

FEBRUARY 2023

# Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

*Be About It*

## THE HISTORY OF TDVAM

### In 2010,

Congress declared the month of February National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in—thanks largely to the efforts initiated in 2004 by the American Bar Association. The call to end teen dating violence was formally recognized in 2006 and 2007 when both Houses of Congress declared the first week in February National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.



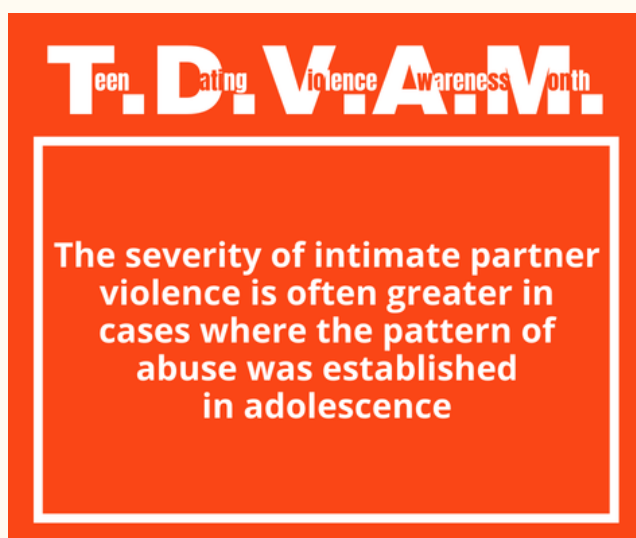
## TDVAM Timeline

- In 2005, teens and their adult allies achieved a major victory when teen dating abuse was highlighted in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.
- In 2006, National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week was declared to be the first week in February.
- In 2006, SAFE's **Expect Respect** program staff, Zell Miller, III, alongside Bronwyn Blake from the **Texas Advocacy Project** created space for teens to design the first Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month kick-off event, "Voices Erupt! Riot the Silence to End Dating Violence."
- In 2007, the National Teen Dating Violence Hotline was established by The National Domestic Violence Hotline (**The Hotline**). The Hotline established **Love is Respect**, an initiative that engages, educates, and empowers youth in a safe, inclusive space where they can access information in an environment designed specifically for them.
- In 2007, Texas HB 121 was passed mandating schools to adopt and implement a dating violence policy. Carolyn Mosley, Elizabeth Crecente, Ortralla's and Jennifer's friends, as well as RaeAnne Spence all testified in order to help this bill pass.
- In 2010, Congress declared the entire month of February to be National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

# LOVE IS NOT ABUSE

## Did you know?

- Girls and women between the ages of **16 and 24** experience the **highest (reported) rates of intimate partner violence (IPV)**
- Only **33% teens** who have been in or known about an abusive relationship report having told anyone about it
- **81% parents** believe teen dating violence isn't an issue or admit they don't know about it being an issue
- Among male high school students who have experienced sexual and physical abuse by a dating partner, **more than 1 in 4 have seriously contemplated suicide**, and almost as many have attempted suicide.
- Though more than **four in five parents (82 percent)** feel confident that they could recognize the signs if their child was experiencing dating abuse, **a majority of parents (58 percent)** could not correctly identify all the warning signs of abuse.
- "The Myth of Mutual Abuse": **LGBTQ+ youth experience IPV at disproportionate rates**. In fact, TDV is even more prevalent in LGBTQ teen intimate partner relationships than in heterosexual teen intimate partner relationships.
- Transgender youth are especially at risk, as they report the **highest rates of physical dating violence (88.9%), psychological dating abuse (58.8%), cyber dating abuse (56.3%), and sexual coercion (61.1%)**.

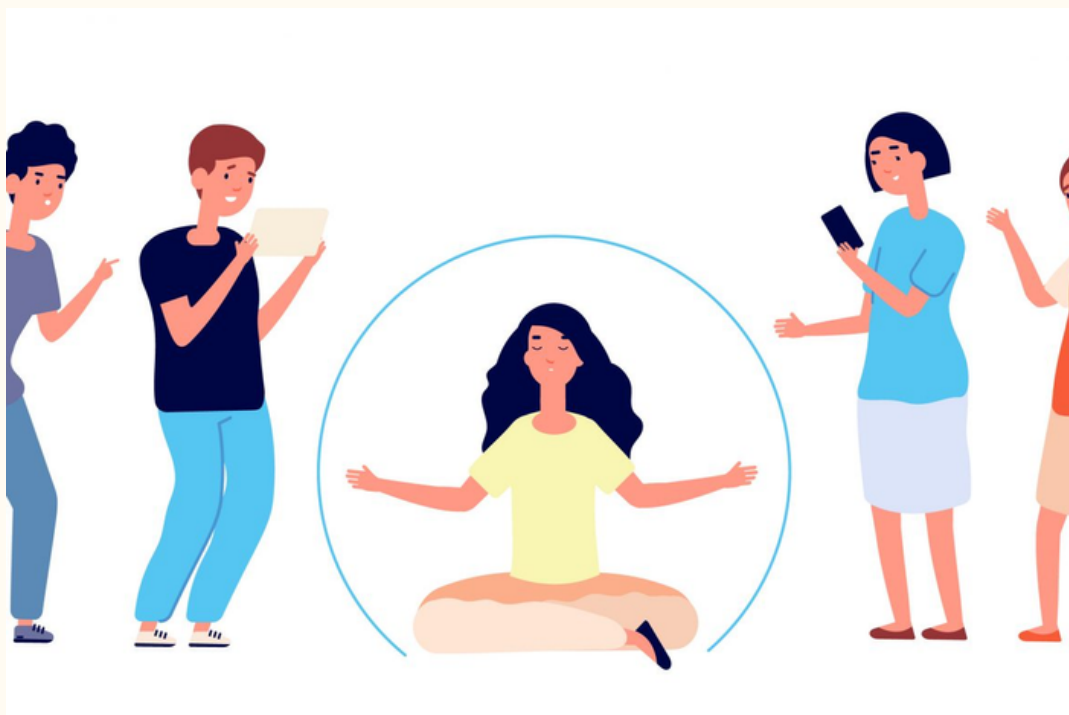


# What Can I Do To Honor TDVAM This Month?

HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS!

1. Join us in wearing **orange** to represent TDVAM on Wednesday February 8th, 2023

2. Think about your own personal boundaries that currently exist. **Are there more you'd like to set for yourself and others? Are there less? In what areas of your life currently can you benefit from setting boundaries?** Setting personal boundaries can help you gain more control of your emotions, your time, your energy, and your space. Your boundaries not only benefit you, but often the other party as well. (More to come next week on this!)



3. Have a conversation about IPV/DV with teens and young adults (and really anyone!) Sometimes it is easy to forget in our day-to-day work that many people are not aware of IPV/DV, what signs to look out for, where to go to access help, signs of gaslighting, etc. These are things we discuss with our clients often, but there is still a large population outside of our clients who may not be aware of the related components of DV. Having an open and honest dialogue about what teens/young adults may be experiencing in their relationships or at school can open the door to reach out when they feel something might be wrong in their relationship. **The first and most important step is talking about it!**

