



Turning Point
Domestic Violence Services

Understanding and Responding to Teen Dating Violence

Darla McKeeman, Ph.D. HSPP
Director of Client Services and Training
Turning Point Domestic Violence Services
darlamckeeman@turningpointdv.org

Who is Turning Point?

- An emergency domestic violence shelter for 12 southeastern Indiana counties
- 24/7 Crisis Line: 800-221-6311
- Community outreach service provider with 8 local offices in the following counties:
 - Bartholomew (3)
 - Brown
 - Jackson
 - Jefferson
 - Johnson
 - Shelby

Families Served in 2009

Shelter Services

- 172 Adults
- 161 Children
- Upon exiting shelter, 74% did not return to their abuser

Outreach - Across all Locations

- 1501 Families served in 2009
- At three months, 81% of victims had not returned to their abuser

Prevention Education in 2009

Dating Violence Prevention Education

- 167 presentations
- Reached 3,561 youth

Professional Trainings and Community Awareness Presentations

- 77 presentations
- Reached 1967 adults

Who am I?

- Licensed Psychologist
- Clinician
- Trainer
- Adjunct faculty member at IUPUC
- Director of Client Services and Training
- I was a teenager once



Today's Presentation

- Statistics on Teen Dating Violence (TDV)
- Risk Factors for Dating Violence
- Signs and Symptoms
- Practical Strategies for Responding to Youth Involved in Dating Violence
- Identifying and Accessing Community Resources



Teen Dating Violence Statistics

- In 2007 the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) indicated that approximately 12% of High School students reported having been physically victimized by a dating partner in the past 12 months. This number was as high as 40% in some areas of the country.
- In Indiana specifically, 11.6% reported being hit, slapped or physically hurt by a dating partner one or more times in the past year.(1)
- Results of a study utilizing a National sample, indicate that 13% of gay adolescent girls and 9% of gay adolescent boys report having been physically victimized by a dating partner in the previous year.(2)

Rates of Psychological Abuse

Results of a national longitudinal study conducted in 2001, indicated that victimization from psychological abuse is even higher

- 29% of heterosexual high school students
- 20% of gay high school students reported psychological abuse by a date in the previous year.(3)
- Rarely does dating violence start with physical abuse.

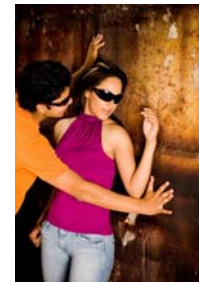
These rates are prevalence rates. The incidence of teen dating violence is such that 1 in 4 adolescents will experience teen dating violence.

When Does Violence In Relationships Begin?

- NIJ study from 2008 reported that dating abuse is beginning as early as the sixth grade. (4)
- A study conducted in 1983 found that adults who use violence with their dating partners often began doing so during adolescence, with the first episode typically occurring by age fifteen.(5)

Sexual Abuse in Dating Relationships

- Young women 14-17 represent 38% of those victimized by date rape.(6)
- Rapes by acquaintances account for 60% of all rapes reported to rape crisis centers.(7)
- In Indiana, the YRBS (2007) results indicated that 9.4% of Indiana youth reported being physically forced to have sex in the previous 12 month period.(1)



- Both girls and boys are victims of dating abuse, though girls receive more severe injuries from dating abuse than boys.(8)
- Both girls and boys are perpetrators of dating abuse, though girls tend to use less severe forms of dating abuse than boys. (9)
- Being a victim of dating abuse for both males and females is associated with depression, cigarette smoking, and suicide attempts (10a).
- Other behaviors associated with being a victim of dating violence include marijuana use, illicit substance use, and antisocial behavior. (10b)

IDENTIFYING RISK FACTORS FOR TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

CATEGORY	Risk Factor
Individual Perception	Norm that violence is acceptable in relationships
Relationship Skills	Lack of skills in communication, conflict management, regulating emotions
General Behavior/Conduct	Aggressive relationships w/peers, friends, parents
Dating Relationship Experiences	Past dating abuse, or imbalance of power in current relationship
Family, School & Community Influences	Lack of parental support, supervision, reluctance to include adults in decision making
Peer Influences	Peers in current/past abusive relationship, negative friendships with peers

