



# Media Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Creating Green Dots to End Dating Violence

Dating violence is more prevalent than most people believe. Here are a few facts:

- More than one in ten teens who have been on a date have also been physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year.<sup>1</sup>
- One in three girls in the US is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.<sup>2</sup>
- Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence, almost triple the national average.<sup>3</sup>

Teen dating violence has long-lasting repercussions. Teens who experience dating violence are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, and further domestic violence.<sup>4</sup> Teen girls who experience violence in relationships are six times more likely to get pregnant.<sup>5</sup>

Teens, adolescents, and young adults spend the majority of their time on a school campus. When an act of violence (sexual assault, partner violence, or stalking) happens on campus, there is almost always a bystander who is in a position to notice a high risk behavior and potentially do something to help. However, all too often, as bystanders, teens aren't sure what to do or how to intervene.

Green Dot, a bystander intervention training, is equipping teens and young adults with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and effectively intervene. Using this approach, schools identify key student leaders who are trained to recognize situations that could lead to an act of violence (a red dot) and how to safely and effectively intervene (a green dot). The idea is that one by one, individuals in spheres of influence will start creating green dots in their school or community thereby changing the culture in the school.

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<sup>1</sup> Grunbaum JA, Kann L, Kinchen S, et al. 2004. *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2003*. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. 53(SS02); 1-96. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5302a1.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Davis Antionette, MPH. 2008. Interpersonal and Physical Dating Violence among Teens. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency Focus. Available at [http://www.nccd-crc.org/nvvd/pubs.2008\\_focus\\_teen\\_dating\\_violence.pdf](http://www.nccd-crc.org/nvvd/pubs.2008_focus_teen_dating_violence.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice and Statistics, *Intimate Partner Violence in the United States, 1993-2004*. Dec. 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Jay Silverman, Ph.D.; Anita Raj, Ph.D.; Lorelei A. Mucci, MPH; Jeanne E. Hathaway, MD, MPH, "Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality" *JAMA*. 2001; 286(5):572-579. Doi:10.1001/jama.286.5.573

<sup>5</sup> Decker M, Silverman J, Raj A. 2005. *Dating Violence and Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV Testing and Diagnosis Among Adolescent Females*. *Pediatrics*. 116: 272-276.

To learn more about Green Dot, visit [www.livethegreendot.com](http://www.livethegreendot.com). If you are interested in bringing Green Dot to your school, contact NNADV at [info@nnadv.org](mailto:info@nnadv.org).

More information and resources regarding teen dating violence can be found at <http://www.nnadv.org/resources>.

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence was founded in 1980 to help Nevada's communities respond effectively and creatively to the needs of domestic violence victims. In addition to assisting in the establishment of domestic violence advocacy and response programs in areas lacking services, NNADV has worked to improve existing domestic violence resources statewide by providing technical assistance, training, legislative advocacy, funding resources and community education. To locate the nearest domestic violence services agency to you, please visit <http://www.nnadv.org/membership>.

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