1

Controlling, abusive, and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. It occurs in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships and can include verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, or a combination of these.
Dating violence like domestic violence is about POWER and CONTROL

Victim's Response:
- Feeds happy and hopeful.
- Finds ways to handle personal feelings and get support.
- Abuses.
- Threats to the victim's life.
- Leaves.
- Reaches out for help.
- Calls the police.
- Tries to protect them.
- Tries to lose them.
- Tries to control, degrade, and frighten their victims at any time, even when they're apart.

Denial

DATING AND TECHNOLOGY
Digital tools—social media, text messaging, and e-mail—have given bullies and abusers a new way to control, degrade, and frighten their victims anywhere at any time, even when they're apart.

1 in 4 dating teens say they are abused or harassed online or through texts by their partners.

2x as many teen girls than boys reported sexual abuse online and through texts.

1 in 10 victims of digital dating abuse sought help.


prevent teen dating violence

57% of teens have friends who experience teen dating violence.
81% of parents are unaware of this reality.

you can help.
Domestic Violence Witnessed by Children

Teen Dating Violence

THE GENERATIONAL CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Disclosure

Teens usually disclose first to a friend. Who then discloses to:
- A school counselor
- School resource officer
- Patrol officer
- Therapist
- Parent
- Victim Advocate

Help the victim to feel comfortable speaking to law enforcement.

Let the victim know they will need to tell the officer what has happened in their own words, but you will be there to support them.

If possible speak to the officer or detective privately before they speak to the victim.
- This will give the officer the background.
- This can help the officer understand more of the trauma informed response.

How Do We Involve Law Enforcement When We Identify Teen Dating Violence?
#2: Investigation

Initial Response
- Getting the case
  - Referral, walk ins, Patrol
- Listen, look deeper
- Ask again
- Have some compassion

Investigation– Obstacles
- What are obstacles to getting to the truth?
  - Misunderstanding the effects of trauma
  - Misunderstanding Victim Psychology
  - Officer mind set
Trauma Informed Interviewing

- A mindset which recognizes that traumatic events cause people to react in irrational and disorganized ways
- Events may be remembered in "snapshots" or out of order
- Mind may fixate on specific sights, smells, weapons, emotions, etc.
- Chronology may be out of order
- Details relevant to survival

Why it may be hard to “Investigate”

- 2 Brains—Rational vs. Emotional
- We as officers experience this regularly
- Example: What I remember and saw with the knife in Provo vs. the training scenario where my partner was stabbed

Why a Victim may Struggle to answer

- The SAME REASONS as YOU struggle to investigate!
- 2 Brains
  - Police have training and practice
  - This may be the victim’s first experience
Victim Psychology

- Belonging is a more basic need than safety
- Social status/need to fit in
- Have low self esteem
- Believe that life is just “this way”

Have you ever felt stuck doing something you hate? Was it that easy to change?

Officer Mindset

Most of our cases fall somewhere in the middle, so don’t worry when both parties are doing things wrong!

- Child or Slave
- Horrible Monster

Legal Action

- Do your Officers know all the laws? And how to apply them in the context of teen dating violence.
  - Stalking
  - Harassment
  - Assault
  - Sexual assault
  - Sexploitation
  - Etc.
Law Enforcement

You have tremendous Power

What will your choices and actions set in motion?

Team Approach: In your agency
- Call outs
- Lethality Assessment
- Forward to victim advocates for their review
- Youth Court
- Go back and check in when it's slow

Team Approach: With other agencies
- Division of Child and Family Services
- Juvenile Court
- School District
- Salt Lake County Youth Services
- C.A.R.I. (Children At Risk Intervention) Team
- Homeless Shelters / DV Shelters
- Local Counseling Agencies

See your investigation as a part of a larger solution!
#3 Intervention

**COLLABORATION:**
Two or more people working together towards shared goals

---

How do Social Workers and Police Compliment Each other?

- Say thank you and good job... (I am only kind of kidding)
- Stop being petty and territorial
- Yin and Yang - Opposites balance even if they don’t agree

---

Sara’s Story
Sara Today

You cannot stuff everyone into your agenda. If no one else will do it, then you do it.

What can a partner do and how do they work?

What do you need that they do?

Remember: Be grateful for what you get, not angry about what you don’t.

Collaboration:
Multi-Disciplinary Approach

We all need Help

You cannot stuff everyone into your agenda. If no one else will do it, then you do it.

What can a partner do and how do they work?

What do you need that they do?

Remember: Be grateful for what you get, not angry about what you don’t.
C.A.R.I. Team
Children At Risk Intervention

- DCFS
- Juvenile Court
- Division of Youth Services
- Mental Health
- School District
- Homeless Liaison
- Victim Advocates
- Law Enforcement
- Other agencies deemed appropriate

SUMMARY

- SOLUTION #1: Identify and reach out to community partners to create a team.
- SOLUTION #2: Educate your multi-disciplinary team on how to identify and report teen dating violence.
- SOLUTION #3: Conduct better investigations by understanding the effects of trauma and basic victim psychology.
- SOLUTION #4: Put your team to work to create a successful resolution.

Questions?
Sources