

## TEEN DATING ABUSE

33% of high school students will experience some form of dating abuse before leaving high school.<sup>1</sup>

1 in 3 teenagers report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by their dating partner.<sup>2</sup>

1 in 5 teenage girls who has been in a relationship said a boyfriend has threatened violence or self harm if presented with a breakup.<sup>2</sup>

If trapped in an abusive relationship, 73% of teens said they would turn to a friend for help, but only 33% of teens who had been in or known about an abusive relationship told anyone about it.<sup>2</sup>

Dating abuse occurs at the same rate in homosexual relationships as it does in heterosexual relationships.<sup>3</sup>

33% of women killed in this country are killed by their current or former boyfriend or husband.<sup>1</sup>

More than 50% of all Maine's homicides are a result of domestic violence.<sup>4</sup>

85% of all reported domestic / dating violence is male violence against women.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> USDOJ Bureau of Justice Crime Statistics, [www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov)

<sup>2</sup> Liz Claiborne Inc Teen Dating Abuse Study, February 2005

<sup>3</sup> National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, Annual Report of LGBT Domestic Violence, 1998, [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org)

<sup>4</sup> Maine Department of Public Safety, Public Information Office



SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

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*"I want to thank YAADA for teaching young people about dating abuse. They really can make a difference." —Graduate of Massabesic High School*

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## Dating Violence Prevention for Students and Educators



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Did you know that some of your students are experiencing dating violence?

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reports that 1 in 3 teenagers report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by their partner. The USDOJ Bureau of Justice Crime Statistics reports that 33% of high school students will experience some form of dating abuse before leaving high school, and that girls ages 16 to 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence of all demographic groups in the US.

Dating abuse and domestic violence affect youth in many ways, including their emotional health, physical well-being and academic progress.

Caring Unlimited's School-Based Programs make resources available to educators to help students become respectful, empathic, peaceful and productive adults. This type of education motivates young people to be proactive in bringing an end to violence in their communities. Our objectives are to:

- Be sure students receive a consistent message of non-violence from all adult role models in their schools.
- Raise awareness about the prevalence of dating abuse and domestic violence in our community.
- Give students the tools to speak up and advocate for one another, while recognizing how their everyday actions affect the level of violence in our culture.

## Classroom Presentations

The following classroom presentations are based on Caring Unlimited's mission to end domestic violence in York County where everyone is treated with respect and able to live free from the threat of violence. Caring Unlimited youth educators team with trained Young Adults Against Dating Abuse (YAADA) using interactive activities, skits, stories and videos as tools to engage audiences in learning how to avoid dating violence and how to get help if they need it.

### □ HANDS ARE NOT FOR HITTING

*Grades K-3 • Presentation Time 30-40 minutes*

We read the story book Hands Are Not For Hitting followed by a discussion and an art activity. Students also identify people in their life they can go to for help if they are feeling unsafe.

### □ RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

*Grades 4-6 • Presentation Time 45-60 minutes*

Feelings often associated with disrespectful behavior are explored. Students will participate in skits that explore healthy and unhealthy expressions of frustration, sadness, jealousy and anger, learn the definition of domestic violence and about resources for help and support.

### □ HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

*Grades 7-8 • Presentation Time 50-80 minutes*

Students learn to identify what an abusive relationship is, what it looks like, why it happens and how to help a friend.

### □ DATING VIOLENCE

*Grades 9-12 • Presentation Time 50-80 minutes*

The high school program is designed to increase awareness and understanding of concepts of power and control and its relationship to dating abuse and violence in our culture. Students explore the role media play in our perceptions of ourselves and our relationships. We expand on concepts of gender socialization and how to support a friend in an abusive relationship including where to get help.

### □ FACULTY/STAFF SUPPORT

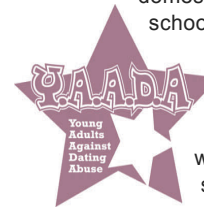
We provide consultation and training about domestic/dating violence to school faculty and staff including how to recognize it and what to do about it. We also offer Domestic Violence in the Workplace presentations on request. Contact us anytime for more information about how we can help.

## YAADA, Groups & Advocacy

### YOUNG ADULTS AGAINST DATING ABUSE

YAADA is a group of students, sponsored by Caring Unlimited, who spread awareness about dating abuse and domestic violence. There are currently four schools in York County with YAADA groups: Massabesic, Sanford and Wells High Schools and Thornton Academy.

Students take an eight hour training to learn how to be a resource for students who are in abusive relationships or know someone who is. YAADA meets weekly to plan presentations and awareness activities, support peers and hang out. If you are interested in starting a YAADA group at your school contact us.



### STUDENT DISCUSSION GROUPS

Our School-based staff is prepared to help you create and facilitate student discussion groups. The purpose of this program is to provide a safe space for students to find their voices, feel heard and begin to define a meaningful role for themselves in the community. Groups are generally designed to be held for 6 to 10 weeks in 45 minute to 1 1/2 hour increments. Topics may include friendships, relationships, family, social issues facing young people, media, violence and how to make a difference. Ask about *Turn Beauty Inside Out*, a media literacy awareness program for girls.



YAADA receives an award from the Child Abuse Prevention Council in recognition of their work to prevent dating violence in local schools

### ONE TO ONE ADVOCACY

School-based advocacy is available from our School-based staff and/or our YAADA students. An advocate may be called to your school to meet one-to-one with a student dealing with dating abuse issues. This program also offers consultation and resources for teachers, guidance counselors and school administration with trainings available on request.

“ I am very grateful for all of your help. I would never have been the person I am without the support I received. Thank You.”

-Kennebunk HS Group Member