O'Keefe's 2005 Review of Risk Factors (11)

- Some risk factors for Dating Violence have been consistent across multiple studies while other risk factors, have been found to vary from study to study.
- A consistent finding across multiple studies is the association between dating violence and violence towards peers.
- Adolescents who show a general tendency towards violence or who use physical violence against peers are more likely to be violent with a dating partner.

Attitudes Regarding Violence

One of the most consistent and strongest factors associated with inflicting violence against a dating partner is the belief that it is acceptable to use violence in a relationship



Peer Influence

- Having friends who are in violent relationships is associated with a teen's own experience as both a perpetrator and victim of dating violence.
- Having friends who are in violent relationships is a bigger predictor of dating violence victimization and perpetration than having witnessed parental violence.
- Teens tend to follow peers rather than parents.

Studies have shown inconsistent findings for the following set of risk factors

- Race – findings are inconsistent across studies
 - Some studies indicate that African American youth are at higher risk for dating violence victimization and perpetration than Caucasian youth, while others indicate that socioeconomic status and not race is the risk factor.
- Socioeconomic Status – findings are inconsistent across studies. We do know that dating violence crosses all economic levels.

Witnessing Domestic Violence and Inflicting Violence on a Dating Partner

- Witnessing inter-parental violence as a child increases the risk of being abusive toward a dating partner.
- Witnessing inter-parental violence has less predictive of dating abuse for victims.
- For abusers, witnessing family violence is even more predictive of dating violence if it is coupled with acceptance of violence in interpersonal relationships.
- In other words, the combination of (1) having witnessed family violence and (2) believing that violence is acceptable in relationships is stronger than either risk factor individually.
- In studies of adult abusers, about 1/3 indicated that they witnessed parental violence.

Experiencing parent-child abuse and later use of dating violence

- Mixed findings
 - One study found that although corporal punishment by a parent was not associated with later delinquency, it was associated with later teen dating violence, suggesting that corporal punishment specifically “teaches that is both legitimate and effective to hit the ones you love”
 - Other studies indicate that being hit by parents is not associated with later use of dating violence.

High Risk Groups

- In one study, looking at 14-16 year old girls with CPS involvement, over half the girls had experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a dating partner.
- In alternative schools, 68% of males and 33% of females reported using violence against current or recent partner.

Making Sense of Risk Factors

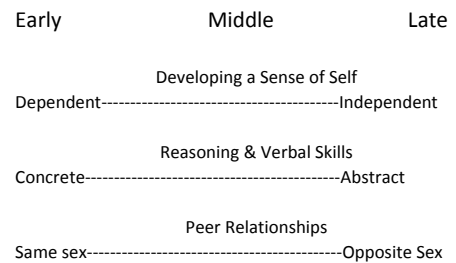
- Do not confuse correlation with causation.
- There are very few theories of what causes "Dating Violence", however we are beginning to know more about what other factors are associated with Dating Violence.
- Risk factors do not cause dating violence but they are associated with an increased likelihood of being an abuser or being a victim.

Who are Adolescents? What challenges do they face?

- trying to adjust to physical changes in their body
- trying to manage sexual feelings
- trying to control rapidly changing emotions
- trying to develop an understanding of personal boundaries, social roles and relationships
- figuring out the reproductive processes
- trying to figure out varying degrees of intimacy in friendships, romantic relationships and adult relationships
- trying to integrate socially acceptable standards of sexual expression.
- figuring out whose definition of "socially acceptable" they are going to follow.



Changes Across Adolescence



Early Adolescence –Ages 11-13



- Rapid physical growth and maturation
- Intense conformity to peers –clothes, hairstyles, labels, etc.
- Although physically mature, still need close adult supervision and monitoring
- High Drama
- <----- An 11 year old.
- Do you think this kid is thinking about dating?

