

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

2022 - 2023 Youth Survey Fact Sheet

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/data/youth-survey



Insights

In 2022, the share of youth who reported sexual violence by someone they went out with had declined from 2021.



66%

of students who were ever **verbally abused by their partner** also **said they felt sad or hopeless** for two or more weeks in a row

(vs. **27%** of those who were never verbally abused by their partner)



40%

of students who **went out with someone** and were **subjected to sexual violence seriously considered suicide**

(vs. **12%** of those who went out with someone but were not subjected to sexual violence)



21%

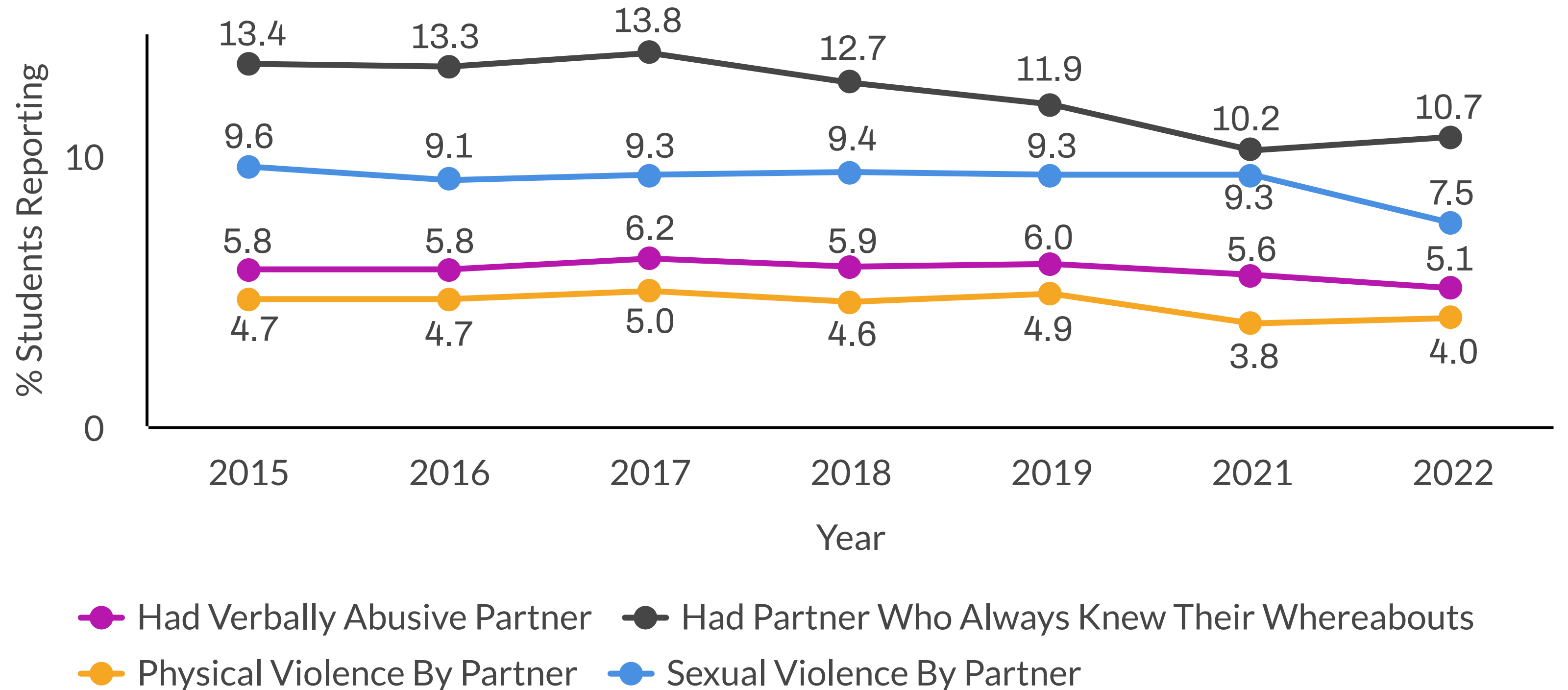
of those who were **physically or emotionally abused at home** were also **subjected to physical and sexual violence by their partner**

(vs. **6%** of those who were not abused at home)

1

Trends

The reported rates of abusive dating behaviors, including sexual and physical violence among those dating, had been generally declining since 2015.

