

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

This program was produced for use in classrooms, libraries, community centers, social service agencies, youth organizations, camps, teen groups and parent education centers, or for viewing by parents and teens together at home. Although its target audience is Middle School students & their parents, anyone who has regular contact with and a commitment to young people can benefit from this video as well. It is meant to be used as a part of a learning experience that begins before viewing the program and extends beyond the classroom walls. The discussion questions and follow-up activities are intended to enhance this learning experience. Educators and counselors planning to show *Loves Me Not* to teens may want to view the video in advance so that they can adapt their program follow-up to best suit the needs of their group. It is suggested that teens view the video under adult supervision.

OBJECTIVES

- * To spotlight & better recognize the signs of teen dating violence.
- * To examine the behaviors of both victim and abuser in order to more effectively connect with them in a Guidance / Counseling setting.
- * To examine what peers and educators can do to reach out to a teen they feel may be privately struggling in an abusive relationship.

SYNOPSIS

The 8th installment in the Award-Winning MAPLE AVE series, 'Loves Me Not' focuses on dating/domestic violence from the POV of a 17 year old deceased victim named Cari. Cari was relentlessly beaten by her boyfriend, Marcos and so viciously bullied by his friends after leaving him that she, ultimately, took her own life. Now Cari finds herself helplessly watching the same thing happen all over again to another girl, Sharon (Marcos' new girlfriend).

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> Between her manipulative and violent boyfriend and her self-absorbed parents, Sharon would appear to have the deck stacked against her - but her best friend, Tina refuses to give up on her. Even as Sharon pushes her away, Tina desperately searches for a way to save her friend from meeting the same fate as Cari.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

IN LOVE AND IN DANGER

A Teen's Guide to Breaking Free of Abusive Relationships

By Ms. Barrie Levy, M.S.W.

***TEEN DATING VIOLENCE FACTS**

**(taken from the American Bar Association's NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE © 2006)*

PREVALENCE AND FREQUENCY

☒ Teen dating violence runs across race, gender, and socioeconomic lines. Both males and females are victims, but boys and girls are abusive in different ways:

- Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves, pinch, slap, scratch, or kick.
- Boys injure girls more severely and frequently.
- Some teen victims experience violence occasionally; Others are abused more often...sometimes daily.

– *Teen Victim Project,” National Center for Victims of Crime, <http://www.ncvc.org/tvp>, (Last visited 10/5/04).*

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- > ☒ A comparison of Intimate Partner Violence rates between teens and adults reveals that teens are at higher risk of intimate partner abuse.

- Jay G. Silverman et Al, "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 286, 572, 576-577, (Nov. 5, 2001).

- ☒ Females ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group – at a rate almost triple the national average.

- U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Special Report: Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-99* (Oct. 2001, rev. 11/28/01).

- ☒ Approximately 1 in 5 female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.

- Jay G. Silverman, PhD; Anita Raj, PhD; Lorelei A. Mucci, MPH; and Jeanne E. Hathaway, MD, MPH, "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 286, (No. 5, 2001).

- ☒ Among female victims of intimate partner violence, a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend victimized 94% of those between the ages of 16-19.

- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 7, (2001).

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> ☒ Between 1993 and 1999, 22% of all homicides against females ages 16-19 were committed by an intimate partner.

- *Bureau of Justice Statistics Press Release, "Violence Rates Among Intimate Partners Differ Greatly According to Age," (10/29/01).*

☒ In a study of gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents, youths involved in same-sex dating are just as likely to experience dating violence as youths involved in opposite sex dating.

- *"Prevalence of Partner Violence in Same-Sex Romantic and Sexual Relationships in a National Sample of Adolescents," Halpern CT, Young ML, Waller MW, Martin SL, Kupper LL. Journal of Adolescent Health, Vol. 35, Issue 2, Pages 124-131, (August 2004).*

☒ Nearly one-half of adult sex offenders report committing their first sexual offenses prior to the age of 18.

- *Ron Snipe, et Al, "Recidivism in Young Adulthood, Adolescent Sexual Offenders Grown Up," 25 Criminal Justice & Behavior, 109, 117, (1998).*

☒ 58% of rape victims report being raped between the ages of 12-24.

- *Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), (2002).*

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> ☒ Half of the reported date rapes occur among teenagers.

- *California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) 2002 Report: Research on Rape and Violence, <http://www.uasasonoma.org/teensite/statistics.htm#Child/Teen%20Victimization>, (Last Visited 10/1/04).*

☒ Intimate partner violence among adolescents is associated with increased risk of substance use, unhealthy weight control behaviors, sexual risk behaviors, pregnancy, and suicide.

- *Molidor, Tolman, & Kober, (2000); National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, (2001).*

PARENTAL AWARENESS

☒ 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue.

- *"Women's Health," June/July 2004, Family Violence Prevention Fund and Advocates for Youth, <http://www.med.umich.edu/whp/newsletters/summer04/p03-dating.html>, (Last visited 9/23/04).*

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- > A majority of parents (54%) admit they've not spoken to their child about dating violence.

- Empower Program, sponsored by Liz Claiborne Inc. and conducted by Knowledge Networks, Social Control, Verbal Abuse, and Violence Among Teenagers, (2000).

TEEN AWARENESS

- Nearly 25% of 14-17 year-olds surveyed know at least one student who was a victim of dating violence, while 11% know multiple victims of dating violence. 33% of teens have actually witnessed such an event.

- Empower Program, sponsored by Liz Claiborne Inc. and conducted by Knowledge Networks, Social Control, Verbal Abuse, and Violence Among Teenagers, (2000).

- 20% of surveyed male students report witnessing someone they go to high school with physically hit a person they were dating.

