

FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH

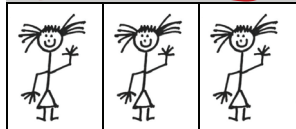
LOVE IS RESPECT... NOT ABUSE

FEBRUARY 2010

SPECIAL EDITION E-BRIEF FROM THE OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION
CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TALKING TIPS WITH TEENS... ABOUT VIOLENCE AND LOVE

1 IN 3



- Teen Dating Violence (TDV) affects 1 in 3 high school students.
- Dating violence is the leading cause of injury to young women. TDV can kill.
- Teen victims of dating violence are more likely to abuse drugs, have eating disorders and attempt suicide.
- TDV happens in same sex relationships.
- Break the silence— talk up a storm about teen dating violence!

“It’s just the way it is.” If that’s true, it’s wrong and we can work to change it. Let’s not allow abuse to EVER be ‘normal’. No one deserves to be abused. It can happen to anyone— ask Rihanna. You are not alone. There’s help. Together we can take a stand and change it.

“It’s just the way they express themselves— they have to let it out somehow.” It’s normal to feel frustration and anger; there are healthier ‘normal’ ways to express feelings without hurting someone else.

“Don’t make a big deal out of it— it was just another argument.” Dating violence isn’t an argument once in a while— or a bad mood after a bad day. It’s a behavior someone uses against a girlfriend or boyfriend. It can be verbal, emotional, sexual...name-calling, isolation from friends, controlling what one wears, demanding sex after an argument, refusing to use protection.

“If s/he didn’t love me, they wouldn’t even bother with me.....” Abuse, violence in a relationship has NOTHING to do with love— it has EVERYTHING to do with power and control. YOU have the right to have power and control over what you do and who you are.

From the LOVE IS NOT ABUSE website: LATEST TWEET: 67% of parents whose teens were checked up on 30 times per day on their cell phone were unaware this was happening

✓ **THIS OUT!** (just cut and paste these links)

<http://www.dosomething.org/tipsandtools/11-facts-about-youth-dating-violence>

<http://www.loveisnotabuse.com/web/guest/home>

