Teen Dating Violence, Trafficking, and Technology

Teen Dating Violence

- Teen Dating Violence (TDV) is a pattern of controlling and abusive behaviors that someone uses against their girlfriend or boyfriend.
- 1 in 3 teens in the U.S. is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner.
- Among high school students in the U.S., approximately 1.5 million report experiencing physical abuse from a dating partner.
- Signs of TDV: Mood swings or changes in personality; Changes in eating or sleeping habits; Constantly thinking or worrying about dating partner; Difficulty making decisions or relying on the decisions of others; Avoiding friends; Sudden changes in appearance; Unexplained injuries; Changes in school performance or activities
- Barriers to Breaking Up: Love: Remembers the good times; Fear: Partner is threatening more abuse if they leave; Relationship inexperience: Doesn't realize it is abuse; Cycle of Violence: believes when partner apologizes; They blame themselves for the abuse; Friends, family, and community; Perceived lack of support/options; There is no one to turn to for help; Legalities of TDV; Additional help-seeking obstacles for LGBTQ youth

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)/Child Sex Trafficking

- Sexual abuse involving a child in exchange for something of value, or promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons
- Risk Factors: Homelessness, runaway, mental health issues, substance use, risky online behavior, LGBTQ status, victim of abuse/neglect, poverty, child welfare involvement, friends/relatives involved in sex work, domestic violence in home, family dysfunction, gang presence/involvement, lack of community resources
- Victim Identification: child may be hostile towards those providing help; possession of expensive items; no identification; changing history; turbulent home life; may see physical signs like bruising or tattoos though not as common in school setting

Technology

- Issues with technology: hard to track, anonymity, multiple avenues, huge use – can’t “block” all forms of tech, there are benefits to technology
- Tech as recruitment tool: recruitment via social media (befriending the lonely, false promises of jobs, “seduction”); pornography (show to youth to normalize behavior)
- Online warning signs: needing to take calls in private, hiding screens when you come into room, becoming increasingly secretive, spending increased time online, not talking openly about activities, vague talk of new friend with no details, patterns of leaving home for periods of time
- How teens use technology: use tech with smartphones, messaging apps, video games, and 71% report using more than one app to communicate. Teens overwhelmingly cite Snapchat as their favorite app.
• How perpetrators use technology: access children via social media and apps, gaming systems, and chat rooms, use as a means of control
• Sexting: sending explicit messages, photos, or videos primarily via cell phone or other social media
• Sextortion: explicit images shared with a third party with consent; threats to share explicit content, hacking webcams; also called revenge porn
• Benefits of social media: crowdfunding, positive challenges, support in difficult situations; kickstarter campaigns
• Tech-related protections: keep up with latest apps and trends (see apps on next page), place strong controls on computers, have conversations regularly about safe technology use, use protection software and apps, set rules and boundaries, monitor use

Resources

• Teen Dating Violence
  o PADV Teen Dating Violence Hotline: 1-800-334-2836
  o Project Safe 24/7 Teen Text line: 706-765-8019
  o National Teen Dating Violence Hotline: 1-866-331-9474 or text loveis to 22522
• Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children/CSEC
  o GA Cares 1-844-8GA-DMST (US Born Victims)
  o Tapestry (foreign national victims all ages; labor and sex trafficking) 404-299-2185
  o National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP to 233733
• Child Sexual Abuse
  o In metro Atlanta: Stephanie V Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children: 404-785-3820
  o Outside Metro Atlanta, find local Child Advocacy Center: www.cacga.org
21 APPS
PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

**PLenty OF FISH**
PLenty OF FIsh is a popular
free dating app and website
that encourages meeting with
strangers. It allows users to
browse profiles based on
location.

**HILY**
HILY is a dating app where users
can browse photos, engage in
chats, and private videos and
more. Based on the GPS location
of a mobile device, strangers
can arrange to meet up locally.

**ZoosK**
ZoosK is a location-based
dating app and website similar
to many others. The app is
available in 26 countries and
utilizes a “carousel” feature
which matches users with
random strangers.

**Mocospace**
Mocospace is a free social
networking and dating app
 geared towards Africa,
American, and Latino
communities. Users can connect
with strangers worldwide via
text, messages or voice calls.

**MEETME**
MEETME is a dating social media
app that allows users to connect
with people based on geographic
proximity. As the app’s name
suggests, users are encouraged
to meet each other in person.

**Grindr**
Grindr is a dating app aimed
at gay, bi, and transgender
people. The app gives users
options to edit, share photos
and more based on a smart
phone’s GPS location.

**SKOUT**
SKOUT is a location-based
dating app and website. While
users under 17 years old are
prohibited from sharing private
photos, kids can easily create an
account using a different age.

**WhatsApp**
WhatsApp is a popular
messaging app that allows users
to send texts, photos,
voicemails, voice calls
and video chats worldwide.
WhatsApp uses an internet connection
on smartphones and computers.

**TIKTOK**
TikTok is a new mobile
devices app popular with kids used
for creating and sharing short
videos. With very limited privacy
controls, stories are vulnerable
to cyber bullying and explicit
content.

**Badoo**
Badoo is a dating and social
networking app where users can
chat, share photos and videos
and connect based on location.
While the app is intended for
adults only, teens are known to
create profiles.

**Bumble**
Bumble is similar to the popular
dating app “ tinder” however it
requires women to make the
first contact. It has been
known to use BUMBLE to create
fake accounts and falsify their
age.

**Kik**
Kik allows anyone to contact
and direct message your child. Kids
can bypass traditional text
messaging formats. Kik gives
users unlimited access to
anyone, anywhere, anytime.

**Liveme**
Liveme is a live streaming video
app that users can broadcast
or share videos with users can
find a broadcasters exact
location. Users can earn “coins”
as a way to “buy” minors for
photos.

**Holla**
Holla is a self-proclaimed
“drinking” video chat app that
allows users to meet people all
over the world in just seconds.
Reviews say that users have been
confronted with racial slurs,
explicit content, and more.

**Whisper**
Whisper is an anonymous social
networking tool that promotes
sharing secrets with strangers.
It also reveals a users location so
people can meet up.

**Ask.fm**
Ask.fm is known for cyber
bullying. The app encourages
users to allow anonymized
people to ask them questions.

**Calculator%**
Calculator% is only one of
SEVERAL secret apps used to
hide photos, videos, files, and
browser history.

**HOT OR NOT**
HOT OR NOT encourages users
to rate your profile, check out
people in their area, and chat
with strangers. The goal of this
app is to hook up.

For more information, contact Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office Community Affairs at 941.861.4065.
The Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children and the virtual Institute on Healthcare and Human Trafficking have a new online webinar to educate school personnel on the impact of human trafficking. This training is designed to meet the requirements for teacher education on child sexual abuse included in Senate Bill 401. The course covers:

- The risk factors, potential indicators, and health consequences of child sex trafficking
- Common recruitment techniques
- Strategies school professionals can use to prevent exploitation of students
- Appropriate places to refer children they suspect have been or are at risk of being trafficked

Training is geared toward:

- Teachers
- School nurses
- School social workers
- School counselors
- Paraprofessionals
- Administrators
- Other school personnel

Training Link:

https://redcap.choa.org/redcap/surveys/?s=AFYJTMAMXLe

**The training can be completed individually or as a group and participants will have opportunity to download a certificate after completing the post-training evaluation.**

For More Information Contact:
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