

FLORIDA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW E-NEWSLETTER

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The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has received an award from the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, administered by the Department of Justice, to partner with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) to create a statewide domestic violence fatality review team. The two year grant will enable the statewide team to meet four times and to sponsor two statewide fatality review training institutes for local fatality review teams and other members of the community.

First Fatality Review Training Institute Set

Dr. Neil Websdale and Matthew Dale, national experts on domestic violence fatality review, will conduct a one-day training on domestic violence fatality review on April 6, 2009, at Amelia Island Plantation. Dr. Websdale, Professor of Criminal Justice at Northern Arizona University and Principal Project Advisor to and former Director of the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative, and Mr. Dale, director of the Montana Department of Justice's Office of Consumer Protection and Victim Services, will present on current national trends in domestic violence fatality review, and will lead attendees in case studies to demonstrate effective fatality review techniques. Members of local fatality review teams, domestic violence advocates, law enforcement, criminal justice personnel, child welfare workers, the faith-based community, and health and family service providers are encouraged to attend. Scholarships are available for a limited number of certified domestic violence center advocates and members of local fatality review teams in Florida who are outside the Jacksonville area, to assist with hotel and travel expenses. Registration information is available at www.fcadv.org

Dr. Nancy S. Hardt to Speak at April 6 Meeting of Statewide Fatality Review Team

The statewide fatality review team will hold its third meeting on April 6, 2009 at Amelia Island Plantation. Dr. Nancy S. Hart, who has a strong interest in collaboration among state agencies to address and prevent domestic violence, will present on maternal death due to trauma in Florida. Dr. Hardt is a Professor of Pathology and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Florida College of Medicine and serves as the Senior Associate Dean for External Affairs. In this role she fosters collaborations with community leaders and participates in state and federal government affairs.

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week

The United States Congress declared February 2-6, 2009 National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week, to help end teen dating violence. Between 1993 and 1999, 22% of all homicides against females ages 16-19 were committed by an intimate partner. Bureau of Justice Statistics Press Release, "Violence Rates Among Intimate Partners Differ Greatly According to Age," (10/29/01).

Important Facts About Teen Dating Violence

Nearly three in four tweens (72%) say boyfriend/girlfriend relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2008.)

62% of tweens (age 11-14) who have been in a relationship say they know friends who have been verbally abused (called stupid, worthless, ugly, etc) by a boyfriend/girlfriend. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2008.)

Only half of all tweens (age 11-14) claim to know the warning signs of a bad/hurtful relationship. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2008.)

More than three times as many tweens (20%) as parents (6%) admit that parents know little or nothing about the tweens' dating relationships. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2008.)

1 in 3 teenagers report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by their partner. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)

Nearly 1 in 5 teenage girls who have been in a relationship said a boyfriend had threatened violence or self-harm if presented with a break-up. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)

13% of teenage girls who said they have been in a relationship report being physically hurt or hit. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)

1 in 4 teenage girls who have been in relationships reveal they have been pressured to perform oral sex or engage in intercourse. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)

More than 1 in 4 teenage girls in a relationship (26%) report enduring repeated verbal abuse. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)

80% of teens regard verbal abuse as a "serious issue" for their age group. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)

If trapped in an abusive relationship, 73% of teens said they would turn to a friend for help; but only 33% who have been in or known about an abusive relationship said they have told anyone about it. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.)

Twenty-four percent of 14 to 17-year-olds know at least one student who has been the victim of dating violence, yet 81% of parents either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it is an issue. (Survey commissioned by the Empower Program, sponsored by Liz Claiborne Inc. and conducted by Knowledge Networks, Social Control, Verbal Abuse, and Violence Among Teenagers, December 2000)

Less than 25% of teens say they have discussed dating violence with their parents. (Liz Claiborne Inc. study of teens 13-17 conducted by Applied Research and Consulting LLC, Spring 2000)

89% of teens between the ages of 13 and 18 say they have been in dating relationships; forty percent of teenage girls age 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. (Children Now/Kaiser Permanente poll, December 1995)

Nearly 80% of girls who have been physically abused in their intimate relationships continue to date their abuser. (City of New York, Teen Relationship Abuse Fact Sheet, March 1998)

Teen Dating Violence Resources

Break the Cycle

www.breakthecycle.org

Break the Cycle is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage, educate and empower youth to build lives and communities free from dating and domestic violence. They provide preventive education, free legal services, advocacy and support for young people between the ages of 12 to 22.

Love is Not Abuse

www.loveisnotabuse.com

In response to a 2006 teen dating abuse survey, Liz Claiborne Inc. partnered with the National Domestic Violence Hotline to officially launch loveisrespect.org, The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline (NTDAH) in February 2007. NTDAH is a 24-hour national telephone helpline and website created to help teens experiencing dating abuse and parents concerned about their teens' relationships. So far, in 2007, the Helpline engaged in more than 6,118 telephone and chat contacts. In another attempt to fight and prevent teen dating abuse, Liz Claiborne Inc. partnered with the Education Development Center to develop the Love Is Not Abuse curriculum. The curriculum is designed to help teens and teachers identify the signs of abuse, prevent abuse and learn where to get help.

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