



END DOMESTIC ABUSE WI
Spotlight on Teen Dating Violence



Annual Report Fall 2015



**1 in 3
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by dating
violence**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

About Teen Dating Violence



When we think of teenagers, we immediately conjure visions of youthful lives; we rarely envision teens engaged in relationship or interpersonal violence.

Teen dating violence is more common than we think. While 81% of parents don't believe it's an issue in the lives of their teens, we know that **1 in 3 adolescents will be affected by dating violence and that 1.5 million high school age teens experience some form of physical violence from a dating partner each year.** We know that girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence—almost triple the national average. **And, we know that violent behavior typically begins between the ages of 12 and 18.**

The consequences of not recognizing or responding to teen violence are great. Victimization by dating violence can lead to higher risks for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and further domestic violence. **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.**

At End Domestic Abuse WI, we work to fulfill our commitment towards ending domestic violence in Wisconsin by supporting future generations who hold new, bold values that embrace non-violence and healthy relationships. The focus of this year's Annual Report is on our work to mobilize youth and support teen leaders. With the generous support of Verizon Hopeline and the WI Department of Children and Families (DCF), we have been engaging Wisconsin teens to lead our work to prevent future domestic and sexual violence. For the past 8 years, with partners DCF and the WI Coalition Against Sexual Assault, we have offered teens the opportunity to gather, learn, support and inspire one another at our bi-annual Teen Summit for Healthy Relationships. In the past year, we have formed a statewide Teen Council where teens and adult mentors come together to identify ways they can promote healthy early relationships and challenge abuse in their own communities. We know that to end violence, we have to stop it before it starts. **Our best chance of eliminating gender-based violence in the future is to support the leadership of our teens today. They will show us the way.**

In peace,



Patti Seger

Executive Director
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

Our Programs and Services

We are proud to provide a wide variety of potentially life-saving programs and services to the domestic violence community.

Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

Program supports teams of key players in community systems, usually on a county-wide basis, to develop strategies and procedures in systems response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Children and Youth Prevention and Outreach

supports local domestic violence programs to support children by offering training, information and networking opportunities for those working with youth exposed to domestic violence and/or dating violence, works to prevent violence before it begins through youth education and provides leadership development.

Economic Empowerment Program with support from the Allstate Foundation, supports survivors to build financial independence by addressing their unique economic needs.

End Domestic Abuse WI provides resources to local domestic violence programs to develop services that address the economic needs and challenges that survivors face.

Domestic Violence Homicide Research & Reporting Project works to inspire community members to get involved in efforts to prevent domestic violence.

Homicide Prevention supports CCRs to develop responses that aim to prevent future homicides in their communities.

Immigration and Poverty Law Program

works to address the unique barriers facing immigrant victims and low-income families.

LGBTQ Community Outreach promotes the social change necessary to end sexual and domestic violence in the LGBTQ community.

Legal Program examines the impact of the legal system on victims and provides training and information to advocates and legal professionals throughout Wisconsin.

Mobilizing and Educating Teens builds opportunities for teens to lead social change, promoting healthy relationships in their schools and communities. With support from Verizon Hope Line program, teens participate in a statewide Teen Council that both advises End Domestic Abuse WI and contributes to the development of a statewide Teen Summit, where 400+ teens/youth come together to build a non-violent future.

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

works at the national level to improve victim safety, increase abuser accountability and expand coordinated community responses to abuse in later life.

Outreach to Underserved Communities: the REACH Program

works to improve the responsiveness of domestic violence service providers, legal and health systems, and others to the needs of people of color, LGBTQ, immigrants, people with disabilities, deaf people, elders and other underserved communities. The REACH Program also works to build the leadership capacity of advocates of color and survivors through the year-long WE LEAD academy.

Public Policy Advocacy mobilizes advocates, survivors and concerned citizens to effect policy changes that will support survivors and end domestic violence.

RISE Law Center provides direct legal representation to immigrant victims of domestic and sexual violence primarily in the Southern Wisconsin area.

Training and Education Program conducts regional and statewide training events, web-based seminars and customized on-site training for staff and boards of domestic violence programs.

2014 Highlights

We've had a great year providing necessary services and supports to victims of domestic violence. End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Staff responded to 2119 requests for informational support and assistance, trained a total of 1232 attendees at End Domestic Abuse WI-sponsored trainings and another 2307 attendees at other trainings.

