

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



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3rd Trimester State Information Packet

Youth violence is a serious problem that can have lasting harmful effects on individuals, families, and communities. It is an adverse childhood experience and a type of community violence that impacts young people and limits opportunities to thrive. Everyone can help support young people and prevent violence.

Parents and families can:

- Learn about links between children's experiences with violence and their health.
- Talk with young people about violence and ask how you can support them.
- Reach out to local programs to learn effective parenting practices.
- Securely store firearms (for example, in a gun safe or lock box) to prevent access by children and other unauthorized users.

Communities can:

- Make mentoring, apprenticeship, and leadership programs more available.
- Collaborate with health departments, local businesses, and other partners to design and promote healthy and safe neighborhoods, including cleaning and maintaining vacant lots.
- Make use of effective social and economic policies that reduce risks for violence.
- Invest in programs such as street outreach that support youth at risk and reduce conflicts.

Schools can:

- Adopt policies and practices that create safe and supportive environments.
- Teach students skills to navigate social and emotional challenges.
- Connect students experiencing violence to mental health and support services.
- Build strong bonds between staff and students to improve connectedness to school.
- Improve safety on common walking or biking routes to school.
- Create after-school programs to help youth strengthen academic skills and provide a safe place to socialize.

CHALLENGE ALERT: February 5

wear orange and help promote teen dating violence awareness. Post your pictures on the USWT Programming Facebook page and you will be recognized at year end.

Purple Thursday Contest

The 3rd Thursday each month wear purple and post your photos on the USWT Programming Facebook page or email me with your name, chapter and state to dva@uswomenoftoday.org. Each time you post a picture, your name will go into a drawing for Annual.

We will be having a DVA (Domestic Violence Awareness) Luminary Walk at USWT Year End Convention in Duluth, MN. This walk brings light to the darkness of domestic violence. Each luminary bag cost \$5.00. You can decorate yourself or have me do it for you.