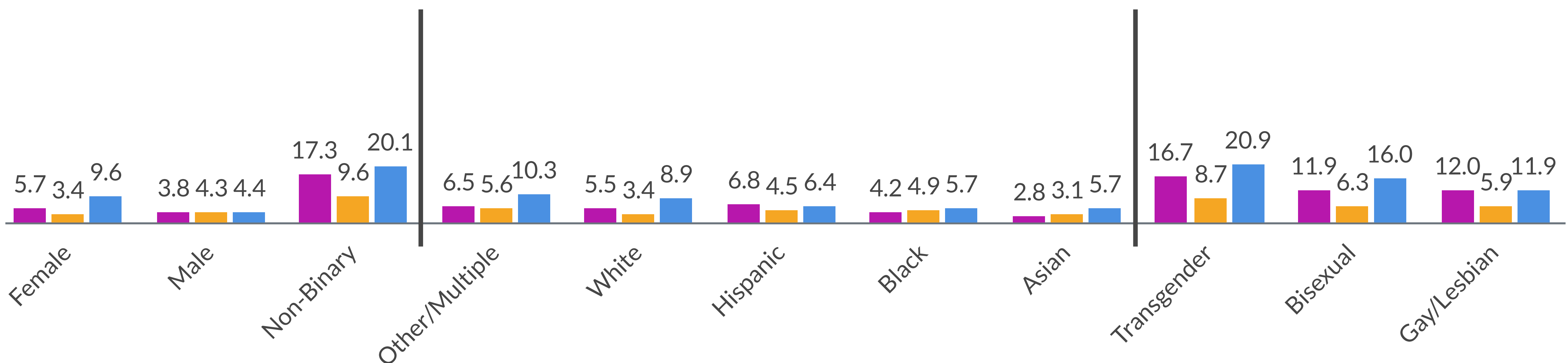


2

Differences by Demographic Factors

Female, Non-binary, and LGBT students were more likely to report being physically or sexually abused by their partner in the past year. Hispanic students and students of other or multiple races were more likely to report ever having a verbally-abusive partner.

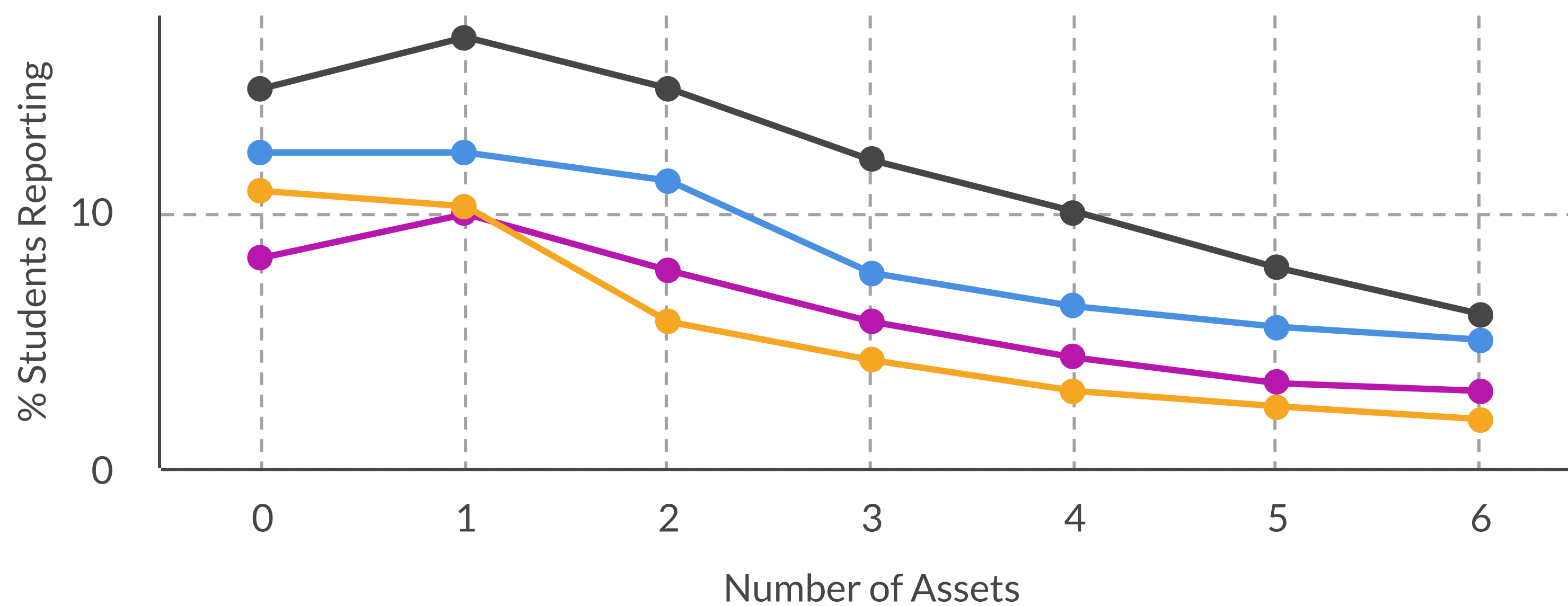
Legend:
■ Had Verbally Abusive Partner
■ Physical Violence By Partner
■ Sexual Violence By Partner



