



# State of Utah

## Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council

**Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.**  
Governor  
**Susan V. Burke**  
Director  
**Diane Ngatuvai**  
USAAV Assistant

East Capitol Complex, Suite 330 • Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  
801-538-1031 • Fax: 801-538-1024 • [www.usaav.utah.gov](http://www.usaav.utah.gov)

## Utah and Teen Dating Violence

### What is Teen Dating Violence?

Dating violence means verbal, emotional, psychological, physical, or sexual abuse of one person by another in a dating relationship. A dating relationship is a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature and does not include a casual relationship or ordinary fraternization between two individuals in a business or social context.

### Types of Dating Violence

Dating violence takes on the form of verbal, physical, emotional or even sexual abuse. It's a pattern of behavior used by someone to maintain control over his or her partner. In an abusive relationship, one partner is afraid of or intimidated by the other. Form of dating violence include:

- Name calling and put downs
- Other types of verbal abuse
- Extreme jealousy
- Controlling behavior – telling you where you can go and who you can hang out with
- Shoving, pinching, being held down
- Hitting, punching, leaving bruises
- Unwanted touching
- Sexual abuse

### Scope of the Problem in Utah

In Utah, there are no data sets available to identify the scope of dating violence among the teen population. Yet, individuals and organizations that work with teens and teens themselves recognize that a problem does exist in our state. In a recent informal survey of teens from across Utah, 50% stated that there is a problem with teen dating violence in their community.

Utah has only started to begin to collect information on teen dating violence in the last two months, and the data is very limited at this point. For example, the Domestic Violence Hotline has begun tracking calls related to teen dating violence. Since February 2005, five such calls have been documented. The hotline, however, has not been advertised to teens as a resource for information and help on dating violence. Therefore, the number of calls identified to date can not accurately represent the scope of the problem in Utah.

Despite the lack of teen dating violence statistics in our state, we know victims and perpetrators of dating violence have a higher risk of becoming adult victims and perpetrators. Last year in Utah, the Domestic Violence Hotline logged a total of 2,288 calls. Our shelters served a total of 11,350 individuals and housed 5,471 victims. Another 1,592 were turned away because the shelters were full. And the most chilling statistic is that last year 23 individuals were murdered in domestic violence related homicides.

## Utah's Response to Teen Dating Violence

Utah sent a team to participate in the American Bar Association's 2004 National Teen Dating Violence Prevention Summit. Since the summit, the following activities have taken place:

- Formed a Teen Dating Violence Prevention Workgroup, a collaborative effort with the Utah Domestic Violence Council, Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council, and the Utah Sexual Violence Council. The goals of the workgroup are to assess the problem, develop a legislative response to teen protective orders, and improve education and awareness about the problem.
- Conducted an informal survey of Utah teens about the prevalence of dating violence.
- Conducted an assessment of how to institute model programs for teen dating violence.
- Examining Utah's current protective order laws and how to strengthen the law to address teen dating violence.

## Members of Utah's Teen Dating Violence Prevention Workgroup

**Judy Kasten Bell**  
Executive Director  
Utah Domestic Violence  
Council

**Kristin Brewer**  
Director  
Guardian Ad Litem

**Susan Burke**  
Director  
USAAV Council

**Patsy Chandler**  
Utah State PTA  
Student Involvement  
Commission

**Laurel Duncan**  
Executive Director  
Utah Coalition Against  
Sexual Assault

**Brandy Farmer**  
Chair, UDVC  
Utah Attorney General's  
Office

**Anna Fondario**  
Utah Department of Health  
Injury Epidemiologist  
Violence and Injury  
Prevention Program

**Katie Gregory**  
Assistant Juvenile Court  
Administrator

**Barbara Higgins**  
Child-At-Risk/ Victim  
Advocate  
Sandy City Police Dept.

**Kristine Knowlton**  
Utah Attorney General's  
Office

**Verne Larsen**  
Utah State Office of  
Education

**Marti Liccardo**  
Utah Coalition Against  
Sexual Assault

**Rep. David Litvack**  
House of Representatives

**Amber McKee**  
Utah Domestic Violence  
Council

**Jennifer Mayfield**  
Adolescent Health  
Health Department

**Pat Merkley**  
YWCA

**Marty Olsen**  
Chairman, ABA's  
Meeting the Legal Needs of  
Children

**Asha Parekh**  
Safe at Home Coalition

**Craig PoVey**  
Prevention Specialist  
Utah Division of Substance  
Abuse and Mental Health

**Ken Roach**  
Salt Lake County Youth  
Services

**Ned Searle**  
State Domestic Violence  
Director  
CCJJ

**Sarah Southerland**  
Advocate