Middle Adolescence –Ages 14-16



- Beginning to develop abstract thinking skills
- Still more likely to act out emotion than use verbal expression
- Still find security in structure and limit-setting by parents.
- Adolescents far more likely to confide in each other rather than parents.

Late Adolescence – Ages 17-21

- Adult impersonators – mature appearance and behavior may be misleading because they are still developing cognitively and emotionally.
- They may reject conformity to society, but demand conformity within their own small group.
- More interested in meaningful relationships with the opposite sex, including sexual relationships.



Recognizing Dating Violence

- Given all of these changes that are going on at each stage of adolescence how do we recognize signs and symptoms of Dating Violence in youth that we encounter?
- If these are youth we encounter on a regular basis we are looking for changes from their “normal” functioning?
- Whatever their “normal” is.

Signs and Symptoms of Dating Violence that an Adult Might Observe

VICTIM

- Obvious physical injury
- Failing of falling grades
- Increased instances of indecision, stops giving her own opinion
- Use of drugs or alcohol, not just experimentation
- May become more isolated
- Stops hanging out with friends and family

ABUSER

- Extreme jealousy
- Controlling
- Verbally abusive and threatens physical violence
- Instances of explosive anger
- Uses drugs and alcohol, not just experimentation
- Blames others for his problems or feelings
- Isolates partner from family and friends.

Red Flags for Dating Abuse that a Teen Victim Might Recognize

- being physically hurt
- feeling afraid of dating partner
- feeling isolated, maybe even alone
- losing friends
- changing behavior because of dating partner's jealousy
- feeling embarrassed, put down, ashamed, or guilty
- feeling manipulated or controlled
- being afraid to express feelings of anger
- feeling nervous or sick feeling in stomach when dating partner is irritated, frustrated, or angry
- not being allowed to, or being afraid to make decisions
- noticing that dating partner has very rigid beliefs about how women and men should behave
- Friends don't think that your boyfriend treats you well.

Red Flags that Teen Abusers Might Recognize in Themselves

- physically assaulting your dating partner (hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking)
- intimidating dating partner
- becoming angry if dating partner is spending time with other people
- asking dating partner to change his or her behavior because the abuser is jealous
- verbally threatening dating partner
- using “guilt trips” to get dating partner to do something
- feeling unable to control feelings of anger
- making dating partner afraid of you
- forcing dating partner to do sexual things that he or she is not comfortable doing

Responding to Teens who are in Abusive Dating Relationships- Some Practical Tips

- How do we utilize what we know about adolescent development to effectively respond to teens?
- What are the interpersonal challenges?
- What do we need to consider?
- What approaches are useful?

FYI

- Teen relationships can be just as serious and just as important to the teen as adult relationships are to adults.
- There is a lot of peer pressure among teens to date and maintain relationships.
- Need to respect teens views and choices or run the risk of them shutting down communication.
- Teens are extremely unlikely to disclose violence to an adult in the first place, feeling disrespected will often stop the conversation.

CHALLENGE – You may feel pressured to gather critical information and worry that questions won't be answered in the time available.

Considerations

- Teens do not open up on demand.
- Teens are still negotiating trust with adults.
- Teens' sense of what is important differs from what an adult may think is important.

Practical Tips

- Plan for more frequent and less lengthy interactions with teen victims.
- Allow teen victims to tell what happened without interruption or questions.
- Explain to the teen the time frame and important deadlines in working with victims.

CHALLENGE – You may find yourself taking over or “parenting” teen victims. Using more leading statements, giving advice, or directing the conversation.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Teens are likely to shut down or rebel against authoritative style.
- Teens desire independence but lack experience with decision-making.
- Teens receive conflicting advice from different sources and must sort this out for themselves.

PRACTICAL TIPS

- Listen, give information, and ask what support teen victims need to make decisions.
- Instead of giving advice, present ideas as rights and options for victims to consider.
- Help teen victims explore the safety and feasibility of their choices.

