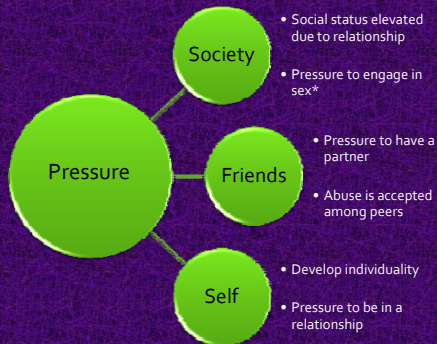


Dynamics of Teen Dating Violence

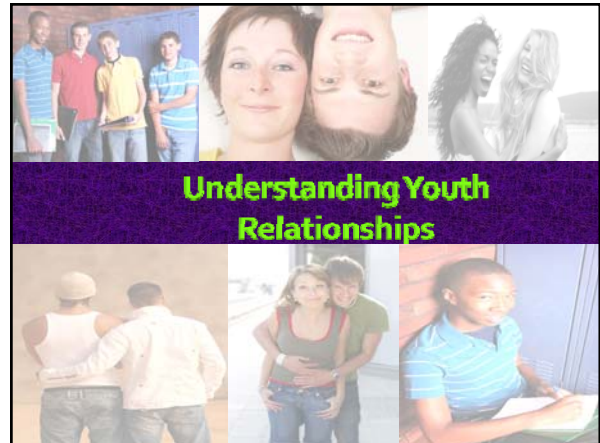
Carrie Speiser, MPA
Prevention Specialist
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Take a moment to think about your high school years...

Understanding Their World

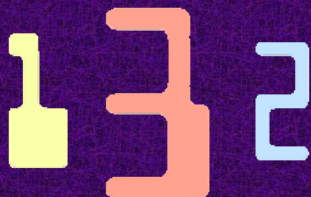


*45% of girls know a friend/peer who has been pressured into either intercourse and/or oral sex (Liz Claiborne, 2005)



Understanding Youth Relationships

One in Three



Statistics

- **One in three teens** experience some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse. *
- 40% of teenage girls, ages 14 to 17, know someone their age who has been hit or beaten by their partner. * (Break the Cycle)
- Females ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group— at a rate almost triple the national average.

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report: Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-99 (Oct. 2001, rev. 11/28/01).

Statistics:

- Approximately 1 in **5** female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.

Jay G. Silverman, PhD; Anita Raj, PhD; Lorelei A. Mucci, MPH; and Jeanne E. Hathaway, MD, MPH, "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 286, (No. 5, 2001).

- Nearly **80**% of girls who have been physically abused in their intimate relationships continue to date their abuser.

(Liz Claiborne Inc. study conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)

- 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., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, (February 2005).

Statistics:

- A 2007 study by the **National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline** reports that:
 - 20% of children between the ages of **11 and 14** say their **friends** are victims of dating violence
 - 40% of children between the ages of **11 and 14** in relationships **know friends** who are verbally abused
 - 34% of teens that are sexually active by age 15 have been physically abused
 - 20% of all teens in relationships have been physically abused

Definition of Dating Abuse

- "When one person uses a pattern of violent behavior through means of verbal, emotional physical, sexual or mental intimidation to gain power and control of their partner." - TEAR

Why is Teen Dating Violence so Prevalent Among Youth?

- First relationships
- Confide in peers
- Accepted behavior among peer groups
- Less likely to: understand abuse, know a crime is being committed, report a crime, and receive necessary protections
- Trying to be independent, define themselves through their relationships

Differences between TDV & DV

- Not taken as seriously
- Less resources available
- TDV has less legal protection, depending on age of victim, abuser and location
- "Less complications" with economic or financial abuse, children and marriage
- Lack of experience in dating relationships
- Lack of trust in authority figures; trying to be independent

Why is it Important to Learn About?

