UNDERSTANDING ADOLESCENT DATING ABUSE

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Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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THIS PRESENTATION IS NOT OTHERWISE KNOWN AS.....

BEYOND CHRIS BROWN AND RIHANNA
Baltimore City Police have arrested and charged a 19-year-old in connection to the death of a 18-year-old girl. According to charging documents, Tyrone Alston, the boyfriend of the victim Tashawna Jones, was arrested and charged with first degree murder, first degree assault, second degree assault and various handgun related charges.
MD man shoots ex-girlfriend, another man, self in murder-suicide

A Salisbury University student remains in critical condition after she was shot by her ex-boyfriend, who fatally shot her friend then killed himself just off the Eastern Shore campus, police said.
Randallstown Basketball Star Delayed Enrolling At Tennessee Amid Abuse

“... opted not to enroll due to personal reasons. She later told Blue Star Media that she was a victim of domestic violence that included both verbal and physical abuse."
Memorial Funds Established for Murdered U.Va. Student

Relatives of slain University of Virginia lacrosse player Yeardley Love have established two memorial funds in her name. Love was found dead in the bedroom of her Charlottesville apartment early Monday. Her ex-boyfriend, lacrosse player George Huguely, has been charged with first-degree murder.
Court records show a woman who told police she found her boyfriend shot to death in an alley has been charged with murder in his slaying. Asia Cutler, 22, was charged earlier this month with first-degree murder in the Aug. 30 killing of Donte Harris, 21.
Today’s Objectives

- Definition, prevalence and scope of dating violence
- Characteristics and dynamics of teen and young adult dating violence
- Warning signs and consequences
- Barriers adolescents encounter
  - Unique barriers faced by LGBTQ youth
- Engaging teens and young adults
- Resources
What is dating violence?

A pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, verbal and/or emotional abuse, perpetrated by an adolescent against a current or former dating partner.

The abusive teen uses this pattern of violent and coercive behavior—either in a heterosexual or homosexual dating relationship—in order to gain and maintain power and control over the dating partner.
Dating violence is also known as:

- Relationship Abuse
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
- Relationship Violence
- Dating Abuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Domestic Violence
**WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DV?**

- Girls & young women between the ages of 16 & 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence, almost triple the national average. (BJS, 2006)

- 1 in 3 girls in the US is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence. (Davis, 2008).
WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DV?

- A 2013 study of LGBT youth found that 43% of respondents experienced physical dating violence (compared to 29% of heterosexual youth respondents). (Dank, M. et al, 2013)

- Youth, 18 to 19 years old, experience the highest rates of stalking. (Baum, K. et al, 2009)
WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DV?

- Nearly half (43%) of dating college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors. (Liz Claiborne, Inc., 2010)

- 1 in 3 teens reports knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped or physically hurt by their dating partner. (Liz Claiborne, Inc., 2005)
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE COERCION

- About 1 in 5 young women, ages 18 – 24, have experienced forced sexual intercourse.
  (CDC, 2002)

- One-quarter of female adolescents reported that their abusive male partners were trying to get them pregnant.
  (Miller et al., 2007)
VICTIMS OF DV...
IN LATER LIFE

- About 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men who ever experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner first experienced dating violence between the ages of 11 and 17.

  (CDC, 2010, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey)

- Without serious intervention, adolescents who experience DV are at an increased risk of transitioning into young adulthood and adulthood in abusive relationships.
HOUSE OF RUTH’S SURVEY

1997; 130 adult respondents

As a teen:

- 54% - Pushed or Shoved
- 42% - Slapped or Punched
- 47% - Called Names
- 30% - Threatened with Harm
- 27% - Forced to Have Sex
2005 and 2006 Studies by Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) commissioned by Liz Claiborne, Inc.

Survey Respondents: 1,036 tweens (11-14), 626 teens (15-18) and 523 parents

- Nearly half of the tweens reported being in a boy/girlfriend relationship
- 24% of tweens thought teen DV was a serious problem for youth their age but only half reported to knowing the warning signs
- only 48% of teens reported seeking a parent to talk about dating relationships
- 70% of parents hadn’t talked to their child because they were “too young”
Perhaps not

In a 2009 survey of parents:

- 3 in 4 parents say they’ve talked with their teen about healthy relationships.

- But 74% of sons and 66% of daughters say they haven’t had that conversation.

(Teenage Research Unlimited, 2009)
Causing pain video clip

Choose Respect Initiative; chooserespect.org
Teen power and control wheel

AcADV

Power & Control

Sexual, Physical, Verbal and Emotional Abuse

Harassment
Follows you and frequently shows up uninvited. Makes prank phone calls. Spreads rumors. Tries to have contact after you have ended the relationship.

