




Investigating Incidents of Dating Violence

1

Learning Outcomes

- ▶ Participants will review statistics regarding dating violence.
- ▶ Participants will be able to identify examples of dating violence.
- ▶ Participants will understand the various issues that are present when responding to reports of dating violence.
- ▶ Participants will understand how Behavioral Intervention Teams (BIT) play a vital role in the process.
- ▶ Participants will reflect on suggested recommendations regarding investigating incidents of dating violence.

2



Lauren McCluskey

Photo credit: The Lauren McCluskey Foundation

3

Lauren McCluskey Case

Timeline:

- 30 Sep. 18: Plan to follow-up with Lauren, discussion of guest and firearm policies.
- 10 October 18: Two friends meet with RA and state that Lauren is in an unhealthy relationship, and that he is practically living in the residence hall. State that he is going to get Lauren a gun.
- 10 October 18: Lauren breaks up with Rowland, but he borrows her car to do errands; she receives multiple text messages about breaking his heart and to "go kill yourself."
- 10 October 18: Lauren's mom calls UUPS about the car.

4

Lauren McCluskey Case

10/10-10/12: Lauren receives text messages stating that Rowland was in a car accident and has died.

10/17/18: Lauren calls UUPS to file a report that her ex-boyfriend is trying to lure her off campus and is told that they cannot do anything because the messages are not threatening.

10/17/18: Lauren meets with UUPS regarding texts she has received regarding extortion, also tells the police she was scared when Rowland peeked through her window in the past; UUPS runs criminal history (only history of sexual offense provided); Detective updated.

5

Lauren McCluskey Case

Timeline:

- 13-18 Oct.: Multiple back and forth missed calls between Lauren and UUPS; Lauren also called Salt Lake City Police Department (SLCPD) who transferred back to UUPS; Lauren sees her on-campus counselor.
- 19 Oct. 18: University Police start an investigation into the extortion.
- 20 Oct. 18: Lauren sends screen shot of criminal history and offender status.
- 22 Oct. 18: CARE meets, no updates; Lauren sends email regarding "fake text" and calls UUPS; Lauren is killed.

6

7

Statistics

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7

8

Prevalence – High School

- Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.¹
- 1 in 3 girls is the victim of emotional or verbal abuse²
- 1 in 10 high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend³

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Physical Dating Violence Among High School Students - United States, 2001," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, May 19, 2006, Vol. 55, No. 19.
²Nishi, Akemiwa, MPH, 2008, *Interpersonal and Physical Dating Violence among Teens*, The National Council on Crime and Delinquency. *Focus*. Available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/218611.pdf>
³Cronbach AJ, Kern L, Kruttschnitt S, et al. 2004. *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 2003*. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 53(20): 1-96. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5320a1.htm>

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8

9

Prevalence – College Students

- 43% of dating college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors⁴
- 36% of college students have given their partner their computer, email, or social network passwords⁵
- 16% of college women has been sexually abused in a dating relationship⁶

⁴IPS & Pacific Companies, Inc. Formerly Liz Claiborne, Inc., Conducted by Knowledge Networks, December 2010. "College Dating Violence and Abuse Poll." Available at: <https://www.knowledgenetworks.com/collegedatingviolence>
⁵IPS & Pacific Companies, Inc. Formerly Liz Claiborne, Inc., Conducted by Knowledge Networks, December 2010.
⁶IPS & Pacific Companies, Inc. Formerly Liz Claiborne, Inc., Conducted by Knowledge Networks, December 2010.

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9

10

Long-lasting Effects

- Higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and further domestic violence⁷
- 6-10 times more likely to become pregnant and twice as likely to get a STI⁸
- Half of youth who have been victims of both dating violence and rape attempt suicide, compared to 12.5% of non-abused girls and 5.4% of non-abused boys⁹

⁷Dig S, Sherman, PhD, Arma Rui, PhD, Lorinda A. Hunt, MPH, James E. Hoffmann, MS, MPH, "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Self-Harm?" *JAMA*. 2001;286(15):1973-1979. doi:10.1093/ajph.91.10.1572.
⁸Chenier A, Sherman S, Roy L. 2005. *Dating Violence and Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Risk Factors and Diagnosis Among Adolescent Females*. *Pediatrics*. 116: 272-276.
⁹W. M. Abbott, Minneapolis, MN, and D. Neumark-Sztainer, Division of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. *Dating Violence and Date Rape Among Adolescents: Associations with Observed Dating Behaviors and Psychological Health*. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 26: 455-473. (2002).

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10

11

Reporting

- 70% of young victims do not recognize they are being abused¹⁰
- 57% say it is difficult to identify¹¹
- 58% do not know how to help¹²
- 52% of friends state that it is not appropriate to get involved¹³
- Reluctant Complainant

¹⁰Liberato, A. (2017, November 30). *The Truth About Domestic Violence on College Campuses*. Retrieved February 2, 2019, from <https://www.truthaboutdomesticviolence.org/college-campuses/>
¹¹IPS & Pacific Companies, Inc. Formerly Liz Claiborne, Inc., Conducted by Knowledge Networks, December 2010. "College Dating Violence and Abuse Poll." Available at: <https://www.knowledgenetworks.com/collegedatingviolence>
¹²IPS & Pacific Companies, Inc. Formerly Liz Claiborne, Inc., Conducted by Knowledge Networks, December 2010.
¹³Liberato, A. (2017, November 30). *The Truth About Domestic Violence on College Campuses*. Retrieved February 2, 2019, from <https://www.truthaboutdomesticviolence.org/college-campuses/>

