Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Toolkit

National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center
Break the Cycle (http://www.breakthecycle.org/)

Almost 1 in 10 teens reports being physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year. Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month is a national effort to raise awareness and protect teens from violence.

You can make a difference: Encourage schools, community-based organizations, parents, and teens to come together to prevent teen dating violence.

How can Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month make a difference?
We can use this month to raise awareness about teen dating violence and take action toward a solution – both at home and in our communities.

Here are just a few ideas:
• Encourage parents to talk with their teens about healthy relationships.
• Ask teachers to hold classroom discussions about dating violence and prevention – Or to invite speakers in to talk about these issues.
• Help schools create policies that support healthy relationships and involve student voices.

How can I help spread the word?
We’ve made it easier for you to make a difference. This toolkit is full of ideas to help you take action today. For example:
• Add information about teen dating violence to your newsletter.
• Tweet about Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.
• Add a Web badge to your Web site.
• Join us in showing your support for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (http://www.teendvmmonth.org/across-the-nation).
Get the word out...

Sample Announcement for Newsletter, Listserv, or Media Release

Cut and paste this text into your newsletter, listserv, or press release. Add local details and quotes from your organization.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. [Your organization] wants you to know that there’s a lot you can do as a parent to prevent teen dating violence and abuse.

Almost 1 in 10 teens reports being physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year. One of the most important things you can do is keep the lines of communication open with your kids.

Take steps to make a difference:

• Be a role model – treat your kids and others with respect.
• Start talking to your kids about healthy relationships early – before they start dating.
• Get involved with efforts to prevent dating violence at your teen’s school.
• Call the National Dating Abuse Helpline at 1-866-331-9474 or text “loveis” to 77054, if you are worried about your teen.

You can help keep your loved ones safe and healthy.

• [Add details about your local activities.]
• [Include quote from your organization.]

For more information, visit [insert your organization’s information].
Sample Tweets

1. Almost 1 in 10 teens reports being physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year. Make a difference: http://bit.ly/WHenrBo
   Tweet this message: http://ctt.ec/Cxqps

2. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Find out more: http://1.usa.gov/bfPeDu  #datingviolence
   Tweet this message: http://ctt.ec/Xboal

3. Talk to your kids about healthy relationships and lead by example! http://1.usa.gov/W8OdLp
   Tweet this message: http://ctt.ec/ir9A9

4. Be a role model – treat your kids and partner with respect: http://1.usa.gov/13HpnbE
   Tweet this message: http://ctt.ec/T0Ljq

5. Teach your kids the facts about their bodies, sex, and relationships: http://1.usa.gov/R3ou97

6. Tweet this message: http://ctt.ec/9a4jE
   Have conversations about your values and expectations while your child is young: http://1.usa.gov/Vqx8ig
   Tweet this message: http://ctt.ec/_nLj

   Tweet this message: http://ctt.ec/6NkGw

8. If you know a young adult in an abusive relationship, text or call @loveisrespect’s helpline: http://bit.ly/xL5nj2  #datingviolence
   Tweet this message: http://ctt.ec/yM60j
Ecards

Teens and Healthy Relationships

Web Badge

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month – Talk to your kids about respect.
(http://healthfinder.gov/NHO/nhoBadges.aspx#january)

Get Involved

Take action to increase awareness about teen dating violence

Write a letter to a public official – like a mayor or governor – asking them to recognize Teen Dating Violence Month http://www.teendvmonth.org/write-aletter

Host an event, like a play or a poetry slam, to raise awareness in your community http://www.teendvmonth.org/host-an-event

Join a group that supports the movement against dating abuse http://www.teendvmonth.org/join-a-group/

Share materials from loveisrespect about healthy relationships and the warning signs of abuse http://www.loveisrespect.org/download-materials

If you are concerned about a loved one, reach out for support.

1 Adapted from Break the Cycle. Contact Break the Cycle or email teenDVmonth@breakthecycle.org for more information and materials.
Share These Resources

Health Topics

Talk with Your Teen about Healthy Relationships
(http://www.healthfinder.gov/HealthTopics/Category/parenting/healthycommunication-and-relationships/talk-with-your-teen-about-healthy-relationships)

Talk to Your Kids about Sex

Talk to Your Kids about Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs

Help Someone in an Unhealthy Relationship: Quick tips

Take Steps to Protect Yourself from Relationship Violence

Personal Health Tools

Personal Health Tools
Healthy Relationship Quiz for Girls
http://girlshealth.gov/relationships/quizzes/index.html

Healthy Relationship Quiz for Teens
http://www.loveisrespect.org/images/quizzes/LIR_Quiz_HealthyRelationship.swf
Communication Tips for Parents

