence

Potential Signs of Dating Abuse

- Partner comes into the health room and controls the interview
- Partner texts repeatedly, student is fearful of not responding immediately
- Student returns repeatedly with vague complaints
- Student has unexplained injuries or injuries inconsistent with history
- Delay between injury and seeking medical treatment

Introductory Statements

- Many teens your age experience threats, name calling, uninvited touching, or violence so I ask all my teen patients about their relationships. May I ask you a few questions?
- I don't know if this is a concern for you, but many teens I see are dealing with violence, so I've started asking questions about violence routinely.

Screening Questions

- Are you dating or going out with anyone?
- Have you ever felt controlled by someone you were dating?
- Have you ever felt afraid or threatened by someone you were dating?
- Have you ever been physically hurt or injured by someone you were dating?
- Have you ever felt pressured to do something sexual when you didn't want to?
- Is anybody in your life hurting you or someone you know?

Support the Student

- I'm concerned for your safety.
- Would you like to talk about it?
- You are not alone.
- It's not your fault.
- I'm here for you if you need me.
- I am required by law to report this so we can help you stay safe.

AISD School Nurse Video, 2012

Factors That Increase Risk

- Breaking up
- Partner has a history of violence
- Partner owns or has access to weapons
- Partner has made specific threats
- Partner abuses alcohol or drugs

Safety Planning

- Encourage student to:
- Talk to a parent, counselor, or other trusted adult
- Be cautious when breaking up-don't do it in person
- Save written or recorded threats
- Trust their instincts, notice when they feel unsafe
- Access peer support at school or in community
- Report abuse to school personnel/law enforcement
- Call a helpline
- Come back to talk with you again

Coordinated School Health

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/cshp/components.htm>

- Nurses
- Health curriculum
- School climate survey
- School health advisory council
- Parent workshops
- School-based support groups and counseling
- Coaches
- Youth leaders





Online Training

- Domestic Violence & Pregnancy: Effective Screening and Intervention, SafePlace, www.coursesites.com/webapps/Bb-sites-course-creation-BBLEARN/courseHomepage.htmlx?course_id=106931
- Date Abuse, Austin Community College, <http://continue.austincc.edu/hpi/ispd/>
- Dating Matters, CDC, www.vetoviolence.org/datingmatters/

Resources

- www.loveisrespect.org, National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline, 1-866-331-9474 TTY 1-866-331-8453
- www.cdc.gov/chooserespect/, CDC
- www.athinline.org, MTV
- www.breakthecycle.org, Break the Cycle
- www.mencanstoprape.org, Men Can Stop Rape
- www.startstrongaustin.org and www.facebook.com/StartStrongAustinTX, Start Strong Austin
- www.safeplace/expectrespect/, Expect Respect Program
- www.aauw.org, Harassment-Free Hallways, American Association of University Women
- www.stopbullying.gov, Resources for Schools, Parents and Students



Futures Without Violence

- www.endabuse.org/section/programs/health_care, Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- <http://fvpfstore.stores.yahoo.net/hanging-out-or-hooking-up.html>, Hanging Out or Hooking Up
- <http://www.startstrongteens.org/>, Start Strong Communities
- www.startstrongparents.org, Information for parents
- www.startstrongteens.org/sites/default/files/Start%20Strong%20School%20Policy%20FINAL.pdf, Start Strong model school policy
- www.thatsnotcool.com, Interactive site for youth on digital abuse
- www.coaches-corner.org, Coaching Boys Into Men



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Thank You!

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