- Dating Violence is an Epidemic
 - You will be able to recognize the warning signs
 - You will understand the dynamics of a violent relationship and how they are reinforced through technology
 - You will understand how to respond effectively if someone discloses about an abusive relationship
 - You will understand how to be a trusted adult
 - You will realize that you have the potential to make a difference and to keep our youth safe

Warning Signs

<p><u>Victim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in dress (hair, makeup, clothing) Withdrawing from friends, family, activities Excessive contact with partner Makes excuses for/justifies partner's behavior or blames self 	<p><u>Abuser</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessively jealous Comes on strong "Charmer" Causes tension between family members and/or friends Short tempered Starts a lot of arguments
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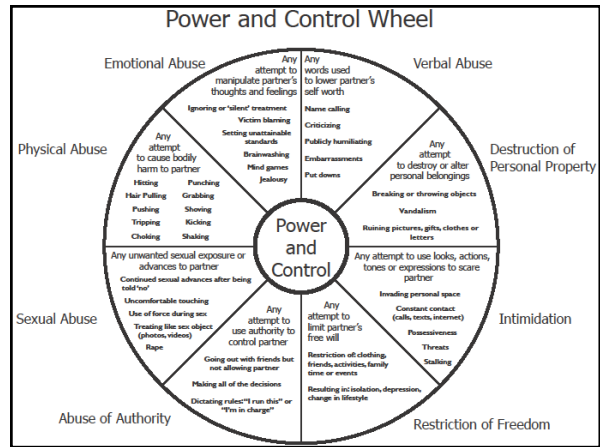
Dating Violence Can Happen to Anyone

Sex Heterosexual Age Religion
Race Homosexual Class Education

ABUSE DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE

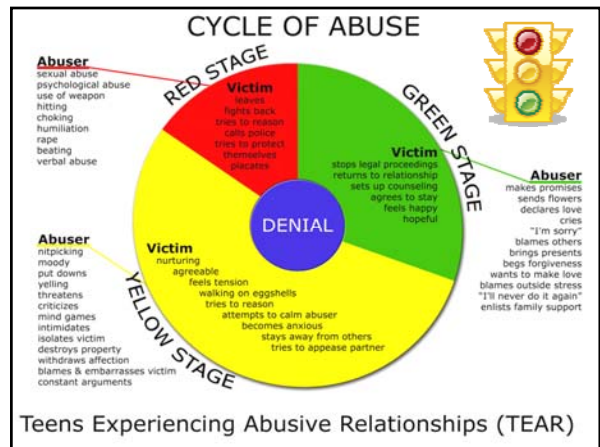
Theories of Dating Violence

- The Power and Control Wheel
 - Adapted by TEAR from the Duluth Model to pertain to teens
 - Visual display of the different types of abuse that may occur in an abusive relationship
 - Reasons for abuse are engrained in the abuser having power and control over their partner
 - Definitions and Examples included



Theories of Dating Violence Cont

- The Cycle of Abuse
 - Adapted by TEAR from the Honeymoon/Abuse Cycle of Violence
 - A visual display of the pattern that most abusive relationships follow
 - From Victim's perspective
 - From Abuser's perspective
 - Abusive relationships are cyclical because of denial
 - By the abuser that their actions are not abuse
 - By the victim that they are in a cyclical abusive situation
 - Is a learning tool to help others understand how victims are lured into staying into the relationship
 - Is not as definitive in reality as it looks on paper
 - Abuse usually worsens over time



What Prevents Teens from Leaving?

Hope Love Fear

Isolated Embarrassed Self-doubt

Guilt Don't realize the abuse Pressure

The real question we need to ask is:
Why are Teens Abusing?

Risk Factors

Victim	Abuser*
Anyone can be a victim of dating violence	Problems at school
	Trouble with the law
	Use of threats or violence to solve problems
	Witnessing abuse at home or abusing animals

* Please note that not every abuser will have these risk factors. Also, not everyone who has witnessed these risk factors will perpetrate. **The idea of prevention is to educate everyone to raise awareness and reduce the possibility of violence.**

Root Causes of Dating Violence

- Rigid Gender Stereotypes
- Traditional Gender Roles
- Objectification of women in the media
- Violence in the media causing desensitization
- Relationships are a private matter
- Teen relationships are just "young love" or "puppy love"
- Unhealthy models of relationships
- Need for Power and Control

Male Victims

- ❑ Male victims may experience more judgment in trying to seek help, people find it hard to believe that females abuse males
- ❑ Male victims may be accused of starting the violence and being the perpetrator
- ❑ Physical violence perpetrated by females to males is not taken as seriously.
- ❑ How are men perceived when they use violence? How are men perceived when violence is used against them?

[MTV's Teen Mom Reality Show - Male Victim of DV.](#)

LGBTIQ

- ❑ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning
- ❑ Studies suggest that rates of dating violence among LGBTIQ community are comparable or higher than heterosexual couples
- ❑ Some added difficulties to this community
 - ❑ Fear of outing
 - ❑ Homophobia
 - ❑ Disbelief and Denial

Review