Teen Parents & Dating Violence

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Mission: To engage, educate and empower youth to build lives and communities free from domestic and dating violence.

Vision: We envision a world in which young people are empowered with the rights, knowledge and tools to achieve healthy, non-violent relationships and homes.
Purpose: Unite the nation to end teen dating violence by sharing knowledge, building collaborative relationships and providing communities with the tools to implement effective youth-targeted services.

Webinar Goals:
• Promote a multi-disciplinary dialogue;
• Identify unique challenges and complexities presented by teen dating violence;
• Develop strategies for effective youth prevention and intervention.
Contact Teen Center
(202) 824-0707
For more information on our future webinars
teencenter@breakthecycle.org

For technical assistance with matters related to teen dating violence
expert@breakthecycle.org
Programs

Webinar
Using the latest technology, quarterly webinars feature national experts who will provide critical training and encourage dialogue about a wide range of topics related to teen dating violence.

Master Class
In-person advanced trainings will be held annually to bring together grantees for in-depth training designed to improve the skills of professionals who work with youth.

Issue Briefs
Single-topic issue briefs will provide a written analysis of issues related to teen dating violence for reference and training in the grantees’ local communities.

Legislative Alert
Quarterly legislative alerts will update grantees on relevant changes to the law that affect the provision of services to teen at both the federal and state level.

List-Serve
An active list-serve will be maintained to support continuing dialogue among grantees and provide a place for dissemination for critical information relevant to teen dating violence.

Workbook Series
An interactive workbook series will provide tangible an targeted tools to grantees to effectively respond to youth in their respective fields, including law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim services.
Collaborative Partners
Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community
www.dvinstitute.org
National Center for Victims of Crime
www.ncvc.org
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
www.pcar.org
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
www.ncjfcj.org
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A Webinar
Teen Parents & Dating Violence

Thursday, October 30th, 2008
2:00pm-3:30 EST
The Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community

(IDVAAC) is an organization focused on the unique circumstances of African Americans as they face issues related to domestic violence - including intimate partner violence, child abuse, elder maltreatment, and community violence. IDVAAC's mission is to enhance society's understanding of and ability to end violence in the African-American community.
Presenters

Dr. Oliver Williams
Professor of Social Work & Executive Director of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Family (IDVAAC)

Sheila Hankins
IDVAAC Steering Committee Member & National Consultant on Violence Against Women

Sam Williams
Senior, Twin Cities Academy. Teen Dating Violence Hotline Advisory Board & Liz Claiborne Teen Dating Violence Task Force

Johnny Rice, II
Director, Office of Grants Management, Maryland Department of Human Resources
Overview

- Define Teens & Teen Dating
- Teen Dating Violence & Signs of Abuse
- Teen Dating Violence Facts
- Co-parenting & Dating Violence
- Challenges of Teen Mothers
- Engaging & Intervening with young fathers
- Advice from Teens & Next steps
Who are the teens?

- Teens
- Tweens
- Students/School
  - middle 6-8\textsuperscript{th} grades
  - High 9-12\textsuperscript{th} grades
  - College
- Not enrolled in school
- Cultural Identification
  - Urban
  - Rural
  - Race and Ethnicity
  - Heterosexual
  - Homosexual
  - Religious Identification
Defining Teen Dating

- Hooking Up
- Talking
- Hanging Out
- Friends with benefits
- Courting
- Monogamous relationships
- Non Monogamous relationships
- Sexual Active
- Not Sexually Active
Defining Teen Dating Violence

The continuum of dating violence may include:

- Homicide
- Physical Assault
- Sexual Assault
- Harassment
- Property Damage & Vandalism
- Emotional and psychological abuse
- Threats
- Social Isolation
- Kidnapping
- Stalking
- Intimidation
- Coercion
- Deprivation
- Name calling
Identifying the signs of abuse

- Withdrawn
- Apathetic
- Depressed
- Fearful
- Shame
- Embarrassment
- Unexplained absences
- Pregnancy
- Drop in academic performance
- Impulse-control problems related to anger and aggression
- Cutting oneself
- Eating Disorders
- High-risk sexual behavior
- Suicide
Dating abuse and violence begins at young age

- 1 in 5 (20%) children between the ages of 13 and 14 say their friends are victims of dating violence.
- Nearly half of all tweens in relationships say they know friends who are verbally abused.
- 40% of tweens 11 and 12 report that their friends are victims of verbal abuse in relationships.
- Nearly 1 in 10 (9%) say their friends have had sex.
Teen Dating Violence Facts