CHALLENGE – You may question the victim's behavior more when working with teens. If they were drinking or using drugs at the time, may be difficult to remain non-judgmental.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Teens engage in more impulsive behavior and risk-taking than most adults.
- Teens may not react the way adults assume victims should react.
- Teens cope with victimization in ways that may be hard for adults to understand.

PRACTICAL TIPS

- Use a non-judgmental tone of voice. Try to separate out the impulsive behavior from the abuse.
- Avoid questions that ask “why” or “why not”.
- Don't blame the victim. Consider how your approach may affect a teen victim

CHALLENGE- The Teen's priorities may conflict with what you think are priorities. They may find it difficult to get focused on what you view as important issues.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Teen values are shaped by intense social and emotional pressure.
- Teens are extremely loyal to relationships and sensitive to implied criticism of others- even those who are hurting them.
- Teens focus on short-term outcomes.

PRACTICAL TIPS

- Attend to teen victims' “here and now” needs and concerns first.
- Listen for the social and emotional pressures influencing teen victims and validate their experiences
- Practice relating to a wide range of teens with a variety of attitudes to remind yourself who they are.

CHALLENGE – Difficulty in getting teens to use available interventions and supports

CONSIDERATIONS

- Teens weigh many factors in deciding whether to seek help or follow thru with interventions.
- Peer support, peer counseling, and support groups may be more welcome than one-on-one counseling with an adult.
- Teens need to be able to trust the privacy of services.

PRACTICAL TIPS

- Offer teen victims multiple options for receiving support, including peer interventions, websites, etc.
- Ask teen advisors to evaluate outreach approaches, service options and locations.
- Best to address confidentiality and safety concerns before disclosure.

Other Ideas

- **Journals.** Consider using a journal as a communication tool between a teen and yourself. They just need to know upfront that you want them to share what they write with you.
- **Art and poetry.** At this age they are into song lyrics and self-expression. Teens are often writing poetry on their own.
- **Lists.** Since abstract thinking is still developing in middle adolescents and has not yet developed in early adolescents, making things as concrete as possible is often helpful.
- Lists of pros and cons can help teens think critically about decisions they face.

How is Working with Adult victims of DV different from Working with Teens Involved in Dating Violence?

- There is no mandated reporting for adults who are in violent intimate relationships, except if a client reports that they are suicidal or homicidal.
- The information that a victim shares with an advocate is protected under laws that govern confidentiality.
- Unlike adolescents, adults are considered capable of giving informed consent.

Working with Teens

- Before teen discloses information about physical violence in the relationship let them know about mandatory reporting of child abuse.
- Explain to them what that means and how it might impact them.
- While this is always difficult to do and may impact their ability to trust you, informing youth of your legal responsibilities after they have disclosed, typically leads to greater damage to the relationship.

Indiana Mandatory Reporting Requirements Regarding Children

Who Must Report?

- Standard of Knowledge
- Definition of Applicable Victim
- Reports made to
- Contents of report
- Timing and other procedures

Any person

- Reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect.
- Child is not defined (nor is abuser defined)
- Oral Reports should be made to the DCS, which hosts a toll free child abuse hotline, or local law enforcement.
- Statutes do not specify the contents of the reports.
- An oral report of the suspected abuse or neglect shall be made immediately.

What about Parental Consent?

- In general parental consent must be obtained for most services provided to youth. In Indiana there are exceptions around medical treatment for STDs, contraception, drug treatment and a few others.
- Parental consent for services does not nullify the need to report to CPS.
- Other organizations who work only with youth may have a policy around parental consent that may be either
 - **active** which will require parental written consent before offering a specific service
 - **passive** which means the agency universally notifies all parents of the availability of a particular service (or services) and directs parents to contact the school if they do not want those services for their child. (12)

General Principles Around Parental Involvement

- Although teens are becoming more independent, parents still have an essential role to play in their children's safe and healthy passage from child to adult. (Even though most teens would disagree.)
- When parents do not represent a danger to their children, they need to be included. This inclusion could range from a single phone call, face-to-face contact, or more intensive work with family, depending on your role.
- Elicit teens' input on the best way to involve their families and get their reactions to your idea.

