



The Maryland State Medical Society

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FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE, February 14, 2013 — February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month which is a national effort to help raise awareness and protect teens from violence. MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society wants you to know that there's a lot you can do as a parent to prevent teen dating violence and abuse.

One in 10 teens reported being physically abused by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the last year. One of the most important things you can do is keep the lines of communication open with your kids.

Take steps to make a difference:

- Be a role model – treat your kids and others with respect.
- Start talking to your kids about healthy relationships early – before they start dating.
- Get involved with efforts to prevent dating violence at your teen's school.
- Call the National Dating Abuse Helpline at 1-866-331-9474 or text "loveis" to 77054, if you are worried about your teen.

You can help keep your loved ones safe and healthy.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.