

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH 2022

WHEREAS, teen dating violence transcends gender, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. It takes many forms, among them physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, bullying, and shaming, which can occur in person or through electronic communication and social media.

WHEREAS, victims, especially young women, transgender, and gender nonconforming youth who face higher rates of violence, may suffer lifelong consequences. Many young people do not report the abuse for fear of retribution or unwarranted embarrassment. The pattern of abuse often continues in future relationships.

WHEREAS, violent behaviors often begin between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

WHEREAS, according to the CDC in 2021, 1 in 11 female teens and 1 in 14 male teens have reported experiencing physical dating violence in the last year.

WHEREAS, in 2020, according to The Texas Council on Family Violence, the youngest victim of teen dating violence, was 14 years old.

WHEREAS, 50% of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, only 33% of teens who experience dating violence in their relationship ever tell anyone about the abuse; and

WHEREAS, 81% of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is an issue.

WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships and relationship skills and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. It is essential to raise community awareness and to provide training for teachers, counselors, and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and everyone teen has the right to a safe and healthy relationship and to be free from abuse.

THEREFORE, we ask all citizens to Lose the Ribbon because Prevention is Action. We can all encourage and model healthy relationships for the next generation. Follow The Purple Door on Facebook and Instagram @purpledoortx for more ways to get involved.

*It is the mission of The Purple Door to empower the community and those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault to transition to a safe and healthy environment.*

*Our Vision is to end domestic violence and sexual assault in the Coastal Bend Region.*

Witness My hand this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022

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Mayor Edward Adams

### References:

CDC (2021). U. S. Department of Health & Human Services. Preventing Teen Dating Violence. Retrieved from Preventing Teen Dating Violence (cdc.gov)  
Hattersley Gray, Robin. "Dating Abuse Statistics." School Safety. Accessed April 22, 2014.  
The white house. (2021). A Proclamation on National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, 2021 | The White House