Teen Dating Violence: What You Should Know

Hotlines:

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV): 1-888-774-2900

Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS): 1-888-999-5545
Para Español: 1-888-568-8332

Love is Respect Dating Abuse Hotline: 1-866-331-9474

For more information please visit:

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence Teen Help
www.ctcadv.org/find-help/teensyouth/

CONNSACS:
www.connsacs.org/

Love is Respect:
www.loveisrespect.org

Office of the Victim Advocate
505 Hudson Street, 5th Floor
Hartford, CT, 06106
860-550-6632
Toll Free 1-888-771-3126
Fax: 860-560-7065
www.ct.gov/ova
What is teen dating violence?

- Teen dating violence is a pattern of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse by one dating partner towards another dating partner.
- Dating violence affects people of any race, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship status, or ethnicity.

The Stats

- One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.
- One quarter of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse.
- One in ten high school students has been purposely hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.

How do you know if you are in an abusive relationship?

Some signs of an abusive partner may include:
- Embarrassing you with bad names and insults.
- Controlling where you go and who you spend time with.
- Taking your money or forcing you to ask for money.
- Destroying your property or threatening to hurt your pets.
- Shoving, slapping, or hitting you.
- Forcing you to engage in sexual acts against your will.
- Monitoring your texts or emails.

How can friends and family help victims?

- Listen; don’t judge.
- Make a safety plan with your loved one.
- Create a code word that can be used when the victim is in imminent danger.
- Learn where local protective shelters are located.
- Identify trustworthy people who live close to the victim so they can help.
- Ensure your loved one understands that they are not alone.
- Encourage them to reach out for help.

How can victims of teen dating violence get help?

- Speak with a school counselor.
- Report the abuse to the local police.
- Maintain open communication with loved ones.

Understand that being a victim of dating violence is NOT your fault.