

About the presenters

A recent survey* reports that **nearly 1 in 3 teenagers**, who have been in a relationship, report actual sexual abuse, physical abuse, or threats of physical abuse.

That's not a statistic—it's a ticking time bomb.



Love without Tears or Fears is a professional development opportunity that will help any audience: staff, students, parents and/or community members become more aware of relationship abuse and the way in which it touches the lives of young people of all social, racial, and economic backgrounds.

**The survey was conducted by Liz Claiborne Inc. and the Family Violence Fund*

Vikki Deuel—Vikki is a National Member of the Board of Directors of the Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project®. A retired principal from Grand Island Public Schools, she is currently a teacher at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Mary Ann Richards—Mary Ann is retired from the Grand Island Public Schools. She is credited with starting Grand Island's Progress School, an alternative school for junior high and high school students who were unsuccessful in a traditional school setting.

Vikki and Mary Ann worked together at Walnut Middle School in Grand Island to change the school climate and turn it into a "Peaceful People Place." Walnut School was named a "National School of Character in 2003, an Operation Respect "National Model School" in 2005, and a Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project® "National Partner in Peace" in 2007.

They have travelled across the nation working with educators, parents, and public service employees in the area of character education, safe schools, and bullying.

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LOVE WITHOUT TEARS OR FEARS



The Facts

- **1 in 11** adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating abuse.
- **1 in 4** adolescents reports verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse each year.
- **1 in 5** adolescents reports being a victim of emotional abuse.
- **1 in 5** high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.
- **72%** of eighth and ninth graders reportedly “date” by the time they are in high school, **54%** of students report dating abuse among their peers.
- **70%** of girls and **52%** of boys who are abused report an injury from an abusive relationship.
- **8%** of boys and **9%** of girls have been to an emergency room for an injury received from a dating partner.
- Victims of dating abuse are **NOT ONLY** at increased risk for injury, they are also more likely to engage in binge drinking, suicide attempts, physical fights, and sexual activity.
- Dating abuse **IS ASSOCIATED** with unhealthy sexual behaviors that can lead to unintended pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases, and HIV infections.
- Abusive dating experiences during adolescence **MAY DISRUPT** normal development of self-esteem and body image.
- Adolescents in abusive relationships **OFTEN** carry these unhealthy patterns of abuse into future relationships.
- Qualities like respect, good communication and honesty are absolute requirements for a healthy relationship. Adolescents that **DO NOT** have this part down before they begin to date may have trouble forming healthy, nonviolent relationships with others.

LOVE WITHOUT TEARS OR FEARS



DATING ABUSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Those attending a half-day training will experience a multi-media presentation giving an overview of the issues of teen dating abuse and violence that have led legislators in several states to pass laws requiring schools to address this growing problem. Participants will. . .

- gain an understanding of the phenomenon of escalating abuse and violence in dating relationships among American teens
- explore methods for recognizing symptoms of abuse in teen dating relationships
- build skills for offering support to teens caught up in abusive relationships
- participate in activities aimed at helping staff and students understand the dynamics of control and abuse in dating relationships

If a school or district chooses to participate in a full day of training, selected administrators, staff and students will spend time with trainers to do the following. . .

- assess the degree of the problem of teen dating abuse and violence within their building and/or district
- participate in training sessions that can be used with students to empower them in building positive dating relationships and avoiding negative ones
- examine and adapt curriculum that can be used in student training sessions
- form a leadership team of students and staff who will work together within their building to raise awareness of the issue of teen dating abuse and violence
- work within this team to plan student training that will address this issue

“Domestic violence,” says Senator Dianne Feinstein, “causes far more pain than the visible marks of bruises and scars. It is devastating to be abused by someone that you love and think loves you in return.”