



Jackson County Department of Public Health

Anna Lippard
Deputy Health Director
828-587-8225

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February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

This February marks the thirteenth annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (TDVAM). Created in 2010 by Congress, TDVAM shines light on the occurrence of, prevention of, and ultimate cessation of Intimate Partner Violence among teenagers in our nation. Nationwide, youth age 12 to 19 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault. Studies show that approximately 10% of adolescent's report being the victim of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner during the previous year. Adolescents in abusive relationships often carry these unhealthy patterns of violence into future relationships. Indeed, children who are victimized or witness violence frequently bring this experience with them to the playground, the classroom, later into teen relationships and, ultimately, they can end up the victims and perpetrators of adult intimate partner violence. A positive intervention made as soon as possible offers the greatest opportunity for growth and healing and an honest, simple conversation can go very far in helping teens navigate relationships.

Considering this, this year's 2022 Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month theme is: Talk About It. Talk About It is a call to action for young people and those who support them to engage in meaningful conversations about healthy relationships and navigate what may be unhealthy or even abusive.

Together we can help all of our great nations youth have healthy relationships and become healthy and happy adult citizens. If you would like more information, and/or are in need of any assistance, please consider contacting Jackson County's own Center for Domestic Peace at <https://www.cdjaxcountync.org/services>, as well as their 24 hour hotline: (828) 586-1237.

For more information please go to <https://youth.gov> and <https://loveisrespect.org>.

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