



FUTURES
WITHOUT VIOLENCE

ACTION GUIDE

**TO END TEEN
ECONOMIC ABUSE**

TEEN ECONOMIC ABUSE

What is it?

Teen economic abuse is a form of dating violence that involves the use of financial control to **create dependency** and **block pathways** to **safety** and overall **well-being**.



This abuse may **disrupt critical areas** of a teen's life including their job, finances, or education. It can cause **long-term harm** such as damaged credit or delayed career development.

Is it common?

We surveyed 3,000 teens to better understand how economic abuse disrupts critical areas of their lives. They reported experiencing the following behaviors by their dating partners:



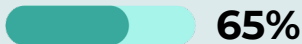
68%

Education Interference



67%

Employment Sabotage



65%

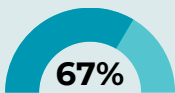
Financial Control

EDUCATION INTERFERENCE

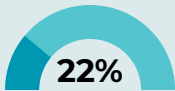
What can it look like?

When one partner pressures or tries to convince the other to:

- take the same classes
- take time away from studying to spend more time together
- skip class or school
- drop out of school
- quit an important extra-curricular activity or club
- participate in the same activities
- change their post-graduation plans



67% of teens said their partner tried to convince them to skip class or school.



22% of teens did skip class or school because they felt threatened, scared, or bullied by their partner.



60% of teens said that their partner tried to convince them to change their post-graduation plans.

EMPLOYMENT SABOTAGE

What can it look like?

When one partner pressures or tries to convince the other to:

- not have a job when they want one
- get a job when they did not want one
- not go to work when scheduled to be available to their partner via text or cell while working
- change work schedule or the number of hours they work
- change jobs
- work at the same place as they do
- quit their job



of teens said their partner tried to convince them to skip their shift.



of teens did skip their shift because they felt threatened, scared, or bullied.



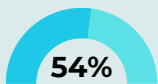
of teens shared that a past or current partner discouraged or put them down for working towards their career goals.

FINANCIAL CONTROL

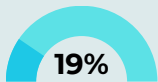
What can it look like?

When one partner pressures or tries to convince the other to:

- hold onto or manage their money
- buy them things when they didn't want to or give them money
- pay for most or all dates/activities they do together
- tell them what to spend their money on
- loan them money when they can't or won't pay them back
- share bank account information



of teens said that their partner pressured them to do something they were uncomfortable with to earn money



of teens did what their partner said because they felt threatened, scared, or bullied.

What can it sound like?

“ _____

_____ ”

“I don't like that your team is co-ed. I just get so upset at the idea of another guy spending time with you. You should find a team that is only women.”



“I signed you up for the same classes as me. I just hate that I don't get to see you all day.”

Picking a fight the night before a big project or job interview.

“You're working too much. Don't you care about our relationship? Maybe you should quit your job.”

Supporting Teens: CUES Intervention

Confidentiality



Ensure a private and safe space for teens to share concerns. Be clear about mandatory reporting requirements before discussing financial control or relationship challenges.

Universal Education + Empowerment

Provide all teens with information on healthy and unhealthy financial behaviors in relationships. Use tools like safety cards to guide discussions on recognizing economic abuse and its impact.



Support

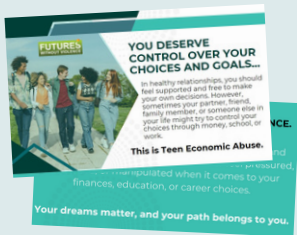
The goal is not to force disclosure but to offer support. If a teen shares concerns, listen non-judgmentally and explore options prioritizing their safety. Connect them with trusted resources or crisis support, and offer follow-up check-ins.

TAKE ACTION

1. Identify signs of economic abuse, such as changes in attendance, academic performance, or signs of financial distress, and **intervene early** when recognized.
2. Provide trauma-informed support and information for teens with **CUES intervention** and **Safety Cards**.



3. Foster an **open dialogue** about healthy relationships, financial safety, and the warning signs of economic abuse, ensuring teens feel supported and heard.
4. Implement awareness campaigns using resources like the **Campus Action Toolkit**, incorporating youth-led activities and digital outreach to engage your community.



To access the Safety Cards
and Campus Action Toolkit
please scan the QR code
below:



RESOURCES

Love is Respect 1.866.331.9474

loveisrespect.org 24/7 confidential support for teens and young adults about healthy relationships and dating abuse. Offers text, phone, and online chat.

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1.800.799.7233

<https://www.thehotline.org/> 24/7 confidential support for survivors of domestic violence, providing resources, guidance, and safety planning. Offers phone, text, and online chat.

Advocates for Youth

advocatesforyouth.org works with young people to fight for sexual health, right, and justice; amaze.org provides age-appropriate, nonjudgmental information about puberty, relationships, and sexual health.





**To learn more or access
additional resources please
visit us at:**

<https://futureswithoutviolence.org/>

