# DO YOU KNOW WHAT DATING ABUSE OR DATING VIOLENCE LOOKS LIKE?

I think so.... but I'd like to know for sure

Nearly HALF of all college women and A THIRD of college men report having experienced either abuse or controlling behavior in a dating relationship.

...and what do I say to a friend who tells me about their abuse?

# **DATING ABUSE IS...**

a pattern of coercive, intimidating, or manipulative behaviors used to exert power and control over an intimate partner.

# **COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Young adults between 18 - 24 are in the highest risk age group for being in an abusive relationship at three times the national average. Domestic violence does not discriminate; anyone can experience dating abuse regardless of gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic standing, ethnicity, religion or culture.

# **FORMS OF ABUSE**

PHYSICAL - physical force meant to cause fear or harm such as hitting, shoving, strangulation, or using a weapon.

VERBAL OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE - insults, humiliation, guilting, threats or intimidation; giving the silent treatment

**COERCIVE CONTROL** - a pattern of controlling behavior intending to dominate, isolate and micromanage a partner in order to strip away their independence and sense of self.

SEXUAL ABUSE - controlling or forcing sexual activity including rape, coercion or restricting birth control.

**DIGITAL/CYBER ABUSE** - using social media or technology to intimidate, harass or threaten; sending threatening and controlling text messages; demanding to know passwords and account access

STALKING - monitoring activities, location and communication meant to establish complete control

# **RED FLAGS**

EXTREME JEALOUSY
ISOLATION FROM FRIENDS & FAMILY
RELATIONSHIP MOVING FAST
CONSTANTLY TOGETHER
INCESSANT CALLS OR TEXTS
NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING
PHYSICAL AGGRESSION
MOODY, EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER
BREAKING BOUNDARIES
STRICT AND ANTIQUATED GENDER ROLES

# LGBTQ+

LGBTQ people are especially vulnerable to particular forms of coercive control and digital abuse. If the controlled person has not publicly disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity, the abuser might exert control by threatening to "out" them to family members or friends.



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The most important thing to remember is you don't need to be an expert - you need to be a friend.

- 1. Believe them, let them know that you do. "I believe you. I'm so sorry this is happening."
- 2. Listen without judgment or advice, and validate their feelings. "I'm glad you told me. I'm here for you."
- 3. Avoid victim-blaming. "This isn't your fault. You don't deserve to be treated like that."
- 4. Take it seriously. Concerned about their safety? Tell them. "I'm worried this could become dangerous for you."
- 5. Offer to help. Honor their autonomy. Support and respect their decisions. "How can I help you?"
- 6. Have the National Domestic Violence Hotline number in your phone. "Would you consider talking to someone? Here's the number: 800-799-7233"

# Don't be afraid to reach out to someone you think MIGHT NEED HELP

#### QUESTIONS TO ASK

- · How have things been with you two lately?
- · What's it like when you argue?
- · Do you wish something could be different?
- Do you feel safe when you're together?
- How do you see things getting better between you?

# Don't be afraid to reach out to someone you think MIGHT BE ABUSING THEIR PARTNER

#### SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING

- Observer silence helps abusers deny their behavior is wrong.
- Suggest looking at an issue from their partner's perspective
- Resist passive agreement by ignoring abusive talk, jokes and behavior
- Encourage seeking counseling to help figure things out
- · Set an example for a healthy relationship

# WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

#### **NATIONAL RESOURCES**

#### **National Domestic Violence Hotline**

800-799-7233 thehotline.org
Call; Text "START" or <u>CHAT ONLINE</u>.
@ndvhofficial @ndvh

#### **Dating Abuse Helpline**

866-331-9474 <u>loveisrespect.org</u>
Call; Text "loveis" or <u>CHAT ONLINE</u>
@loveisrespectofficial @loveisrespect

#### **LOCAL RESOURCES**

#### SafeHaven of Tarrant County (Hotline)

877-701-7233 <u>safehaventc.org</u> @SafeHavenTC

TCU CARE (Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education)

817-257-5225 <u>care.tcu.edu</u>

@tcu\_care

NNEDV - National Network to End Domestic Violence

nnedv.org NCADV - National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

ncadv.org

NOMORE.org @nomoreorg

<u>DomesticShelters.org</u> @domesticshelters @domesticshelter

CALL THE HOTLINE

to speak confidentially with trained professionals who will start by believing you.

# JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Learn how to recognize the signs of abuse.

Have national & local hotline numbers in your phone - to share.

Follow DV groups on social media.

Support your local DV agency.

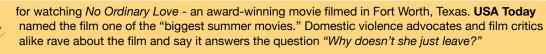
Social Media: #JoinTheChorus #StartByBelieving

#DVAM Domestic Violence Awareness Month - October

#DatingViolenceAwarenessMonth - February

#DomesticViolenceAwareness

#tcu\_care



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