

# Maryland School Mental Health Alliance

## *Teen Dating Violence Information for School Clinicians*

### Definition

Teen dating violence is abusive, controlling, and forceful behavior in a dating relationship. It demonstrates the abuser's need to dominate and control the victim. Violent behavior can include verbal, emotional, sexual, or physical abuse.

### Why do we care?

Students who are victims of dating violence are likely to:

- have poor academic performance.
- isolate themselves from their friends and classmates.
- participate in risky behavior, such as substance abuse.
- display a lack of interest in school or other extracurricular activities.

Students who are perpetrators of dating violence are likely to:

- have been exposed to in-home violence as a child.
- exhibit anger management problems.
- have a history characterized by fighting or aggressive behavior.

### What can we do about it?

- **Become familiar with general and specific indicators of dating violence**, in order to effectively screen students for involvement in a violent relationship, regardless of whether he/she is the victim or perpetrator.
- **Educate parents, teachers and students on how to prevent dating violence or respond if involved in a violent situation.** This education can be provided through the implementation of community-wide or school-based dating violence awareness programs that discuss ways to prevent dating violence and how to respond to violent situations. Information can also be made available through posters, brochures, and counseling sessions.
- **Become familiar with resources in the community that are available for anyone involved in a violent relationship**, so that if you suspect a student of dating violence you can direct them to seek help from a competent professional that specializes in relationship violence.

### References

*Diagnostic and Treatment Guidelines on Domestic Violence.* American Medical Association.  
<http://www.vahealth.org/civp/projectradarva/AMADiag&TreatGuide.pdf>

## **Helpful Links**

*How Health Care Practitioners Can Help Prevent Teen Dating Violence*

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center

<http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/faq/prosprevdate.asp>

*Screening Teens for Dating Violence*

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center

<http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/faq/dateviolscreen.asp>

*Treating Teen Dating Violence Victims*

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center

<http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/faq/treatdate.asp>

*\*Developed by the Center for School Mental Health (<http://csmh.umaryland.edu>) in collaboration with the Maryland School Mental Health Alliance.*

