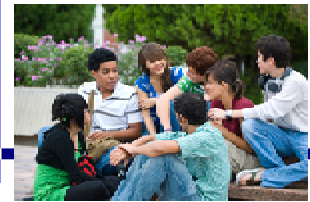


THE CRIME WATCHER



The Fishers Crime Watch Program began in 1994 and easily reaches 7,000 homes in Fishers. I encourage you to become active in your neighborhood and support the Crime Watch Program. When neighbors look out for each other, everyone benefits.

Chief George G. Kehl

The reality of the statistics

Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.

One in three adolescent girls in the US is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.

One in ten high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.

One quarter of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse. (Break the Cycle, 2011, Empowering Youth to End Violence)

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Help Protect our kids!

What's Teen Dating Violence? Teen dating violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors used to exert power and control over a dating partner.

What Does Dating Violence Look Like? Teens and young adults experience the same types of abuse in relationships as adults do. 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 ac-

tion 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 "technological abuse" — receiving threats by text messages or being stalked on Facebook.

Ten Warning Signs of Abuse

- * Checking a person's cell phone or email without permission
- * Constantly putting someone down
- * Acting extremely jealous or insecure
- * Having an explosive temper
- * Demanding to know where someone is and with whom all the time
- * Isolating the person from family or friends
- * Undergoing large mood swings
- * Physically hurting in any way
- * Being possessive

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Long-lasting Impact

- * Violent relationships in adolescence put the victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and further domestic violence.
- * Being physically or sexually abused makes teen girls six times more likely to become pregnant and twice as likely to get a STD.
- * Half of youth who have been victims of both dating violence and rape attempt suicide, compared to 12.5% of non-abused girls and 5.4% of non-abused boys. (Break the Cycle 2011, Empowering Youth to End Violence).



4 Municipal Drive
Fishers, Indiana 46038



For more information on the Fishers Police Department Crime Watch Program—Please call or email Sergeant Randy McFarland at 317-595-3300 or mcfarlandr@fishers.in.us



WWW.FISHERS.IN.US

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Michael Colby, Vice Pres.

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Stuart F. Easley
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Arthur J. Levine
David C. George

Clerk-Treasurer

Linda Gaye Cordell

Town Manager

Gary A. Huff



FISHERS POLICE
DEPARTMENT

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What is cyberstalking?

Cyberstalking is the misuse of the Internet to stalk and harass someone. Stalkers can misuse the internet to send repeated emails or instant messages, find a victim's personal or location information, or monitor someone's computer activity through Spyware.

Stalkers may use hidden cameras to spy on someone's activities or place a GPS tracker on the victim's car to monitor her location. Stalkers might also harass the person by calling or texting numerous times a day. The technologies stalkers use depend on the kind of relationship they have with the victim and their access to the victim and their property (i.e., house or car). Social networking sites can be misused to send harassing messages or to post explicit pictures taken with or without the consent of the victim. Stalkers also impersonate victims, sending inappropriate messages to family members, friends, and co-workers.



The Internet, Technology and Teen Dating Violence --- A new venue for abuse

Many teens use cell phones, email, social networking sites, and computers every day. A recent study found that 93% of teens use the internet (Lenhart, Madden, Macgill, & Bromley, 2007), 72% own a desktop computer, and 67% own cell phones (Lenhart et al., 2007). **More than half of 12 to 17 year olds who use the internet have a profile on a social networking site such as Facebook or MySpace (Lenhart et al., 2007), and nearly half of teens visit a social networking site once or more times daily (Lenhart & Madden, 2007).** Teens are using the internet in every area of their lives and most report that the internet and other digital devices make their lives easier (Macgill, 2007).

While teens experience the same types of abuse as adults, the methods may be unique to teens and teen culture; the use of technology is one area where this is easily seen. The controlling behavior, or monitoring, that abusers can exercise over their partners is easy in the digital world. Teen abusers can easily monitor their dating partners by frequently checking in by cell phone, text or instant messenger (IM) or by requiring a dating partner to check in. One in three teens say they are text messaged up to thirty times an hour by a partner or ex-partner inquiring where they are, what they are doing, or who they are with (Picard, 2007). **Between cell phone calls and frequent texting, an abuser can exert almost constant control over a partner 24/7.**

Teens can also spy on or monitor a partner through spyware programs or Global Positioning System (GPS) devices. Spyware is computer software, installed on a computer without the owner's knowledge, which can track internet usage, collect personal information, and intercept electronic communications. GPS-enabled cell phones can be accessed using online services to monitor the user's location, often without the user ever knowing.