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Defining the Problem

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12

Dating Violence (42 U.S.C. 13925(a))

- ▶ The term "dating violence" means violence committed by a person—
 - (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
 - (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - i. The length of the relationship.
 - ii. The type of relationship.
 - iii. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

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Intimate Partner Violence

- ▶ The term "intimate partner violence" describes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercive acts) by a current or former intimate partner
- ▶ An intimate partner is a person with whom one has a close personal relationship that can be characterized by the following (emotional connectedness, regular contact, ongoing physical contact/sexual behavior, identity as a couple, familiarity about each other's lives)
- ▶ 4 types - sexual violence, stalking behaviors, physical violence, psychological aggression

**Intimate Partner Violence Definitions. (2018, October 23). Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov/odasagreenbook/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html>

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14

Unhealthy Relationships

Intensity	Jealousy	Manipulation	Isolation
Sabotage	Belittling	Guilt	Volatility
Deflecting responsibility		Betrayal	

© 2021 D.Stafford & Associates **Orlove. (n.d.). 10 Signs of an Unhealthy Relationship. Retrieved from <https://www.jehonellows.org/signs-unhealthy-relationship/>

15

Responding to Reports

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16

Response – Predominant Aggressor

- ▶ The individual who poses the most serious, ongoing threat, which may not necessarily be the initial aggressor in a specific incident
- ▶ Expected to arrest any person who commits a criminal act(s) of intimate partner violence—unless there is a clear and compelling reason not to arrest (self-defense determination, lack of probable cause)—after a comprehensive investigation to identify the predominant aggressor

**International Association of Chiefs of Police, Intimate Partner Violence Response Policy and Training Content Guidelines 6 (2017), retrieved from http://www.iaocpolice.org/sites/default/files/iaoc_ipv_response_policy.pdf

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Response – Predominant Aggressor

Past behaviors?	Self Defense?	Who is afraid?
Body language of each?	Witnesses?	What does the scene look like?
Excited utterances?		What are the extent of the injuries?

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18

Strangulation

19

- ▶ Signs are subtle and hard to find
- ▶ Look around eyes, under eyelids, nose, behind ears, inside mouth, neck, shoulders, and upper chest
- ▶ Horse or raspy voice; loss of voice, pain/difficulty swallowing; coughing; nausea/vomiting; neck injury; difficulty breathing; mental change; light headedness; involuntary urination or defecation

*Hirak, G. B. "The Not me, too" Identifying the Primary Aggressor & Perpetrator's Perspective. Retrieved from http://www.ndbr.org/images/116_20_m.pdf
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19

Response – Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)

20

- ▶ 2 Components
 - 11 Questions on the Lethality Screen
 - Connection to services
- ▶ Used by law enforcement, health care professionals, case workers, court personnel
- ▶ Almost half of femicide victims did not recognize risk of fatal violence prior to death
- ▶ Helps identify warning signs and available services

*Lethality Assessment Program, How the LAP works. Retrieved from <https://lethalassessmentprogram.org/about-how-the-lap-works/>
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20

Response – Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)

21

- ▶ Used or threatened with a weapon
- ▶ Threatened to kill you or children
- ▶ Do you think they might try and kill you
- ▶ Do they have access to weapon?
- ▶ Have they ever tried to choke you?
- ▶ Violently or consistently jealous, control daily activities
- ▶ Have you separated after living together/married
- ▶ Unemployed
- ▶ Suicide attempts
- ▶ Do you have a child that is not theirs
- ▶ Do they spy on you or leave threatening messages

*National Institute of Justice, Domestic Violence Lethality Screen for First Responders. (2005, August). Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov/justice/225/documents/domestic-violence-lethality-screen.pdf>
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21

teen dating violence power & control wheel

22

Power and Control Wheel

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Threat Assessment Teams

23

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Accommodations and Interim Measures

24

Options for, and available assistance, in changing academic, living, transportation, and working situations, if so requested by the victim . . . reasonably available, regardless of reporting.

- No contact orders
- Change in housing, academic or work schedules
- Withdraw from a class without penalty
- Access academic support
- Distance learning
- Change offices
- Physical and mental health support

Safety planning

- Escorts and increased security
- Replacement cell phone
- Change in email/monitoring email

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25

Protective Measures – Law Enforcement

- ▶ Order of Protection (VAWA)
 - ▢ Any injunction or other order issued for the purpose of preventing violent or threatening acts or harassment against, or contact or communication with, or physical proximity to, another person

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25

26

Protective/Supportive Measures

- Orders of No Contact
 - Limit proximity
 - Eliminate interaction
 - Defuse conflict
 - Count on voluntary compliance
 - Violations can result in additional violations
- Case-by-case basis and modify language as appropriate
- Inform appropriate parties - campus police, and housing and faculty as needed

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26

27

Recommendations

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27

28

Recommendations

- Training
 - Signs of dating violence
 - Lethality Assessment Program
 - Predominant aggressor
 - Electronic communications
- Threat assessment team and system
- Communication with appropriate offices
- Face-to-face interviews
- Adjudication - Restorative Justice practices

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28

29

Final Thoughts

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29