- 1 in 5 teenage girls were physically or sexually assaulted by a dating partner and if verbal or emotional abuse was included, the number was 1 in 3. (Harvard School of Public Health)

- Intimate partner violence rates for women:
  - Ages 16 to 24 - 16 per 1000
  - Ages 25 to 35 - 9.4 per 1000 and
  - Ages 34 to 49 - 6 per 1000 (Bureau of Justice 2001 Report)

- 10% of girls ages 12 - 15 murdered are killed by intimate partners

- 22% of girls ages 16 - 19 murdered are killed by intimate partners
Herstories: Experience of African American Teens

- Black youth are over represented as victims and perpetrators of teen dating violence. Almost 14% of black youth (vs. 7% of white youth) reported that a boyfriend or girlfriend had “hit, slapped, or physically hurt them on purpose.

- The prevalence rate of dating violence was highest among black female youth at 12% According to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - CDC, 2005.
Herstories: Experience of African American Teens

• “They try to get into your head.”

• “They want to own you, threaten you.”

• “They buy you things and want something.”
Teen Pregnancy

- However, the birth rate for this age group increased by 3% in 2006.
- The overwhelming majority of these teens mothers are unmarried at the time of birth of their child.
Disparities Among African American Youth

• 151 pregnancies per 1000 black females ages 15-19, compared to 56.9 pregnancies per 1000 white females ages 15-19; and 132 pregnancies per 1000 Hispanic females ages 15-19.

• Given the higher rates of teen pregnancy and dating violence the intersection of teen motherhood and dating violence is especially critical in the African American community.
Co-parenting & Dating Violence

- Teen mothers face unique challenges
- Co-parenting is more complicated with teen mothers (others are involved in parenting)
Special Consideration in Engaging & Intervening With Youth Fathers
Reflections
Personal Observations Working with Young Fathers

Practice-based Perspective
Center for Urban Families
1. Young Father Profile
2. Services Provided
3. Observable Outcomes
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND YOUNG FATHERS

Why focus on this issue?

Society’s failure to address this issue will lead to diminished return on investments.
What factors are associated with dating violence amongst young fathers?

- **Family History**
- **Economically Driven Challenges**
- **Socially Driven Challenges**
- **Culturally Driven Challenges**
- **Media and Popular Culture**
- **SOLUTIONS --- Strength-based Approach**
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND YOUNG FATHERS

*Personal Charge!*
Identification and leveraging of resources to address problem in an effective manner
“The examination of teen dating violence and young fathers is a necessary and timely topic. The perpetuation of violence in these relationships can hinder the safety, development and growth of young couples involved and lead to negative child welfare outcomes.”

Johnny Rice, II
African American Teens Give Advice

- Put sex on hold.
- College before sex.
- Marriage before sex.
- Stay strapped. Stay wrapped.
- Respect yourself.
- Young and cute does not mean you are ready.

- Men are like buses. They come every 10 minutes and they don’t run out of gas.
- Hang with positive people, doing positive things.
- Don’t use music as advise for your life.
African American Teens Give Advice

• Listen to music that makes you feel good – positive artist.
• Be your own person.

• Tell a trusted adult if you are sexually assaulted.
• Parents should ask questions and stop bringing all sorts of men around.
African American Teens Give Advice

Insecurities
- Both girls and boys can get insecure about themselves or their relationships. Then what happens is they may become controlling or manipulative.

Controlling Behavior
- When a teen in a relationship lusts for power it turns an enjoyable experience into a nightmare. The insecurities of those in the relationship makes them want to gain control.

Manipulative
- Some people will pretend they don’t like the other person when they actually do. They may attempt to make the other person jealous because they think jealousy is love. Or may try to make the other person mad to control the situation.

Misplaced anger/anger Issues
- Some teens will be angry about one thing that is not their partner’s fault but still abuse the one they claimed to care about.
Next Steps: Promising Practices

1. Acknowledge that tweens and teens are in unhealthy relationships.
2. Conduct more research to increase understanding about the real life and intersecting issues faced by teens as they date.
3. Educate the community about teen dating violence and its consequences.
4. Educate teens, young adults, their families and the community about child abuse and statutory rape, acquaintance rape.
5. Increase community awareness about the signs of abuse.
6. Provide opportunities for teens to learn conflict resolution skills, communication skills and problem solving/decision making skills.
7. Implement peer counseling programs that are informed about dating violence, sexual assault and crisis intervention.