For comparison: Heterosexual: Had verbally abusive partner - 3.9%, Physical violence by partner - 3.5%, Sexual violence by partner - 5.2%; Non-transgender: Had verbally abusive partner - 4.7%, Physical violence by partner - 3.8%, Sexual violence by partner - 6.8%.

All data are self-reported and are from the 2022 - 2023 Youth Survey for 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students. The survey was not administered in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey asks questions on whether the respondent ever had a partner who always wanted to know their whereabouts and whether they ever had a partner who called them names or put them down verbally. In 2022, about 40% of the students said they had gone out with someone in the past year. Among those who said they went out with someone, the experience is considered physical violence if their date physically hurt them on purpose at least once in the past year, and sexual violence if their date forced them to do unwanted sexual things at least once in the past year.

3 Three to Succeed



● Had Verbally Abusive Partner ● Had A Partner Who Always Knew Their Whereabouts
● Physical Violence By Partner ● Sexual Violence By Partner

Data shows that having at least three of the six protective factors, or assets, helps to build personal resilience among the youth:

- Accepting responsibility for one's actions
- Having teachers recognize good work
- Participating in extracurricular activities
- Performing community service
- Having community adults to talk to
- Having parents available for help

Be an asset in a young person's life and help build a stronger, more positive community for all.

4 What Can We Do?

Teach Healthy Relationships

- Explain to your teen that **healthy relationships allow all people involved to feel supported and connected, but still feel independent.**
- Emphasize that **everyone is deserving of healthy relationships, including mutual respect, trust and honesty.**
- **Engage in conversations related to healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent.** Use TV, music, and movies as conversation starters to discuss healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- **Set healthy boundaries** with friends and partners.

Know Abuse Warning Signs

Dating Partner Behavior:

- Extreme **jealousy** or possessiveness.
- **Constant checking in** through phone calls and text messages.
- **Expecting partner to provide passwords and login information.**
- **Requiring partner to share location** through cell phone.
- **Isolating partner** from family or friends.
- Repeated **name calling** and put-downs.
- **Controlling partner's choices or actions.**
- **Loss of temper** or violent behavior.
- **Pressuring or forcing partner into sexual activity,** or sharing sexual content against without consent.

Victim Behavior:

- **Apologizing/making excuses** for partner's behavior.
- **Concern over angering partner.**
- **Giving up important things/loss of interest** in activities.
- **Dramatic changes** in weight (up or down), appearance, dress or grades.
- **Unexplained injuries.**

If You Are Concerned

- **Stay calm** and tell your teen you are concerned for his/her safety and you are there to **listen.**
- Let your teen know the abuse is not their fault and that **abuse is never okay.**
- If your teen is injured, go to your **doctor or the emergency room.**
- If your teen is in danger, **report the abuse to law enforcement.**
- **Contact a teen dating abuse hotline or helpline** to help your teen develop a personal safety plan and to get information or additional assistance.
- Your teen's safety is the most important thing of all. **Don't allow further contact with the dating partner.**

5 For Help & More Information

Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline

<http://bit.ly/fairfaxDV hotline>
24 hours/7 days
703-360-7273
TTY 711

Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC)

<http://bit.ly/fairfaxDVAC>
703-246-4573

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline

<https://www.loveisrespect.org>
24 hours/7 days
866-331-9474
TTY 866-331-8453
TEXT: LOVEIS to 22522

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline/PRS CrisisLink

<https://988lifeline.org>
24-Hr Response
988 or 703-527-4077

- **Fairfax County Prevention Unit:** <http://bit.ly/FairfaxPrevention>
- **Fairfax County Domestic & Sexual Violence Services:** <http://bit.ly/fairfaxOFWDSVS>
- **Veto Violence:** <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov>
- **Break the Cycle:** www.breakthecycle.org

- **Teen Dating Violence | Family Services** <https://bit.ly/DFSTeenDatingViolence>
- **Sexual Harassment | RAINN:** <https://www.rainn.org/articles/sexual-harassment>
- **Sexual Harassment and Sexual Bullying (for Teens) | Nemours KidsHealth:** <https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/harassment.html>