- If teen is reluctant to have you contact parents but there is no apparent danger of abuse, consider ways of encouraging the teen to talk with his/her parents about your work together and work your way up to a direct contact with the parents, possibly facilitated by the teen.
- Respecting the sensitivity of the issues being discussed and the teen's need for privacy, and balance that with the known benefits of parental involvement is no easy task.
- This can be done successfully, without harming your relationship with the teen, if done in a way that is sensitive to the teen's concerns.

- In cases where there is no indication of parental abuse, but the teen worries about the parents reaction, you can offer to facilitate the conversation to help the teen talk to parents about the situation.
- In cases where it is suspected or known that parents will react abusively to a disclosure of victimization, then CPS also needs to be involved.

Identifying and Accessing Community Resources

- If you are aware that a child is involved in Dating Violence, and you have met your agencies and the state reporting requirements, now what do you do?
- Most Indiana communities have Domestic violence Service Providers.
- Most DV agencies provide services beyond sheltering adult victims and their dependant children.
- DV advocates can assist teens and/or their parents with
 - Danger Assessments
 - Safety planning
 - Completing a protective order
 - Court accompaniment
 - Coordinating safety planning with school administrators, etc.

Identifying Local Domestic Violence Service Providers

- In your role as a teacher, coach, DCS worker, student services professional or concerned adult, knowing who your DV Service provider is and what services they offer youth is crucial.
- If you do not know who the Service Provider is for your area, contact the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. (800) 332-7385.

How DV Advocates May Assist Teens

- Domestic Violence Advocates are typically very informed on available community resources for working with victims. They are skilled at offering options without offering unsolicited advice. DV Services typically have a 24 hour hotline that is offers over the phone assistance as well as community referrals.
- Danger assessments – Often thru this process a teen victim will begin to see the level of abuse that is occurring in the relationship.
- Safety planning – Safety planning for teens may be quite different than safety planning with adults. Safety planning refers not only to those victims leaving a relationship but to victims who have not decided to leave. Safety planning can facilitate their safety, both in and out of the relationship.

Legal Assistance for Teens

- *The following information is based on Indiana statutes, laws, and court decisions as of spring of 2010. This information is NOT legal advice and no one should rely on it as such. If you have questions or need legal advice, consult an attorney*

Assisting a Minor in Obtaining a Civil Protection Order Against Another Minor?

- Minors can request a Civil Order of Protection against another minor, but they will need the help of a parent or guardian to file the application in court on their behalf. IC 34-26-5-2
- For purposes of domestic battery charges Indiana defines the nature of the relationship between two adults, however Indiana law does not define dating specifically, so if the petitioner states that they had a dating relationship, the court will likely accept that as grounds for an order.
- Indiana law does not make any statements about the gender of the parties. So if the couple, either as minors or adults, meets the definition of "dating" or "engaging in a sexual relationship", they will meet the definition.

Advocates Can Assist Teens who are being Stalked in Filing a Protective Orders

- In Indiana, stalking is defined as:
- A knowing or intentional course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another person that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, or threatened and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated or threatened. IC 35-45-10-1



Example of Stalking

- John and Mary are in high school together and John is concerned that Mary is interested in another guy, Ben. John starts texting Mary every 15 minutes and asks where she is and who she is talking to. When Mary doesn't respond immediately, John finds her and yells at her and threatens to hurt her if he ever sees her with Ben. Mary is frightened by John's behavior and breaks up with John.
- She tells John that she doesn't want to see or hear from him again. John continues to call/text Mary, drives by her house, her sports practice every night, etc. He seems to always be near her locker at school and he sits right behind her in the classes they have together.
 - John has threatened to kill himself if Mary won't date him again. Mary says John's behavior makes her feel "creepy".
 - While John has not been physically violent with Mary in the past, Mary, with her parent's help, can and probably should file for an order of protection against John.



