



February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

In 2006, the United States government officially recognized the first week in February as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. In 2010, the U.S. Congress announced that the entire month of February would be deemed National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Project AWARE Ohio has developed an information brief entitled: *Teen Dating Violence: What Schools, Parents, and Youth Need to Know*. Please refer to the attached information brief that outlines what school professionals, parents, and youth need to know about teen dating violence in order to recognize this problem and take steps to keep youth safe from harm.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Resources

- **National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline** is a national helpline serving victims and survivors of teen dating abuse. You can contact the helpline by calling 1-866-331-9474; texting LOVEIS to 22522; or chatting 24/7 at <http://www.loveisrespect.org/>.
- **Love Is Respect's** purpose is to engage, educate, and empower young people to prevent and end abusive relationships. In addition to the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline (above), they provide 'Relationship 101' education including 'Dating Basics', 'What is a Healthy Relationship', and 'Is This Abuse?' which can be found at <http://www.loveisrespect.org/>.
- **National Sexual Assault Hotline** provides a range of free services including confidential support from a trained staff member, information about local resources, information about laws in your community, basic information about medical concerns, and referrals for long-term support in your area. The hotline can be accessed by calling **1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)**.
- **Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships**, developed by the Centers for Disease Control, is a teen dating violence prevention initiative that seeks to reduce dating violence and increase healthy relationships among 11- to 14-year-olds in high-risk urban communities through comprehensive, multisector prevention. This tool can be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/DatingMatters/index.html>.
- **Safe Dates: An Adolescent Dating Abuse Prevention Curriculum**, published by Hazelden, is an evidence-based curriculum that prevents dating abuse among adolescents. *Safe Dates* helps teens recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and controlling, manipulative, or abusive dating relationships. More information on Safe Dates can be found at: http://www.violencepreventionworks.org/public/safe_dates.page.
- **Break the Cycle** is a national nonprofit organization providing comprehensive dating abuse programs for young people ages 12 to 24. They provide youth leadership and education programs including 'Let's Be Real' and 'Start Talking', education and information about dating abuse, and capacity building for professionals who work with victims. **Break the Cycle** resources can be found at: <https://www.breakthecycle.org/>.
- **That's Not Cool** focuses on digital forms of dating abuse. Their resources include a *Cool, Not Cool* app where youth choose what is cool and not cool about friends and relationships, an *Ambassadors Program* for individuals who want to raise awareness of digital dating abuse, an *Adult Allies* section, and *Speak Up/Social Hub* sections. The website can be accessed at: <https://thatsnotcool.com/>.

The Project AWARE Ohio team includes partners in 3 county ESCs. If you are from those local areas and want more information about Project AWARE services, please contact:

Cuyahoga County ESC: Mary Wise; (216) 901-4201; mary.wise@esc-cc.org

Warren County ESC: Vycki Haught; (513) 379-2310; vycki.haught@warrencountyesc.com

Wood County ESC: Angela Patchen; (419) 354-9010 x228; apatchen@wcesc.org

For information about Project AWARE in other regions of the state, please contact:

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