

Teen Dating Violence is...



preventable when teens, families, organizations and communities come together and implement effective prevention efforts.



a public health issue.

- Young women (16-24) experience the highest per capita rates of intimate partner violence.
- Studies indicate as many as 20% of teens in serious relationships have been physically abused by a dating partner.
- One study found that 38% of date rape victims are young women ages 14-17.



an issue that affects young people of all cultures, religions, ages, sexual orientations, educational backgrounds and income levels.



a factor negatively affecting teens' well-being, including:

- experiencing stress, depression and eating disorders.
- engaging in unhealthy behaviors (drugs, smoking, alcohol use, unprotected sex).
- contemplating/attempting suicide (victims are 60% more likely to report one or more attempts).



a challenge for schools, such as:

- Disruptive to academic achievement.
- A threat to school safety.
- A cause for private action for monetary damages from school districts.



a major influence in carrying patterns of violence into adult relationships.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control; US Department of Justice; Family Violence Prevention Fund; National Institute of Justice; Liz Claiborne, Inc.



A FIGHT
we can **WIN!**

What Students Are Saying:

“

I didn't know any of this until now.

The songs are amazing and showed more than just discussing it.

What I like best about the program is that it is basically like a guide to reach out for help.

I learned how to deal with abuse if it ever happens to me.

This video made me understand more about dating violence and that it is not just physical. I will use what I have learned as I grow up.

You helped me understand what to do and what not to do in a relationship and I really thank you for that.

This program hits home as I have watched one of my close friends be abused by their boyfriend.

I learned that I might have been in an abusive relationship in my past.

This info can surely save lives, and for that I would like to thank you.

A 911 call between a victim and a police officer really showed how serious dating violence can be.

What I like about this program is, it shows me how to be safe.

Tells us things then SHOWS us about it, That's why I liked it the most. Being able to see it/ hear it.

This helped me understand how serious and frequent dating violence is. It has opened my eyes and showed me it's okay to speak up.

”

This needs to be shown all over the world.

NextSTEP of Central Louisiana, Inc.

Established 2005

A partner agency of The Family Justice Center

For more information, contact us at

(318) 664-0277

choyt@nextstepcenla.org

NextSTEP's Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Initiative

A FIGHT



we can **WIN!**

Dating violence is a social reality for today's teens. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Driving a wedge into the intergenerational cycle of abuse is a fight we *must* win!



Louisiana legislation (2010, 2014) mandates public schools provide education relative to dating violence and healthy relationships for 7th - 12th grade students.

NextSTEP's initiative offers:

- Live school-based & online training. Teachers do not have to research, create or teach the program.
- Award-winning multimedia.
- 911 calls, newsclips and headlines.
- Music videos, original art, dramatic sequences, music and games.
- Data Management & Reporting System provides comprehensive demographic and outcome reports for teachers, principals, superintendents, school boards and funders.
- Teacher and school resource officer in-service training.
- Downloadable student and teacher handbooks.
- School employee orientation.
- Parent education program.
- Domestic violence professional available for consultations and support.
- Continually updated program content.

A Fight We Can Win focuses on changing knowledge, attitudes and behaviors linked to dating violence, while focusing on skills needed to build healthy relationships.

What Professionals Are Saying:

“ I have already received several self-referrals from students and I foresee more to come. Your program has given them the strength and knowledge to reach out and talk to someone.

High School Counselor

The NextSTEP team visited our school this year with their amazing program, “A Fight We Can Win.” Our students need to know what life-threatening decisions they are making and how they can receive help. This program should be in every high school in Louisiana.

High School Teacher

As a former school board member, I am keenly aware of the need for this program and how difficult it would be for faculty and administrators to provide it on their own. We are not likely to see a more unique and better conceived application of multimedia and instruction.

Former Louisiana State Representative

I think this project is light years ahead of most everything when it comes to its potential in our community and I can't think of a single topic more relevant.

High School Teacher

Through such efforts as yours, we can make a difference in the lives of children today and generations to come.

Junior High School Counselor

I feel that NextSTEP's program has the potential to singlehandedly decrease the percentage of domestic abuse in our state, where rates are currently one of the highest in the nation.

Junior and Senior High School Counselor

I believe the value of this program, both academically and socially, is immeasurable.

Former Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

We know that education needs to begin with our youth, while they are laying the foundations of dating behaviors. If we succeed, we will affect positive social change.

Former Superintendent of the Louisiana Department of Education

Program Outcomes

NextSTEP's anonymous pre- and post- lesson surveys have been vetted by the Louisiana State Department of Education.

Last year, NextSTEP educated 3,973 students, 2,181 of whom participated in the surveys.

Pre-Lesson

- 93% consider dating violence a serious problem.
- 36% know someone in an abusive relationship; 21% are not sure.
- 14% believe they are presently or have been in an abusive relationship; 6% are not sure. They have experienced the following:
 - Physical abuse - 53%
 - Threatening violence toward victim - 35%
 - Threatening family members - 22%
 - Stalking & spying - 29%
 - Unwanted kissing & touching - 27%
 - Strangulation - 20% (significant indicator of lethality)
 - Excessive calling & texting - 42%
 - Hurting victims' pets - 6%
 - Witnessed mother being abused by husband or partner - 24%

Post-Lesson

- 92% of students indicated the presentation helped them understand more about dating violence.
- 93% have a better understanding of their dating rights.
- 71% believe what they learned will help in their dating relationships; 22% believe it might.
- 94% understand the characteristics of a healthy relationship.
- After learning about dating violence, an additional 17% now believe they are, or have been victims.
- 51% will be more likely to seek help from a teacher, counselor or school resource officer; 30% indicated they might. Pre-surveys reveal less than 2% would.