Intimidation
Tries to scare you by smashing things, yelling, driving recklessly, or with looks and gestures. Threatens to get you in trouble with family, friends or school.

Isolation
Pressures you to choose between him and your friends or family. Pressures you to quit your job or other extra-curricular activities.

Violating Your Privacy
Reads your notes to or from other people. Goes through your purse, locker or book bag without permission. Forces unwanted intimacy. Refuses to stop "wrestling" when asked.

Humiliation
Calls you names privately or in front of others. Puts down or makes fun of your race, religion, class or family. Inappropriately grabs you or shows off your personal items in public.

Limiting Independence
Wants to control what you wear and how you look. Pressures you to use cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. Wants to make all the decisions in the relationship.

Using Male Privilege
Acts like he is the boss and what he says, goes. Tells you that men make all the decisions. Demands you get his permission to go somewhere or do something.

Threats
Threatens to harm you, your friends or family. Threatens suicide if you leave him or don't do what he wants. Threatens to break up with you.

Sources:
Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
Duluth, MN
Getting Free
Gary N. McCarthy
© 1986, Seal Press
Seattle, WA

Chart courtesy of the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 4762
Montgomery, AL 36101
In Teen Relationships, Tactics of Abuse Include:

- Isolation
- Limiting Independence
- Humiliation
- Use of Threats
- Using Male Privilege
- Privacy Violations
- Intimidation
- Harassment
Teen equality wheel

- Nonviolence
  - Non-threatening Behavior: Talking and acting so that she feels safe and comfortable expressing herself and doing things.
- Communication: Willingness to have open and spontaneous dialogue. Having a balance of giving and receiving. Problem solving to mutual benefit. Learning to compromise without one overshadowing the other.
- Respect: Listening to her non-judgmentally. Being emotionally affirming and understanding. Valuing her opinions.
- Trust and Support: Supporting her goals in life. Respecting her right to her own feelings, friends, activities, and opinions.
- Self-confidence and Personal Growth: Respecting her personal identity and encouraging her individual growth and freedom. Supporting her security in her own worth.
Teen relationships & Equality

Healthy Teen Relationships Include:
- Shared Power
- Negotiation and Fairness
- Trust and Support
- Honesty and Accountability
- Self-Confidence and Personal Growth
- Respect
- Communication
- Non-Threatening Behavior
Stefanie’s Story

• In what ways was Stefanie’s boyfriend abusive?

• In hindsight, what do you think Stefanie wished she’d done differently?
Today, teens are being controlled, abused, threatened and harassed by way of cell phones and computers.

- phoning, email, text messaging, instant messaging, and community networks such as websites, social sites and blogs.

2005 and 2006 Studies by Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) commissioned by Liz Claiborne, Inc.
Technology and Abuse

30% of teens say they’ve been text messaged up to 30 times an hour
**Technology and Abuse**

- 25% of teens say they have been called names, harassed or put down by their partner via cell phone and text messaging.
- 22% of teens have been asked to engage in sex via cell phone or the internet when they do not want to.
- 11% of teens report that a partner has shared private or embarrassing photos or videos of them.
- 10% of teens claim they have been threatened physically via email, instant message, text, or chat room.
TECHNOLOGY AND ABUSE
19% of teens say that their partner has used a cell phone or the internet to spread rumors about them.
Abuse is even more difficult to address because teens typically:

- Are inexperienced with dating relationships
- Have romanticized views of love
- Want independence from parents
- Are pressured by peers to have dating relationships
- Are more likely to turn to a friend than a parent or other adult when they experience dating violence
LGBTQ Teens

The Urban Institute’s 2013 Study “Dating Violence Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth”

• 3,745 youth; 7th to 12th grades; in New York, Pennsylvania & New Jersey.

• 6% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender and the rest as heterosexual.
LGBTQ Teens

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LGBTQ</th>
<th>HETEROSEXUAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Dating Violence</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Abuse</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Coercion</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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Victims are more likely to be females or transgender youth who are also more likely to be depressed, have lower grades, have committed delinquent acts, and to have a history of sexual activity.
LGBTQ Teens

Face Even More Challenges...

- Shame or Embarrassment
- Fear of not Being Believed or Taken Seriously
- Concern for the Welfare of One’s Partner or the LGBT Community
- Fear of Retaliation, Harassment, Rejection or Bullying
- Less Legal Protection
- Loss of Community – particularly those from communities of color
RISK FACTORS - EXPOSURE

At most risk for experiencing DV when they:

- Witness violence in family of origin,
- Witness violence in their community,
- Socialize with peers involved in dating violence, or
- Socialize with violent peers
Risk Factors – Mental Health

At most risk for experiencing DV when they:

- Use alcohol and/or drugs,
- Struggle with depression, or
- Struggle with anxiety
OTHER RISK FACTORS

At most risk for experiencing DV when they:

