

# 2025 TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

February is *National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month*. This month, educate yourself, learn the stats, and connect with local resources.

## Teen Dating Violence is...

a **pattern of controlling** behavior to gain power over a dating partner. This includes:

- Physical/sexual violence
- Emotional/verbal abuse
- Technology misuse
- Threats, isolation, and stalking

Anyone, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation or background can be affected. In fact, many minority groups are at higher risk of teen dating violence.

## Key Facts:

### National:

- 1 in 12 high school daters experienced physical/sexual abuse last year.
- Up to 65% report psychological abuse; 1 in 3 face cyber abuse.
- LGBTQ+ teens are 2-3x more likely to face dating violence.

### Local (Penquis region):

- 9% of high school daters physically were hurt by a partner.
- 6% were forced into sexual contact.
- Higher rates among BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students.

## What can adults do?

- Talk with teens about relationships, boundaries, friendship, and dating.
- Be someone they can trust – listen without judging or making assumptions.
- Believe them.
- Talk with them about plans for safety and respect their opinions.
- Ask how you can help.
- Offer to connect them with Partners for Peace and other resources.
- Consider reaching out for support for yourself too.

**Wear Orange for Teen Dating Violence Awareness!**



[www.partnersforpeaceme.org](http://www.partnersforpeaceme.org)  
[partnersforpeaceme@partnersforpeaceme.org](mailto:partnersforpeaceme@partnersforpeaceme.org)  
24 Hour Helpline 1-800-863-9909

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## Local Resources:

**Partners for Peace:** Free, confidential 24/7 support for survivors of domestic violence or dating abuse.

**24/7 Helpline: 1-800-863-9909**

**Rape Response Services:** Free, confidential 24/7 support for sexual assault survivors.

**24/7 Helpline: 1-800-871-7741**

**Shaw House:** Emergency youth services for ages 10-24. **1-866-561-7429**

**CHCS Crisis Service:** 24/7 mental health support. **Call 988 or 1-888-568-1112**

**Bangor YMCA Teen Center:** Drop-in programs and LGBTQ+ youth events.

## National Support:

**Love Is Respect:** Info, helpline, chat, text for ages 13-26.

**[loveisrespect.org](https://loveisrespect.org)**

**Take It Down:** Assistance removing explicit images online.

**[takeitdown.ncmec.org](https://takeitdown.ncmec.org)**

**TechSafety.org:** Technology abuse resources for youth and supportive adults.

**[techsafety.org](https://techsafety.org)**

## Sources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (2023).

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2015). *Teen, campus & dating violence*.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (2019). *Teen dating violence*. U.S. Department of Justice.

Wisniewska, M. J. (2025). *Teen dating violence statistics 2024. Break The Cycle*.

**Connect with us to schedule a Partners for Peace presentation.**



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