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## **Teen Dating Violence**

### ***Association for Compassionate Transformation Launches Teen Dating Violence Awareness Campaign***

**TEEN DATING VIOLENCE** – 1 in 5 teens that date report that they have been hit, slapped or pushed by a partner and 33% of teens report being involved in an emotionally abusive relationship. It has become such a social epidemic that pediatricians have begun screening young patients for abusive relationships. Congress in the year of 2010 declared February to be “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Unfortunately, most individuals are not aware of how common teen violence is, they miss dismiss it as teenage drama or even worse blame the victim (Monitor on Psychology, 2010).

Every relationship is unique. Commonalities to most abusive dating relationships are that the violence escalates over time and becomes more and more dangerous for the young victim.

To bring greater awareness of teen dating violence, the indicators will be listed below.

#### **Indicators of Teen Dating Violence:**

Teens and young adults experience the same types of abuse in relationships as adults. This can include:

- **Physical abuse:** any intentional use of physical force with the intent to cause fear or injury, like hitting, shoving, biting, strangling, kicking or using a weapon.
- **Emotional abuse:** non-physical behaviors such as threats, insults, constant monitoring, humiliation, intimidation, isolation or stalking.
- **Sexual abuse:** any action that impacts a person’s ability to control their sexual activity or the circumstances in which sexual activity occurs, including rape, coercion or restricting access to birth control.

While teens experience the same types of abuse as adults, often the methods are unique to teen culture. For example, teens often report "digital abuse" — receiving threats by text messages or being stalked on Face book or MySpace.

A.C.T. is committed to raising awareness of the dangers surrounding teen dating violence and the need for early intervention, protection and treatment. A.C.T. will provide information on safety plans for teens and college students to promote public education and to reduce the risk of being hurt. For more information, please contact Dr. Drecun at [Dr.Drecun@a4ct.com](mailto:Dr.Drecun@a4ct.com) or (858) 792-3541.

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