Providing Assistance

- Depending on your relationship to the teen and your relationship to the school, get involved in this process if needed. Offer input in your role as coach, DCS worker, parent, etc.

Court Accompaniment

- DV advocates often will accompany a victim to court.
- They can answer questions about who will be present, what will occur, answer questions about the process in general.
- They also are there to lend emotional support to the victim and family.

Once a Protective Order Has Been Granted An Advocate Can Assist in Helping the School Enforce It.



The advocate can assist Mary in bringing her protective order to the school administration and asking for help in keeping John physically away from her. Options the advocate might recommend:

- < transferring John to different classes and different lunch periods than Mary's
- < moving John's locker to another area of the school,
- < arranging for them to ride separate busses
- < providing an escort to Mary to her car in the school parking lot
- < notifying teachers who could stop contact that happens in the hallway.
- < the school having a talk with John to set firm limits and consequences for intentionally contacting Mary.

Actions Teens Can Initiate on Their Own

- A teen victim can contact their local domestic violence Hotline directly and seek assistance regarding community referrals without choosing to reveal their name, address, and age.
- They can also call the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline at 1-866-331-9474.
- They can seek out web-based peer counseling thru www.loveisrespect.org.
- They can contact the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Helpline at (800) 332-7385.
- Often times they are more likely to follow thru with online resources than work with adults.

Considerations Regarding Advocacy Services for Victims of Teen Dating Violence

- Confidentiality issues are more difficult to navigate when serving teen victims.
- From teens perspective, state laws may create barriers with regard to confidentiality by requiring parental notification and parental consent for services as well as mandating the reporting of abuse.
- When working with teens these legal issues need to be addressed at the beginning of services, rather than after services have begun. Addressing these concerns up front is important for maintaining the relationship.

Central Indiana's Response Peace in Our Homes Plan 2009-2012

- Community-wide plan for addressing Domestic violence was developed with the input of over 200 agencies in Central Indiana.
- Among the goals listed is a focus on services to youth.
- Under the facilitation of the Domestic Violence Network, a State-wide needs assessment survey is being completed by youth agencies as well as DV service agencies to identify services that are currently being provided to teens Involved in Dating violence.

- This survey is still available. At last count DVN had heard from 17 youth agencies and 41 domestic violence service providers.
- The survey was developed thru a collaboration with Family Services of Central Indiana, Children's Bureau, Marion County Council on Youth, Prevail, IINCASA, ICADV, DVN, Clarian, IYI and Ruth Lilly Health Education Center.
- The results will support strategies 1 and 2 of the Youth Goal in the Peace in Our Homes Community Wide Plan.
- Once this information is compiled it will be made available to the general public thru the Domestic Violence Network Website - www.dvnconnect.org

Additional Teen Dating Violence Intervention Strategies to be Included in the 2009-2012 Plan

- increasing the utilization of existing program and if necessary develop new programs for youth who are being victimized in their dating relationships.
- developing of treatment programs for children and youth who have begun to exhibit battering behaviors.
- Implementing age appropriate, best practices, healthy relationship curricula at all levels of education.
- Engage children and youth in the development of interactive technology-based awareness tools. This will give teens involved in dating violence the opportunity to see other teen's perspectives on dating abuse.

Start Strong Initiative - Indianapolis

- The Start strong initiative is a collaborative primary prevention effort between Clarion Health, Ruth Lilly Health center, DVN, Washington Township Schools and the Peace Learning Center.
- The major focus is on primary prevention of Dating Violence. They are utilizing an evidenced-based curriculum that has been demonstrated to reduce both perpetration and victimization of dating violence.
- Another goal of the Start Strong plan is to implement videos, banners, interactive surveys and other digitally connected technology that are available to students involved in dating violence.

