



DATING VIOLENCE AND YOUTH: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

Wayland High School
October 24, 2011

Adolescence and Relationships

- Core developmental tasks
- Impact of evolution
- Relationships, risk and reward

Prevalence



- ❑ 1 in 10 youth have experienced physical or sexual dating abused
 - ❑ 1 in 6 girls, 1 in 25 boys
- ❑ 1 in 3 LGBT youth have experienced dating abuse
- ❑ 1 in 2 youths have experienced controlling behavior
 - ❑ 1 in 4 experienced these behaviors through technology
- ❑ 4 out of 5 teens know someone who has been a victim of controlling behaviors from a boyfriend or girlfriend
- ❑ 2 in 3 know someone who has been physically or sexually abused
- ❑ 1 in 3 know someone who has been verbally abused

Reporting



- ❑ Only 1 in 3 teens experiencing dating violence reported the abuse anyone
- ❑ When they did report:
 - ❑ 4 out of 5 teens who have been in an abusive relationship have turned to a friend for help.
 - ❑ 1 in 3 teens turned to their parents for resources and support

Parent Conversation



- ❑ 2 out of 3 parents report talking about dating abuse with their teen
- ❑ 3 out of 4 parents say they have had a conversation about healthy relationships with their teen
 - ❑ 3 out of 4 boys & 2 out of 3 girls say they have not have a conversation with a parent about dating abuse in the last year.

Education



- ❑ Only 1 in 4 high school students receive education around dating violence prevention and healthy relationships in school
- ❑ Of students who received these classes:
 - ❑ 3 out of 4 say they learned about the signs of an abusive relationship in class and now feel confident that they would be able to judge whether a relationship is abusive
 - ❑ 2 out of 3 found the classes helpful in learning about appropriate dating and relationship behavior

Defining dating

- How do youth define relationships?
 - Language
 - Behavior

Sociological Definition



pattern of behavior one person uses to gain and maintain power and control over their partner

Scenarios



- ❑ Does this scenario describe dating abuse?
- ❑ Who is being abusive? How?
- ❑ What are the consequences of any abusive behavior described in the scenario?

Challenges teens face:



- ❑ Peer pressure to create & maintain relationships
- ❑ Inexperience defining relationships & boundaries
- ❑ Limited social mobility
- ❑ Limited economic independence
- ❑ Belief that the abuse is their fault/their problem to solve
- ❑ Family expectations around dating
- ❑ Dissonance in relationships with adults- isolation

Scenario



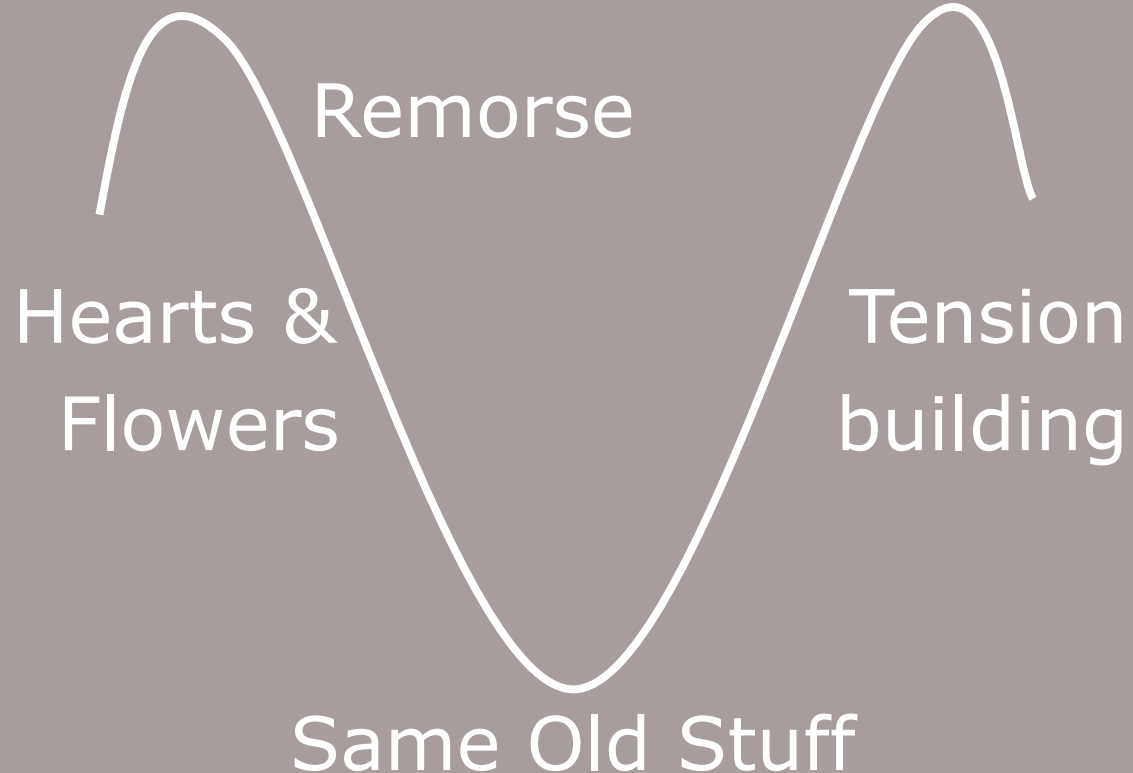
- ❑ Put yourself in the narrator's head.
- ❑ Would you be leaving? Staying?
- ❑ At what point are you seeing these behaviors as concerning?
- ❑ At what point are you asking for support?

How does violence begin?



Incident

Incident



Why Teens Aren't Talking:



- ❑ Normalization of the relationship or behaviors by peers
- ❑ Do not identify as victims
- ❑ Fear of punishment
 - ❑ Abuser-driven
 - ❑ Parent or Authority-driven
- ❑ Embarrassment
- ❑ Isolation and hopelessness
- ❑ Fear of being “talked at” instead of “talked to”
- ❑ Never have before...

Best Practices



- ❑ Consistent messaging
- ❑ Over time
- ❑ Dialogue
- ❑ Experiential
- ❑ Engages both parents and youth
- ❑ Values-based
- ❑ Encourages knowledge and skills development
- ❑ Encourages collaborative decision-making

Scenarios



- ❑ As an adult, how would you want to advise the youth in this situation?
- ❑ What fears, reservations, concerns would you have?
- ❑ What do you think needs to come out of the conversation?
- ❑ Knowing all of this, how would you engage in this conversation?

Questions to Ask



- ❑ What are your friends' relationships like?
- ❑ Have you ever seen abusive behavior in friends' relationships?
- ❑ Why might someone be abusive to another person?
- ❑ Why do you think someone might stay in an abusive relationship?
- ❑ What might you say to a friend who is being abused or is being abusive?
- ❑ How is your relationship going?
- ❑ Where can you/a friend go if you need resources?

REACH Contact Information



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