



Teens, Crime, and
TCC the Community

TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY

YOUTH IN SERVICE



PREVENTING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

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National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week

is February 5 – 9, 2007, and is the perfect time for you to help teach teens ways to achieve and maintain positive relationships. Dating violence and abuse affects one in three U.S. teens (“Dating Violence Education: Prevention and Early Intervention Strategies,” 2002, in *Preventing Violence in Relationships: Interventions Across the Life Span*). This abuse isn’t just hitting; it’s yelling, threatening, name calling, and extreme possessiveness. Dating violence doesn’t just happen to women; it occurs against men and in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

Community Works instructors can use *Community Works Session 14: Dating Violence: Recognize and Prevent*, to further teens’ knowledge of dating violence and methods of prevention. The session includes a dating role-play scenario, information about the cycle of violence that can happen in relationships, preventing and stopping dating violence, and where to find help if someone is in an abusive relationship.

Instructors also can integrate sexual assault prevention messages into the dating violence awareness lesson. Sexual assault is prevalent in today’s society: “One in six American women are victims of sexual assault and one in 33 men” (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, www.rainn.org). *Community Works Session 15: Sexual Assault: Date Rape and Acquaintance Rape* can help teach students about peer pressure, facts about sexual assault, and what to do if someone is victimized by sexual assault or rape.

After completing these sessions, instructors can engage students in a dating violence/sexual assault awareness and prevention service-learning project. Some projects that other students have completed are

- Creating and distributing booklets that contain contact information for rape crisis centers and domestic abuse shelters in their communities
- Conducting a clothing and hygienic product drive at school, and donating all goods to a local domestic violence shelter
- Writing a skit about how to be a good date, and performing it for other students or youth groups
- Organizing a “Take Back the Night” rally and march to raise awareness and speak out against violence that many people (particularly women) experience when walking alone at night

Please remember that the topics of dating violence and sexual assault can elicit strong emotional responses from teens. Use community resource people during these lessons in case students disclose information about victimization. A rape crisis counselor, domestic violence shelter employee, or sexual assault nurse examiner would be helpful during your lesson.

To download free copies of *Community Works* sessions 14 and 15, log on to www.ncpc.org/tcc.

FEATURED ON THE WEB



- Download free copies of *Community Works* sessions 14 and 15, regarding dating violence and sexual assault, respectively, to teach during National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. Brochures about dating violence and date rape will also be available.
- If you are a *Community Works* instructor who has submitted a *Community Works Site Agreement Form* but has not received a password for the members-only site, please contact Debra Eisenman at deisenman@ncpc.org or 202-261-4116.

TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



18th Annual National
Youth-At-Risk Conference
March 4-7, 2007
Savannah, GA
Contact:
www.nationalyouthatrisk.com

National Inhalants and
Poisons Awareness Week
March 18-24, 2007

Youth Crime Watch of
America
18th National Youth
Crime Prevention
Conference and
International Forum
March 21-24, 2007
Denver, CO
Contact: www.ycwa.org

National Crime Prevention
Council
8th National Conference
on Preventing Crime
October 3-5, 2007
Atlanta, GA
Contact:
www.ncpc.org/NationalConference2007

If you have a question or comment regarding TCC or the Community Works program, please contact tcc@ncpc.org.

Photocopy the following information and share it with teens to help them understand ways to achieve and maintain positive relationships, and ways to identify abusive relationships.

For Teens... For Teens... For Teens... For Teens... For Teens...

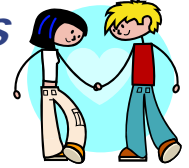
Are you going out with someone who...

- ...is jealous and possessive, won't let you have friends, checks up on you, or won't accept breaking up?
- ...tries to control you by being bossy, giving orders, making all the decisions, or not taking your opinion seriously?
- ...puts you down in front of friends or tells you that you would be nothing without him or her?
- ...scares you? Makes you worry about reactions to things you say or do? Threatens you? Uses or owns weapons?
- ...is violent? Has a history of fighting, loses his or her temper quickly, brags about mistreating others? Grabs, pushes, shoves, or hits you?
- ...pressures you for sex or is forceful or scary about sex?
- ...makes your family and friends uneasy and concerned for your safety?

What if your partner is abusing you and you want out?

- Don't put up with abuse. You deserve better.
- Report the abuse to your parents, a school official, the police, or another adult you trust.
- Know that you aren't alone. Teens from all different backgrounds across the country are involved or have been involved in a violent relationship.
- Understand that you have done nothing wrong; your abuser's violence is not your fault.
- Know that the longer you stay in an abusive relationship, the more intense the violence will become.
- Recognize that alcohol use is not an excuse for someone to become abusive.
- Talk with your parents, a friend, a counselor, a spiritual leader, or someone else you trust. The more isolated you are from your friends and family, the more control the abuser has over you.
- Know that you can get help from professionals at rape crisis centers, health services, or counseling services.
- Keep a daily log of the abuse for evidence.
- Do not meet him or her alone, and avoid being alone at your school, job, or on your way to and from places.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back.

DATER'S BILL OF RIGHTS



- ♥ I have the right to refuse a date without feeling guilty.
- ♥ I can ask for a date without feeling rejected or inadequate if the answer is no.
- ♥ I do not have to act macho.
- ♥ I may choose not to act seductively.
- ♥ If I don't want physical closeness, I have the right to say so.
- ♥ I have the right to start a relationship slowly, to say, "I want to know you better before I become involved."
- ♥ I have the right to change a relationship when my feelings change. I can say, "We used to be close, but I want something else now."
- ♥ If I am told a relationship is changing, I have the right not to blame or change myself to keep it going.
- ♥ I have the right to an equal relationship with my partner.
- ♥ I have the right not to dominate or to be dominated.
- ♥ I have the right to act one way with one person and a different way with someone else.
- ♥ I have the right to change my goals whenever I want to.