

# SEXUAL ABUSE AND TEEN DATING VIOLENCE



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## GACS SERVICES

- **Sexual Assault Service Center**
- **Groundwork**
- **Suzy's Caring Place**
- **Foster Care**
- **Dillard Harris**
- **Children's Program**
- **Exchange Club Center**
- **Partner Abuse Intervention Program**



# SASC SERVICES

- **Prevention Education**
- **Counseling**
  - Individual
  - Group
- **Advocacy**
  - Medical
  - Legal
- **24-Hour Hotline**
  - (815) 730-8984



## SEXUAL ABUSE

- ▣ Any unwanted sexual contact or behaviors
  - Without consent
  - By:
    - A stranger
    - Someone you know
    - **A boyfriend or girlfriend**



## TYPES OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- Sexual Assault
- Unwanted Touching
- Sexual Harassment
- Lying to or manipulating someone to get him/her to agree to sexual behavior
- Threatening to break up with or spread rumors about someone if they refuse sexual acts
- Taking pictures or videos of sexual acts or someone undressing without their knowledge or consent



## GROOMING

- ▣ Most abuse occurs through the victim being **manipulated, deceived, bribed, and/or forced** through a process called “grooming”.
  
- ▣ The groomer is a **skilled manipulator**.
  - Can be ANYBODY
  
- ▣ Internet Predators



## GROOMING CONT.

- ▣ The groomer seeks to:
  - Build trust with victim
  - Isolate victim
  - Persuade victim to keep unsafe secrets
- ▣ The groomer may also:
  - Threaten the victim
  - Intimidate the victim
  - Blame the victim



## MY BODY & PERSONAL BOUNDARIES

- **Boundaries** are guidelines, rules or limits that a person creates to identify for themselves what are reasonable and safe ways to be touched by others
- You decide who touches you and how
- You have the right to say **NO!**
  - **Your partner must respect your right to say “no”**





# DATING VIOLENCE

## ○ Dating Violence

- A pattern of physically, sexually, and/or emotionally abusive or controlling behavior in a dating relationship.
  - Physical
  - Emotional
  - Digital
  - Sexual



# TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS



[Teen Dating Violence Awareness](#)

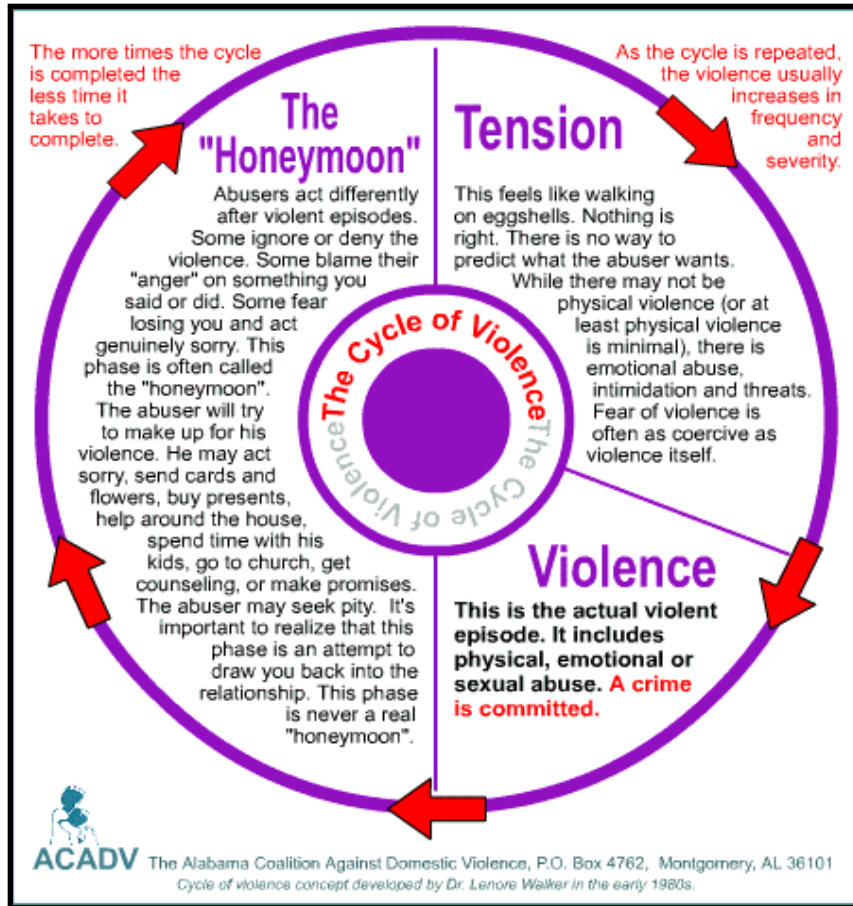


## DATING VIOLENCE STATISTICS

- ▣ **Nearly 1 in 3 teens who have been in a dating relationship have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional abuse.**
- ▣ **Young women between 16 and 24 years old experience intimate partner violence at a rate nearly 3 times the national average.**
- ▣ **Violent behavior typically begins between the ages of 12 and 18.**
- ▣ **The severity of intimate partner violence is often greater when the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence.**



# THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE



- Honeymoon
- Tension Building
- Violence/Explosion
- Back to Honeymoon

A Photo a Day: The Worst Year of My Life



# WARNING SIGNS OF DATING VIOLENCE

## ○ **The abuser:**

- Threatens to hurt others
- Ignores/insults dating partner in public
- Constantly calls/texts to check up on partner
- Attempts to control every aspect of their partner's life
- Damages partner's personal belongings
- Exhibits extreme jealousy/possessiveness
- Makes his/her partner feel shameful



# WARNING SIGNS OF DATING VIOLENCE

## ○ **The victim:**

- Unexplained physical injuries
- Skipping school
- Failing grades
- Changes in mood/personality
- Is isolated from friends/family
- No longer participates in activities they once enjoyed
- Becomes pregnant at an early age



## SEXTING

- **Sexting**: Sending, receiving, or forwarding sexual photos, videos or sexually suggestive messages through text message, instant message or email.
  - Sexting can be a form of digital abuse



## SEXTING CONT.

- About 20% of teens have sent a sext
- About 40% of teens have received a sext
- Over 25% of teens admitted to forwarding a sext
  - **About 32% of teens have received a sext intended for somebody else**
- 65% of teens have been asked to engage in sexting that they did not want to engage in





## SEXTING CONT.

### ○ Consequences of sexting:

- Embarrassment
- Fear
- Can compromise reputations
- Can be seen by future employers/college reps
- Could face criminal charges
- Could be labeled as a sex offender



## WHAT DO I DO?

- If you or someone you know is a victim of dating violence or sexual violence:
  - Tell a trusted adult
  - Continue to tell until believed
  - Remember...**IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!**



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



## WHERE CAN I GET HELP

**Sexual Assault  
Service Center**

**(815)730-8984**

**Groundwork Domestic  
Violence Program**

**(815)729-1228**

**815-729-0930, ext. 1536  
dmosher@gacsprograms.org**

