

From research to action: Disrupting teen economic abuse among dating partners

CREATE YOUR OWN UNIVERSE
a project by teens for
teens and the adults who
support them

Actions for Parents

68%

of teens surveyed reported experiencing some form of interference or sabotage at school

67%

of teens surveyed experienced some form of interference or sabotage with employment

65%

of teens surveyed experienced some form of financial control or exploitation

70%

of teens who dated in the previous year reported experiencing dating violence

You can help

survey respondents stated that parents and guardians help shape their views

Healthy Relationships

81%

Gender Roles

78%

Financial Management

79%

Despite common misconceptions, teens reported that not only would they reach out if they were experiencing economic abuse, with the majority of them indicating that parents and guardians would be who they contacted first.

To ensure that young people develop safe relationships, it is critical to educate teens about what healthy relationships, including financial management between partners, look like at various stages in their lives. For example, a healthy financial relationship between partnered adults includes sharing access to financial information, however this practice can be unsafe between teen dating partners. Teens should also have guidance on how to navigate when their education and career goals may conflict with their partner's vision for their future.

Economic abuse - when an individual interferes with their partner's education, employment, or finances - is common among teens, yet few recognize these harmful behaviors.

Action Steps

Beginning necessary conversations with your teens is incredibly important to maintain lines of communication. Expressing empathy, approaching them without judgment, and asking open-ended questions are just a few ways to begin these crucial conversations.



- 1** Start the conversation! Talk to your teen about respect, communication, trust, boundaries, honesty, and equality.
- 2** Discuss the signs of an unhealthy adolescent relationship and how partners may interfere with school, work, and finances.
- 3** Educate teens on the elements of a healthy financial relationship, what actions may be controlling, and how to set appropriate boundaries.
- 4** Approach any conversations empathetically, supportively, nonjudgingly, and displaying curiosity to create a space in which teens are more likely to be open and share
- 5** Develop next-steps collaboratively and respect their decision-making even when you disagree with them.

Access resources and learn more:
endteeneconomicabuse.org