In addition, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin staff participated in 309 meetings with a total of 4251 professionals in the fields of advocacy, batterer intervention, child welfare, corrections, legal systems, government agencies, law enforcement, health/mental health, law, faith communities and education.

In the end, End Domestic Abuse WI Staff provided over 568 hours of training in 2014. Total training hours received by all participants exceeded 20,000 hours. Topics covered included:

- Advocate response
- Batterer's treatment
- Dating violence
- DV overview
- Economic/Housing
- Underserved populations: African American, Latino, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, elderly and those with developmental, mental, and physical disabilities
- Children or child witnesses
- Organizational community response: coordinated community response, board roles, victim service admin and operations, collaboration, outreach, legislation and technology
- Board roles in DV and Dual programs
- Organizational development and capacity building
- Justice Systems: protection orders, restraining orders, overview of law, immigration, law enforcement, firearms, family law, DV statutes, criminal law, civil court procedures

Facts About Teens & Domestic Violence

Teen dating violence (TDV) isn't talked about very often—but it should be. One-in-three teens has been a part of a violent relationship, and these patterns don't stop when we grow up. We need to help teens know what a healthy relationship is right when they begin having them.

In the past year, End Domestic Abuse WI has been focusing on initiatives to combat teen relationship violence. We show teens how to recognize and attain healthy relationships, support policy that protects teens in abusive relationships, assist community leaders' prevention efforts, and empower teens to be advocates within their own schools and communities.

- 1 in 3 teens has been part of an abusive relationship
- Nearly 1.5 million high school students experience a violent relationship in a single year
- Only 1 in 3 teens will tell someone that they are being abused
- Girls and women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of domestic violence
- Boys, girls and gender-nonconforming youth all experience teen dating violence, as victims and perpetrators
- 81% of teens don't know if teen dating violence is an issue

Half of youth who have been victims of both dating violence and rape attempt suicide



A Teen Council



Last year we strengthened our mission to support victims of domestic brutality with the formation of a Teen Council. Supported by a Verizon Hopeline Grant, we set out to address the issue Teen Domestic Violence (TDV).

REACH Coordinator Danny Ho and Children and Youth Prevention & Outreach Coordinator Cody Warner connected personally with domestic violence programs staff across the state that were already working with teen groups. We asked each group a set of questions and found that overall, teens felt that they were not prepared to help a friend in an abusive relationship and that the adults are uneducated on the subject and tend to minimize and invalidate their TDV experiences.

Geographically, we found there were seven groups in the north and seven in the south of Wisconsin. We created a Northern and Southern Teen Council (NTC & STC) and set out to plan the 2016 Teen Summit, a conference that connects teens and adult advocates to discuss teen dating violence and sexual assault and share creative tools for combating these issues. With these Teen Councils, we will have an ongoing source of first-person experience to guide us in what teens are experiencing across the state.

As we move into the next year, we plan to expand our teen council membership and make it more accessible in remote parts of the state. Our council will continue to help us plan awareness strategies, the Teen Summit and more.

Teen dating violence (TDV) is a serious issue that can sometimes turn fatal.

End Domestic Abuse WI dedicates this report to those who lost their lives as a result of TDV.

CIARA MISIEK, 15, MARSHALL — AUGUST 21, 2014

JUSTICE McCOY, 18, MILWAUKEE — JULY 4, 2014

ARIYL BRADY, 16, MAZOMANIE — FEBRUARY 10, 2015



Existing Legislation in Wisconsin

Public policy advocacy is one of the main ways End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin works to prevent and eliminate domestic violence.

Existing legislation in Wisconsin:

- Teens can file for a protective order against an abusive partner or ex-partner
- For youth under the age of 18, a parent or guardian may also file a protective order on their behalf
- Teens may consent to testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Parental consent is required for minors to receive an abortion

We are working to promote school-based education and response policies to prevent teen dating violence. We believe Wisconsin schools should include lessons about dating violence and healthy relationships in their health curricula for students in seventh through twelfth grades. Schools should also ensure that administrators and teachers receive training and have plans in place to respond appropriately to students who are engaging in or are being affected by dating violence. Research shows that students who attend schools that have proactive policies related to teen dating violence are less likely to experience abuse.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, "at least 19 states have laws that urge or require school boards to develop curriculum on teen dating violence." End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin is advocating for Wisconsin to follow this lead and implement focused and proven programs to respond to and to prevent violence in teen dating relationships. The steps we take now will give the next generation of Wisconsinites the opportunity to live free from domestic violence as they grow.

