

Experience and specifics of work with victims of intimate partner violence among teens and young adults

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Specifics

Different risks and vulnerabilities related to their age

- necessity to cope with the natural changes connected to a complex transition from childhood to adulthood
- coping with violence means an extra burden

Specifics

Different risks and vulnerabilities related to their age

- age has an impact on their response to violence and whether they seek for help (peers, idols, etc.)
- lack of experience and information to deal with the situation

Specifics

Different risks and vulnerabilities related to their age

- Insufficiently developed coping mechanisms to cope with extremely stressful situations

Specifics

Young people are experiencing abuse in new ways

- new technologies and social media (posting of a personal video or pictures)
- smart phones - a good monitoring tool for perpetrator (still on-line, faster communication)

Specifics

Myths and stereotypes

- My partner is my only soul mate
- Jealousy means my partner loves me
- Love is powerful
- I can't have any secret in my relationship
- Suffering is a natural part of love

Specifics

Different impacts

(according to the British survey Save young lives)

- Adults suffer more by developing different psychological/ mental disorders
- Young people – self harming behaviour, eating disorders, alcohol and drug abuse

Specifics

Different needs

- ways to reach the target group
- motivation to seek help
- ways of effective communication
- target exactly the needs of young people

Specifics

Different needs

- more time to start trusting
- ways of communication - various applications - messenger, whatsapp, etc.
- to chat or to phone ?

Experience

Project Love and Respect focused on TDV

- gathering relevant data to support the need of focusing on the partner violence among teens and young adults
- question of target group addressing
- recommendations for professionals

Experience

Key role of peer consultants

- great awareness of target group needs
- effective transmission of information and awareness raising
- successful navigation to professional support , limits of help!
- „gate keeper“ role

Experience

Key role of peer consultants

- validate emotions
- make target group feel welcome and safe
- support good choices
- help reducing feelings of guilt
- provide with professional help contacts

Draft Definition

We define intimate partner violence among teens and young adults as repeated instances of physical, sexual, psychological or social abuse that take place either in person or online with the perpetrator using control and power, and taking advantage of high emotional intensity typical for early romantic relationships, regardless of sex, gender, or sexual orientation of either of the partners.

Sources

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Thank you for your attention

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