- Tiffany J. Zwicker, Education Policy Brief, "The Imperative of Developing Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs in Secondary Schools." 12 Southern California Review of Law and Women's Studies, 131, (2002).

- 39% of female high school students report that students talk in school about whether someone is attempting to control the person they are dating.

- Tiffany J. Zwicker, Education Policy Brief, "The Imperative of Developing Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs in Secondary Schools." 12 Southern California Review of Law and Women's Studies, 131, (2002)

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> 57% of teens know someone who has been physically, sexually, or verbally abusive in a dating relationship.

- *Liz Claiborne Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, (February 2005).*

45% of girls know a friend or peer who has been pressured into either intercourse or oral sex.

- *Liz Claiborne Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, (February 2005).*

One in three teens reports knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped or physically hurt by their dating partner.

- *Liz Claiborne Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, (February 2005).*

In 9 out of 10 rapes in which the offender is under 18, so is the victim.

- *Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Fact Sheet on Violence: Adolescents & Young Adults, 5, (2002).*

INCIDENT REPORTING

When female high school students were asked whom they would talk to if someone they date is attempting to control them, insults them, or physically harms them, 86% percent said they would confide in a friend, while only 7% said they would talk to police.

- *Tiffany J. Zwicker, Education Policy Brief, "The Imperative of Developing Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs in Secondary Schools." 12 Southern California Review of Law and Women's Studies, 131, (2002).*

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- > ☒ 83% of 10th graders surveyed at the 4th Annual Teen Dating Abuse Summit reported that they would sooner turn to a friend for help with dating abuse than to a teacher, counselor, parent or other caring adult.

- *The Northern Westchester Shelter, with Pace Women's Justice Center, (April 2003).*

- ☒ Only 33% of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse

- *Liz Claiborne Inc., Conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, (February 2005).*

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- ☒ A study of 1,600 juvenile sexual assault offenders nationwide indicated that only around 33% of the juveniles perceived sex as a way to demonstrate love or caring for another person; 23.5% percent perceived sex as a way to feel power and control; 9.4% as a way to dissipate anger; 8.4% percent as a way to punish.

- *California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) 2002 Report: Research on Rape and Violence, <http://www.uasasonoma.org/teensite/statistics.htm#Child/Teen%20Victimization>, (Last visited 10/1/04).*

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- ☒ A University of Texas medical center study of new mothers, age 18 and younger, chronicled numerous reports of being slapped, hit, kicked or physically hurt by a husband or boyfriend. Most of the violent incidents occurred during the first three months after childbirth.

- *S. Harrykisson, M.P.H., V. Rickert, Psy.D. and C. Wiemann, Ph.D, (2002).*

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- > ☒ Both victims and abusers attribute the responsibility for violent dating behavior to victims, caused by: provocation by the girl; the victim's personality type; the girl's need for affection; communication problems; and peer group influence.

- Francine Lavoie et Al, *Teen Dating Relationships and Aggression*, (2002).

- ☒ 77% of female and 67% of male high school students endorse some form of sexual coercion, including unwanted kissing, hugging, genital contact, and sexual intercourse.

- M. Jackson, F. Cram & F.W. Seymour, *Journal of Family Violence*, (2000).

- ☒ Male peer support for violence against women is a constant predictor of male violence within post-secondary educational institutions.

- Martin D. Schwartz & Walter S. DeKerrseredy, "Aggregation Bias and Woman Abuse," (2000).

- ☒ 50% of youth reporting both dating violence and rape also reported attempting suicide, compared to 12.5% of non-abused girls and 5.4% of non-abused boys.

- M. Ackard, Minneapolis, MN, and D. Neumark-Sztainer, Division of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, "Date Violence and Date Rape Among Adolescents: Associations with Disordered Eating Behaviors and Psychological Health," *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 26 455-473, (2002).

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> THE LEGACY OF RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

- ☒ More than half of both prison and jail inmates serving time for violence against an intimate were using drugs, alcohol or both at the time of the incident for which they were incarcerated.

- U.S. Department of Justice, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/press/vi.pr>, (1998).
(Last visited 9/04.)

- ☒ The severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to increase if the pattern has been established in adolescence.

- S.L. Feld & M.A. Strauss, *Criminology*, 27, 141-161, (1989).

- ☒ Patterns of dating violence behavior often start early and carry through into adult relationships.

- V.A. Forshee et Al, *Health Education Research*, 11(3), 275-286, (1996).

- ☒ Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims: Many will continue to be abused in their adult relationships and are at a higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, and suicide.

- Jay G. Silverman PhD, et Al, "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, (2001).

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> CLASSROOM / GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you know or know of anyone who has been a victim or perpetrator of dating violence...?
2. Why do you think Sharon didn't go to her parents for help?
3. Why do you think Sharon gives Marcos a second chance after he so brutally assaults her? What would you have done in a similar circumstance & why...?
4. What more (if anything) could Tina have done to help Sharon? How would you help your friend in a similar situation...?
5. What more could be done to help Marcos?
6. What do you think happens after the film ends? How might the rest of the story play out...?

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Invite a local mental health professional to talk to your group more in-depth about the issues addressed in the film.
2. Write and perform a short prequel(s) and/or sequel(s) to 'Loves Me Not'. In the prequel, imagine key moments in Marcos and Sharon's family lives, exploring in more detail how their lives have been shaped by their respective family backgrounds. In the sequel, explore what happens to the characters after the film has ended.
3. Express the themes of the film in drawing/painting, music or dance, exploring the inner lives of Sharon & Marcos from more abstract vantage points.

NOTE: After the above performances / creative interpretations , an informed follow-up discussion is strongly recommended.