



Domestic Violence Solutions

Teen Programs 805-564-4488

Program Description

Teen dating violence is an **urgent, silent epidemic in Santa Barbara County**. **One in three teens** report experiencing abuse in a dating relationship and most teens will never report the abuse to anyone¹.

Dating violence is not just dangerous and sometimes lethal; teens who experience abuse in a relationship exhibit higher rates of violence, school drop-out rates, drug abuse, high-risk sexual behavior and suicide².

What is LOVE Assembly introduces Teens in middle schools and high schools to alternatives to Dating Violence. Presented school assembly style to an audience of students, teachers, and parents, the program provides a real story from a dating violence survivor. We use “Maria’s” story to:

1. Define the physical, emotional, and sexual forms of abuse
2. Explain the importance of asking for help
3. Provide community resources
4. Discuss legal rights and consequences, and
5. Encourage teens to advocate for a safe school environment where teens can report abuse

Through a large screen multi-media presentation, WHAT is LOVE tells a compelling story about a teen involved in a very violent dating relationship for six years. During the presentation, the survivor shares her story and , in her own words, her experience of dating violence. Following the video, expert speakers discuss additional comprehensive effects and consequences of dating violence.

We provide a Teacher’s Guide with interesting, fun and effective activities to influence dating violence awareness and prevention. We strongly recommend a 50-minute classroom discussion immediately following the assembly to lead students in an open and honest discussion about the CHOICES, DECISIONS, & CONSEQUENCES for the students in the WHAT Is LOVE assembly presentation.

Students get an opportunity to:

1. Share information learned from the assembly
2. Explore how to safely get out of an abusive relationship
3. Action plan in making their school dating violence FREE

¹ Carolyn Tucker Halpern, PhD. Et Al., “Partner Violence Among Adolescents in Opposite-Sex

² Jay G. Silverman PhD, et Al., “Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality.” Journal of the American Medical Association, 286 (2001) 572-579.

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO SAFE AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

HOTLINE: 805-964-5245 www.dvsolutions.org