Teen Dating Violence: How should schools respond?

Did you know that one in four adolescents report verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse from a dating partner each year? According to the 2013 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 9.9 percent of high school students were physically hurt intentionally by someone they were dating one or more times during the past 12 months. According to a Liz Claiborne Foundation study conducted among 11-14 year olds in relationships, 62 percent reported they knew friends who had been verbally abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend. According to a 2010 study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 1 in 3 women (30.3%) in the United States has been slapped, pushed or shoved by an intimate partner at some point in her lifetime. These numbers, and the potential lifelong impacts of such behaviors are startling. However, research from the CDC also indicates that teen dating violence is preventable, and educators are an important part of the solution.

Teen dating violence is a pattern of behaviors where an individual exerts power and control over their partner through fear, intimidation, and often the threat or use of violence. Teen dating violence can happen in person or electronically, and can be physical, verbal, emotional, or sexual. Physical abuse is any unwanted touching, physical aggression, and threats of physical violence that cause fear in another person. This can include throwing objects, punching walls and doors, or threats of violence. Sexual abuse is any sexual touching, groping, and acts or behaviors that are unwanted or coerced. Examples of sexual abuse include sexting, threatening to break up with a partner if they do not have sex, or touching and teasing when it is unwanted. Verbal abuse includes saying something to hurt, scare, or demean a partner. This can include name calling, yelling, and spreading rumors. Emotional abuse includes trying to manipulate or control a partner’s feelings or behaviors. Emotional abuse can include statements intended to intimidate and cause fear or cause someone to question their self-value and personal worth. Emotional abuse also includes blaming the victim for the violent behavior by saying things such as, “I only did that because you didn’t call me back,” or, “If you loved me, you wouldn’t make me do this to you.” Other examples of emotional abuse include someone punishing their partner by

(Continued on page 2)
Teen Dating Violence
continued from page 1

giving them the “silent treatment” or trying to make them feel guilty for not behaving in an expected manner.

In 2010, Florida passed legislation intended to promote youth education related to teen dating violence and support teen survivors of dating violence. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV), in partnership with its member domestic violence centers and the Florida Department of Education, developed resource curricula, including supplementary materials, that address teen dating violence for grades 7 through 12 to satisfy the requirements of Florida Statutes 1006.148 and 1003.42.

Teen dating violence is a serious issue, but it is preventable. Local and statewide projects work to shift individual and community knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs that contribute to violent and controlling behavior. Young people are a crucial part of making these changes.

For educators, FCADV’s teen dating violence prevention curricula are designed for educators to use with 7th through 12th grade students in a classroom setting. For more information about teen dating violence and examples of curricula, please visit our website, www.fcadv.org/educators.

In addition to collaborating with the Department of Education, FCADV supports the 42 certified domestic violence centers in doing prevention work at the local level, and coordinates with youth throughout the state to lead teen dating violence prevention efforts. The Statewide Youth Advisory Board is seeking new members; if you know a young person interested in making social change, contact Emil Rudicell at Rudicell_Emil@fcadv.org.

March 4th is the annual Youth Activism Summit, cohosted this year with AVDA, a certified domestic violence center in Palm Beach County, at Boynton Beach Community High School. The Youth Summit is an opportunity to connect with young people from around the state of Florida who are learning and working toward healthy and equitable relationships for all. With workshops and local and national speakers, both young people and adults will be supported in developing skills to create a violence-free future. Additionally, the Summit has a prevention festival and performances from the Chobee Steelers and Step-in-School. This year’s Youth Summit is proud to feature Palm Beach County’s Inaugural Engaging Men and Boys Event. Registration and more information is available at: http://fcadv.org/events/youth-summit-2017-prevention-action.

Youth Activism Summit
Saturday, March 4, 2017
9:00 AM—4:30 PM: Lunch Included
Boynton Beach Community High School
Join the Movement for a Violence-Free Florida!
Featuring Filmmaker Byron Hurt
Including a Prevention Festival!

Featuring booths of youth-led teen dating violence prevention projects from throughout the state, and tables for community programs.

Workshops for young people (12-19)!
• Real Talk with Break the Cycle
• Changing the World with Videos with SafeHouse of Seminole
• Being a Leader with FAU Students
• Performances and classes!
• The Chobee Steelers, Steel Drum Band
• Step-in-School, step dancing

We are proud to feature the Palm Beach County inaugural Engaging Men and Boys Mentorship Training. Everyone is welcome to gather, network and learn about preventing teen dating violence.

Travel Funding Available!
Get 10 Community Service Hours

www.fcadv.org  •  FLORIDA VOICE
Bridging the Gap: A Collaborative Approach to Ending Domestic Violence

Join FCADV for the 2017 Biennial Institute. Workshops will include: effective advocacy, coordinated community response, criminal justice, technology safety, child and youth advocacy, empowerment based advocacy, and Quality Assurance.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

A collaborative approach to ending domestic violence.

"Unity is strength ... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

-Mattie J.T. Stepanak

Event Fee: $200.00

To register for this event go to http://www.fcadv.org/civicrm/eventinfo?id=36&reset=1

20th Annual Rural Domestic Violence Statewide Training Institute

This two-day statewide training institute provides information and resources to address the unique needs of rural community partners serving domestic violence survivors and their children.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence will host four one-day Child Welfare Regional Training Institutes for local child welfare professionals, domestic violence advocates, and community partners. The goals of the trainings are to enhance collaboration between certified domestic violence centers and child welfare agencies, to build the capacity of child welfare and partnering agencies to assist families experiencing domestic violence, to enhance the community’s response to domestic violence, and to hold perpetrators accountable.

**Keynote Speaker: Fernando Mederos**


**Training Dates & Locations**

- March 8, 2017 — Palm Beach
- March 29, 2017 — Tampa
- April 12, 2017 — Daytona
- April 26, 2017 — Panama City

To register for this FREE event, please go to [www.fcadv.org/events](http://www.fcadv.org/events)

A limited number of travel scholarships are available to training attendees who travel over 50 miles. Sponsored by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families.

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**Together We Can End Domestic Violence**

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a grassroots nonprofit organization whose membership is comprised of individuals, centers, and advocacy groups sharing the goal of eliminating domestic violence.