Break the Silence: Stop the Violence Video
(http://www.cdc.gov/CDCTV/BreakTheSilence/index.html)

Dating Violence

Dating Violence
National Health Information Center 7

Domestic Violence

Teen Mental Health

Healthy People Topic Areas

Adolescent Health

Injury and Violence Prevention
Find More Information

Prevent Teen Dating Violence (http://www.cdc.gov/features/datingviolence/) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention


Take Action (http://www.loveisrespect.org/take-action/take-action) – loveisrespect.org

Healthy Relationships (http://www.loveisrespect.org/dating-basics/healthyrelationships) – loveisrespect.org


Healthy Relationships (http://girlshealth.gov/relationships/index.html) – Office on Women’s Health


Tips to Plan a National Health Observance

Each National Health Observance (NHO) presents an opportunity to educate the public, energize co-workers and community members, and promote healthy behaviors. The NHO toolkits (http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho/) have the information and tools you need to get started.

Use the tips in this guide to plan a successful health promotion event.

Planning

Planning is critical to the success of any outreach effort. Contact the NHO sponsoring organization several months ahead of time to request up-to-date information and materials. (Contact information for each month’s sponsoring organization is provided in each toolkit).

• Consider enlisting the help of a community partner to help you plan and promote your event.

• Meet with those who will be valuable in your event coordination. To get started, sit down with potential partners, such as local businesses, local government agencies, key leaders, organizations, and media partners who share an interest in the NHO.

• Recruit volunteers, speakers, and community liaisons.

• Develop new or adapt existing materials to distribute at the event.

• Be sure to get them printed and/or copied in advance.

• Conduct a run-through before the event.
Promoting

**Develop a publicity and media outreach plan.** Designate a media contact from your planning team and make sure he or she is available to answer questions and follow up on media requests.

- Start by creating a local media list.
- Use local-access television, radio, newspaper, and community calendars to promote your event.
- Post event announcements on your Web site. Encourage your partners to post similar announcements on their Web sites.

**Send a press release.**

- Engage the media by offering a spokesperson from your organization or the community.
- Post flyers or posters throughout the community: on bulletin boards at local community centers, places of worship, libraries, post offices, local schools, recreation centers, clinics, pharmacies, stores, and businesses.
- Send flyers to each participating organization for distribution.

**On the Day of the Event:**

- Set up tables, chairs, and a check-in table prior to your event.
- Make plenty of sign-in sheets. Create a separate sign-in sheet for members of the media.
- Don’t forget the refreshments!
- Make signs to direct participants
Tracking Media Coverage

If you are distributing information to the media, plan ahead of time to track your coverage. There are both paid and free resources to track media coverage.

Free media tracking resources search for news articles based on your specific search term(s) and a date range. Some tracking services will send automatic email alerts to notify you when your event and/or keywords are mentioned.

Paid media tracking typically captures a wider range of media stories (both print and online) than free Internet search tools. Paid media tracking sources search within certain locations, news outlet types, and/or specific dates. Some paid media tracking tools offer email alerts and the ability to search archived Web and print news; they also allow users to tailor searches to obtain the most relevant media stories. Other paid media services monitor all forms of social media, including blogs, top video and image sharing sites, forums, opinion sites, mainstream online media, and Twitter.

Be sure to share media coverage with your community partners, stakeholders, and all those who helped you plan and promote your event. Post a summary of media coverage on your organization’s Web site. No matter the size or success of your event, remember that your efforts are key to educating the public about important health issues.

Last but not least, share your feedback and results with us here at healthfinder.gov. You can contact us at info@nhic.org or send us a tweet @healthfinder (http://twitter.com/healthfinder).

NativeLove

Verizon has partnered with NIWRC to raise awareness and help end violence against Native youth by empowering them to redefine Native Love. Those of us in Native communities often hear jokes about
“Indian loving” as waking up with a hickey and black eye- that’s not love, that’s dating violence. Our NativeLove project encourages Native youth to think about what Native Love really is, so we can create change in our thinking and restore safety to our communities by restoring our traditional ways of loving, characterized by respect, honor, kindness, family and compassion.

Our NativeLove project includes a youth video/photo challenge, posters, social media campaigns, FAQs, and teen resources and toolkits. These are offered to support and inform youth and educators about healthy relationship and to encourage dialogue in Native communities. Please visit http://www.nativelove.niwrc.org

A special thanks to Verizon Hopeline for funding our NativeLove Youth project and for their ongoing support in promoting healthy relationships for Native youth.

Compiled and Adapted From:


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