Growing Roots Project



"I've always had a passion to help the elderly, so this project is definitely the highlight of my summer. I'm extremely grateful that we received the money that made this project possible. I believe that it truly is the little things in life that make people happy. Even if one person at Our House Senior Living woke up, looked outside [at the garden project], and smiled, I know that this project was a success."

— Mikayla Kelz, *Growing Relationships with the Elderly*

Growing Roots Project



Late in 2014, our Teen Dating Violence Protection Program initiated the Growing Roots project to connect youth and elders in Wisconsin domestic violence and/or sexual assault programs.

We offered youth programs an opportunity to apply for a mini-grant for programs like community gardening spaces, artistic projects, or an event that is culturally specific to a particular community group.

Six groups were awarded a small grant, and over the past summer, their projects began to take shape.

Project Groups:

- Our Parents, Our Heroes from CAP Services, Inc. Steven's Point
- Growing Relationships with the Elderly from Teens Against Abusive Relationships
- Stepping Stones, Inc. Medford
- Simple Concepts from Fresh Start Learning LLC, Milwaukee
- Hmong Ua Liq Ua Teb Youth Project from Hmong American Women's Association, Milwaukee
- Improving our Serenity Garden from Safe Haven, Shawano



"The conversations that the youth and elders are having are amazing. One conversation happened between a youth and her grandmother. She learned about her grandmother's life growing up as an orphan in Laos. Her grandmother's story has inspired her even more to share stories of Hmong women. Youth have been provided with language to talk to their elders. They have learned to support each other so they have the courage to ask the hard questions. I am so proud of the youth for their work and the elders for speaking out."

— Our Parents, Our Heroes

"It's so hard to find youth that are willing to share their time with the elderly and who care about the environment and gardening, and Teens Against Abusive Relationships (TAAR) club is all about serving the community."

— Katie Durham, Growing Relationships with the Elderly



THE NUMBERS

2014 Financial Statement

EXPENSES

Program Support, Training and Technical Assistance	\$ 2,133,678
Policy and Legislation	\$ 27,630
Membership	\$ 23,582

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES \$ **2,184,890**

Management and General.....	\$ 330,381
Fundraising	\$ 75,486

TOTAL SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES \$ **405,876**

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ **2,590,757**

REVENUE

Government Grants	\$ 2,026,935
Other Grants	\$ 33,815
Membership	\$ 23,560
Contributions/Events/Other Unrestricted Income	\$ 410,409
Released Restricted Assets	\$ 127,740

TOTAL REVENUE..... \$ **2,622,459**

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) \$ **31,702**

*End Domestic Abuse WI's 2014 Financial Statements were audited by Wegner LLP.
Copies of our complete audit are available upon request.*



2014–15 Board of Directors and Staff

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Our Mission

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin promotes social change that transforms societal attitudes, practices and policies to prevent and eliminate domestic abuse.

Our Vision

We envision communities fully engaged to provide safety and to give voice to all affected by domestic abuse, while creating the social change necessary to address its root causes.

Our Guiding Principles

We honor the wisdom and strength of domestic abuse survivors across the lifespan. Our mission is achievable through survivor-centered work that includes strategic partnerships and collaboration. As advocates for social justice, we embrace the voices of diverse communities. We will consider any non-violent strategy that is consistent with our mission to prevent and eliminate domestic abuse.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Do Something, Before It's Too Late



“The steps we take now will give the next generation of Wisconsinites the opportunity to live free from domestic violence as they grow.”

Learn about teen dating violence and take it seriously. There are many ways you can help. Teens can learn how to support and help a friend who may be in an abusive relationship. Adults and parents can learn about the early warning signs of a teen in an abusive relationship and find tools that may help them. And educators can find out how they can incorporate information and resources about teen dating violence in your curriculum.

Locally, you should make sure you know about the domestic violence program in your area and refer the teen to the appropriate hotline. **For a listing of local domestic violence programs in Wisconsin, go to: <http://www.endabusewi.org/gethelp>**

National resources include:

- National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: 866-331-9474
- Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN): 800-656-HOPE (4673)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-SAFE (7233)
- Break the Cycle: www.breakthecycle.org
- The Safe Space: www.thesafespace.org
- That's Not Cool: www.thatshotcool.com
- National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center: www.safeyouth.org

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