There are additional dangers on the internet. Many teens post their schedule or location on their personal blogs, Facebook or MySpace pages. The list of people able to access this information is determined by the level of privacy that the teen has selected on his or her account. Many teens do not restrict access to the content that they post, including pictures. Recent reports show that 40% of teens make their online profile visible to anyone (Macgill, 2007) and 21% of teens do not restrict access to their photos (Lenhart et al., 2007). It can range from only those people on the teen's list of "friends" to anyone with an account to anyone at all, with no restrictions. Many teens post enough information to allow anyone with access to find them at any point during the day – cell phone number, class schedules, addresses, extracurricular activities, social events, and jobs. **Even if the teen does not post personal information, it may be available on a friend's webpage or even a school website.**

The potential for abuse through technology goes beyond mere monitoring to harassment, threats, and intimidation. One in four teens in a relationship has experienced harassment, name-calling, or put downs from a current or former dating partner through cell phone or text messaging (Picard, 2007), and nearly one in five has been harassed or put down through a social networking site (Picard, 2007). An abuser can use his or her own webpage to post personal information or unwanted pictures about a dating partner. **Teens who share their passwords with friends and dating partners risk having their own email accounts and webpages accessed and used by abusive dating partners.** The speed of communication on the internet allows this information to be shared among friends and classmates almost instantaneously, often before a teen even knows it has been posted. For many teens, threats or harassment via cell phone or the internet merely reinforce the threats and verbal abuse they have experienced in person. In fact, **17% of teens in a recent survey report that a boyfriend or girlfriend has made them afraid to not respond to a cell phone call, email, IM, or text message because of what he or she might do (Picard, 2007).**



What are we doing in Indiana to help our teens?

Heather's Law - Protecting Indiana's teens from dating violence



"Heather's Law" will go into effect in Indiana schools in July, 2011

On April 24, 2007, Perry Meridian High School graduate Heather Norris (age 20) was reported missing. Not long after she was reported missing, her 23 year old ex-boyfriend admitted to stabbing her to death, cutting up her body and disposing of her body in as many as ten trash bags. The bags were taken to several business trash bins on Indianapolis' southside. The man who ended the life of such a promising young lady was Joshua Bean. Bean was eventually found guilty and sentenced to the maximum penalty, 68 years in prison. Prior to Heather's death, Joshua had been acquitted of abusing Heather in 2006 and there were other abuse-related charges pending against him.

Did you know that according to the Indiana Youth Institute, 12% of young Hoosiers report that they have been hurt by someone they are dating? A new law, called "Heather's Law", will help assure that young Hoosiers receive education regarding dating violence. The Indiana Department of Education will be mandated to work with domestic violence prevention experts to create programs for schools by July 1, 2011. Schools will begin to teach their students and parents how to spot and end dating relationships that become abusive.

The education is needed. According to abanet.org, 54% of parents nationally have not spoken to their teenager about dating violence and approximately 81% of parents think teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue. The same website suggests that 57% of teens in the United States know someone who has been physically, sexually or verbally abused in a dating relationship. (www.examiner.com/2010).



PREVENTION RECOMMENDATION – BE AN UPSTANDER AND TALK WITH YOUR TEENS!

- * 57% of teens know someone who has been physically, sexually, or verbally abusive in a dating relationship. Liz Claiborne Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, (February 2005).
- * 45% of girls know a friend or peer who has been pressured into either intercourse or oral sex. Liz Claiborne Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, (February 2005).
- * One in three teens reports knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped or physically hurt by their dating partner. Liz Claiborne Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, (February 2005).
- * In 9 out of 10 rapes in which the offender is under 18, so is the victim. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Fact Sheet on Violence: Adolescents & Young Adults, 5, (2002).

MAKE A CHOICE TO STAND UP TO VIOLENCE AND HELP OUR TEENS — EMPOWER THEM TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FRIENDS.....

