



CRIME PREVENTION TIP SHEET



Teen Dating Violence

This month's crime prevention tip deals with Teen Dating Violence. Most teens either have experienced violence or witnessed it among their friends. Bill Cosby is quoted as saying that "The reason Teens and Grandparents get along so well is that they share a common enemy" Although funny it is true that teens will share feeling with grandparents more readily than their parents.

When talking to young people keep in mind that young women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of relationship violence. This type of violence can occur regardless of economic, racial, gender or social lines. Young people who experience relationship violence may think that the aggressive or possessive behavior of their partners as romantic.

Young people may fail to report this violence because their partner has cut them off from family and friends. If you have grandchildren or children dating stay in touch with them and if they suddenly stop communicating with you after starting a new relationship maybe you have cause for concern.

The best way to prevent teen violence is to educate them about how to identify the early warning signs of abuse and empower them to choose healthy relationships. Teens need to know they can report abuse and to have a safety plan if it occurs.

Being aware of Teen Dating Violence is important for teens, parents, and educators. Many national programs seek to teach teens to look for early warning signs and educate parents on how to handle the situation. The Safe Dates Project is a dating abuse prevention program designed to teach middle and high school students about the causes and consequences of dating abuse. The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline web site, www.loveisrespect.org, has tons of information for parents and teens. The helpline is a toll-free number for teens to talk with a trained Peer Advocate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Have a great safe and crime free month,

Ernie Long

Crime Prevention Officer