

HEALTH AWARENESS BENEFITS

PUTNAM COUNTY HOSPITAL



1542 S. Bloomington St., Greencastle, IN 46135
(765) 653-5121 or 1-800-394-9338

The Changing Face of



Domestic Violence

Increasingly difficult economic hardship has caused an increase in the amount of domestic violence rates among American families. Domestic violence is abuse by a caregiver, parent, spouse or an intimate partner. It has a strong affect on all members of the family, but a new study by the advocacy group Family Violence Prevention Fund and Liz Claiborne Inc. has found that domestic abuse has a profound effect on teen relationships.

According to the study, nearly half of all teens whose families experienced economic problems in the past year reported having witnessed their parents abusing each other. Those teens reported a higher incidence of abuse in their own relationships.

Your teen may be in an abusive relationship if he or she:

- Has bruises or other physical injuries that are unusual, or do not match the explanation of how the injury happened.
- Has a change in personality - particularly an outgoing and upbeat teen becomes quiet and withdrawn.
- Starts to have problems at school. Your teen begins to miss school, drop out of activities and grades begin to fall.
- Stops hanging out with his or her friends, and starts spending all free time with the romantic partner.
- Can't seem to make decisions for him or herself.
- Has a sudden change in the way he or she dresses or looks.
- Starts using drugs or alcohol.
- Gets pregnant. Forced sex can be a part of an abusive relationship.
- Starts showing signs of stress such as appetite changes, changes in sleep pattern, changes in mood-particularly being down, depressed, or anxious.
- Changes the way he or she uses the telephone, internet, cell phone or other technology. Your teen may be harassed, abused or intimidated by the dating partner through any of these new technologies.

Teens who have witnessed domestic violence and abuse will experience abuse themselves at a 50 percent higher rate than those who have not witnessed any.

Help is Available.

If you suspect domestic violence, please contact the Putnam County Hospital Emergency Department, your family physician or local authorities to report the incident and to have injuries evaluated.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse in your family, or know of someone who is, the Putnam County Family Support Services can give you the help and support you need.

Phone 765-653-4820 or 765-653-5115
24 hours a day

Free support and education groups are available at
4 West Washington Street, Greencastle.

Women, Teen, and Child support groups meet every Monday from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

By: S.J. Thomas

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health-care provider. If you have any questions about the disease described above, consult a health-care provider.