- Engage in early sexual activity and have had multiple sexual partners
- Don't have parental supervision and support
- Hold the belief that threats, violence and intimidation are acceptable behaviors to:
  - get their way or
  - express frustration or anger.
**Protective Factors**

Youth not involved in dating violence were more likely to be:
- Less involved in dating relationships

Youth less likely to be in dating violence were:
- Less accepting of intimate partner violence
- Had more liberal sex-role attitudes
- Had higher self-esteem & self-confidence
**Warning signs & Consequences**

Can be related to:

- School and Social Behaviors

or

- Physical Health and Mental Health
**Warning signs & Consequences**

**School Behaviors**

- Poor concentration
- Declining school performance
- Truancy
Warning signs & Consequences

Social Behaviors

- Running away from home
- Sudden changes in attitude, dress or behavior
- Dropping friends or activities
- Loss of interest in previously meaningful activities
- Secrecy
- Shame
Warning signs & Consequences

Physical Health and Mental Health
- Bruises
- Self-mutilation
- Pregnancy
- STIs or HIV/AIDS
- Headaches
- Sleeplessness
**Warning Signs & Consequences**

**Physical Health**

- Vague complaints/pains
- Actual physical ailments brought on by psychological impact of abuse (i.e. migraines, ulcers, back pain, etc.)
- Sudden or extreme weight gain or loss
Warning signs & Consequences... The research

Teen Victims of DV:

- have significantly lower than average grades and poor school attendance.
  (Banyard, V.L and Cross, C., 2008)

- higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and suicide.
  (Silverman, J, Raj A, et al. 2001)

- six times more likely to become pregnant and twice as likely to contract an STI.
  (Decker M et al, 2005)
Warning signs & Consequences... The research

Teen Victims of DV and Sexual Assault:

- are more likely to attempt suicide (compared to 12.5% of non-abused girls & 5.4% of non-abused boys).

YOUR ROLE

- Educate Yourself about DV
- Assess Your own Relationship Values
- Teach and Role Model Healthy Relationships in EVERY RELATIONSHIP
  - Shared Power
  - Negotiation and Fairness
  - Trust and Support
  - Honesty and Accountability
  - Self-Confidence and Personal Growth
  - Respect
  - Communication
  - Non-Threatening Behavior
YOUR ROLE

If Your Teen Tells You About Dating Violence:

- Listen without judging. Believe them.
- Acknowledge your own feelings and using “I” statements when describing your feelings about their safety.
- Be sure to use specific examples in their relationship.
- Realize your limitations in providing support, and contact a professional.
- Discuss options: counseling, reporting, medical needs.
- Take young relationships seriously, your teen does.
- Let your teen be in control and support their decisions.
PREVENTION EDUCATION

Educational Activities for Youth and Young Adults:

Knowledge & Cognitive Awareness about the attitudes and beliefs that foster either abusive or healthy behavior

AND

Skills to develop healthy relationships and to recognize and respond to abuse in their own or their friends’ relationships.
ENGAGING YOUTH

DO:
- See yourself as an ADULT ALLY
- Culturally relevant (consider your audience)
- Include topics on
  - warning signs
  - consequences
  - the role of the friend or bystander

DON’T:
- Lecture
- Be condescending and/or judgmental
National & Community Resources

- National TEEN Dating Abuse Helpline  1-866-331-9474
  TTY: 1-866-331-8453

- House Of Ruth Maryland  410-889-7884
  24 Hour Hotline, Shelter, Adult & Children’s Counseling, Legal Advocacy, Abuser Intervention Services

- TurnAround, Inc.  443-279-0379
  24 Hour Helpline, Shelter, Transitional Housing, Adult & Children’s Counseling for sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking victims, Legal Advocacy, Abuser Intervention Services

- Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline  1-800-422-0009
  Crisis Counseling
MOBILE APPS

- One Love Foundation
  One Love MyPlan & Danger Assessment Apps
  www.joinonelove.org/resources-help

- Mercy Medical Center’s bMOREsafe
  www.bmoresafemercy.org/
MOBILE APPS

- Circle of Six  www.circleof6app.com
ONLINE RESOURCES

- loveisrespect.org
- thatsnotcool.com
- breakthecycle.org
- loveisnotabuse.com
- rainn.org
REFERENCES


Fifth & Pacific Companies, Inc. (Formerly: Liz Claiborne, Inc.), Conducted by Knowledge Networks, (December 2010). “College Dating Violence and Abuse Poll”.


CDC, 2010, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey.


D. M. Ackard, Minneapolis, MN, and D. Neumark-Sztainer, Division of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, Date Violence and Date Rape Among Adolescents: Associations with Disordered Eating Behaviors and Psychological Health, Child Abuse & Neglect, 26 455-473, (2002).

