



CAP ACTION EBLAST



Do Something! Do One Thing! One Thing Counts!

The Child Abuse Prevention Action Committee is a collaborative group involved in the planning and promotion of child abuse prevention efforts throughout Oklahoma.

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Child Abuse Prevention and **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month; a devoted time to share and disseminate information about the dynamics of violent relationships. According to the 2013 Oklahoma Fatality Review Board, Oklahoma had 109 homicides as a result of domestic violence in 2012.

Often overlooked is the seriousness of violence occurring among dating adolescents. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Violence is manifested through physical, sexual, psychological and stalking tactics. According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 22.4% of women and 15% of men first experienced dating violence between 11 and 17 years old (2012). Males and females are afflicted by dating violence, however, data obtained from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (2001) show that females tend to report being victimized by more serious forms of dating abuse than males. In fact, 38% of females between the ages of fourteen and seventeen report being victims of date rape. These statistics may be low because teens are less likely to report dating violence crimes.

Studies have shown the first dating violence experience often occurs around the age of fifteen. Violence, whether physical, psychological, or sexual is a traumatic experience. In addition to physical injury, Psychologist, Janine D'Anniballe, Ph.D reports that trauma, especially at a young age, changes the neurobiology of the brain and can manifest problematic symptoms (2014). The CDC reports that children who have been victimized by dating violence are more prone to depression, anxiety, exhibit anti-social behaviors and become involved in risky behaviors such as smoking, using drugs or alcohol. In addition, a victim may experience an early onset of sexual activity and have multiple partners. Some victims, according to the CDC, experience suicide ideation (2007). Researchers at the University of Michigan found that young female victims tend to have less economic security as adults due to poor performance in school as a result of dating violence. Not surprisingly, teen victims tend to experience domestic violence as adults.

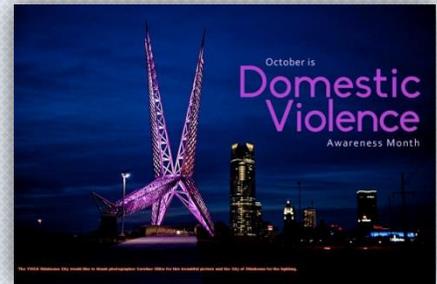
This newsletter has narrowed its focus during DV Awareness Month to teen dating violence which is a problem that can reverberate throughout one's life. Dating violence can be prevented when teens, families, organizations, and communities work together to implement effective prevention strategies. Help build community capacities in your area! Get involved by exploring some of the resources below and some of the suggestions in the "Do One Thing" section. Everyone plays a part in keeping children, tweens and teens safe!

For more information or if you suspect violence, check the following resources to find a trained professional on Teen Dating Violence (also see agency spotlight)

- Oklahoma Safeline (800) 522-7233 (SAFE)**
- [Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault](#)**
- National Dating Abuse Helpline and Love is Respect**
(866) 331-9474 or text 22522 or www.loveisrespect.org
- National Domestic Violence Hotline** (800) 799-SAFE (7233)
- National Sexual Assault Hotline** (800) 656-HOPE (4673)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center** www.nsvrc.org

Do just one thing! Your one thing counts!

- ✓ Request **SAFELINE** cards from the OAG's Victim Service Unit, 405.521.3921. Leave wherever teens go (school restrooms, malls, restaurants, etc.)
- ✓ Host a Teen Domestic Violence seminar at your church to educate parishioners and clergy of the long term consequences of dating abuse and how to provide support.
- ✓ Invite a speaker to a teen Sunday school class to discuss healthy dating relationships.
- ✓ Contact your school district and ask for an evidenced-based violence prevention program to be implemented.
- ✓ Teach a teen how technology and social media are methods used to perpetrate violence against a partner or former partner such as sharing intimate photos, spreading rumors, calling or texting incessantly, or stalking; Tracking devices may unknowingly be placed on devices so a perpetrator will know where the victim is at all times.
- ✓ Wear Purple October 23rd and Twitter #PurpleThursday!



Agency Spotlight

The YWCA Oklahoma City provides domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking services for victims and children. The YWCA Emergency Shelter is a safe place for women and children to escape domestic violence. Also available are a wide array of *community services*, including safety planning, advocacy, protective order assistance, court support and trauma counseling for adult and child victims. All services are provided at no cost to the victim. Learn more at www.ywcaokc.org.

For emergency assistance, contact the **Oklahoma State Safeline** to speak to a crisis advocate who can provide immediate assistance with obtaining emergency shelter, crisis intervention, safety planning, and support.

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD
TIP SHEETS**

2015 Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Action begins now! Sign Up today to join efforts!