

## **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

During February, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for prevention and healing for teen victims of violent relationships. Also, it gives us the opportunity to become aware and pay attention to warning signs in our own relationships or to help a friend. According to the Domestic Violence Awareness Project, approximately 1.5 million high school students in the United States experience physical abuse from a dating partner. Teen dating violence is any physical, psychological, or emotional abuse that occurs within dating relationships of young people ages 12 to 18. This violence usually takes place face-to-face or electronically, via phone calls, text messages, or the Internet. It also includes stalking. Teen dating violence doesn't always occur between individuals who are currently in a relationship. It can also happen between those who were once in a relationship.

**NATIONAL TEEN DATING ABUSE HELPLINE:** If you or someone you know has been the victim of dating violence, free and confidential help is available 24 hours a day through the National Dating Abuse Helpline. National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline The National Dating Abuse Helpline is the direct service provider behind [loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org) operating the 24/7 text, phone, and live chat services. [http:// www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

**What you can do to get the word out: You can make a difference!** Break the cycle. Start the conversation. Use #TeenDatingViolenceAwarenessMonth, #TeenDVMonth, #LoveIsRespect and <https://www.facebook.com/breakthecycle/photos/a.117679405422/10155838962805423/?type=1&theater> to share on social media.