Responses to Teen Dating Violence in Turning Point's Region

- DCS's Response to Teen Dating Violence
- Law Enforcements Response to Teen Dating Violence
- The Courts Response to Teen Dating Violence
- Schools Response to Teen Dating Violence
- Turning Point's position regarding services to Adolescents.

Department of Child Services

- One DCS Director in our region provided the following recommendations around teen dating violence.
 - Where there is physical violence in a Teen Dating Relationship, the DCS Child Abuse Hotline should be notified.
 - In the process of reporting, the DCS Hotline worker will determine if there needs to be an investigation by CPS due to lack of parental supervision or neglect.
 - If there is no indication of abuse/neglect on the part of an adult caregiver, then DCS will turn it over to local law enforcement for investigation.

Law Enforcements' Response To Teen Dating Violence

- A Detective in one of our counties indicated the following conditions where cases of teen dating violence would be investigated.
 - Cases turned over by DCS
 - Cases that have been initiated by a teen contacting the police department
 - Cases that have been initiated by parents who have contacted the police department on behalf of their children
 - With respect to the teen being a minor, the law allows either a victim or a witness to be interviewed without parental consent.
 - With respect to the alleged abuser, parental consent before speaking with the teen.
 - If there is grounds for criminal charges to be filed, the case is turned over to the County Prosecutor for review.

Courts' Response

- In Indiana, juveniles under the age of 18 can not be "convicted" of crimes however they can be adjudicated as a "delinquent".
- According to a Judge in one of our counties, Civil Protective Orders that are brought against a minor are heard in Juvenile Court.
- In Indiana, when a minor's actions or behaviors would constitute domestic violence if s/he were an adult, the actions or behaviors are used to support an allegation that the minor is "delinquent".
- After a "delinquent" adjudication, the court may impose various punishments and restrictions, including detention in a juvenile facility, house arrest and/or a criminal "No Contact" order can be imposed mandating that the juvenile have no contact with the victim.

Schools' Response

While few school districts have policies specific to Teen Dating Violence, the following practices were mentioned by a school administrator in one of our counties:

- If a protective order has been granted, the school meets with the students and parents in order to change any classes that the two have together
- They discuss changing the travel route from class to class, in order to reduce the likelihood of the two having contact.
- They encourage the student to tell an adult if there is a violation of a protective order.
- The school will often recommend to the parents that a protective order be filed. This allows the school the ability to enforce the practices mentioned above.
- The order also allows the school to call the police if there is a violation at school.

Heather's Law

- With the passing of Heather's Law (signed by the Governor on April 12, 2010) the Indiana Department of Education (DOE) in collaboration with organizations that have expertise in dating violence, domestic violence and sexual abuse, will be developing or identifying model dating violence education materials, and model dating violence response and reporting policies.
- The DOE will be required to make these models available to assist schools with the implementation of dating violence education programs and policies for grades 6-12.
- While schools will not be required to follow these recommendations, those of us involved in addressing Teen Dating Violence are very receptive to assisting schools that elect to put these programs and policies in place.

Turning Point's Response to Teen Dating Violence

- The mission of Turning Points is to work towards the elimination of Domestic Violence.
- We make our services available to teens who are experiencing Dating Violence thru our crisis line, personal advocacy, assistance with filing protective orders, and work with the schools.
- We work both independently and collaboratively in the communities we serve, dependent upon local resources and the communities receptivity to these issues.
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Useful Websites for Youth Workers

- National Crime Prevention Council - www.ncpc.org
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence www.vawnet.org
- Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence www.violenceresource.org
- Domestic Violence Network – www.dvnconnect.org
- Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault – www.incasa.org
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – www.rwif.org

Useful Website for Teens Involved in Dating Abuse

- thatsnotcool.com – interactive website from Family Violence Prevention Fund
- loveisrespect.org -National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline
- loveisnotabuse.com - interactive website, includes peer counseling. Developed by Liz Claiborne Foundation
- Heathersvoice.net – resources for teens involved in Dating Violence
- breakthecycle.org – Interactive website dedicated to ending teen dating violence

Questions?