

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

*Among high schoolers, **21% of female students and 10% of male students** have experienced physical and/or sexual dating violence.*

February, 2021, Austin, Texas — Many students are no longer attending school in person, but the need to educate youth about healthy relationships has not gone away. Violence in the home has surged during the pandemic—SAFE has seen a 20% increase in calls to our SAFELine, most of which are domestic violence related. Children and young adults are learning from the interactions they experience in the home.

All February long, SAFE's Expect Respect program is embracing technology to spread the word about healthy teen relationships. The lineup for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month includes online theater performances, virtual trainings for youth and adults, podcasts, online panels, and more. Check below for upcoming February events.

Media opportunity: Youth who are involved in the Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble, a collaboration of Creative Action and Expect Respect, will be available for interviews throughout the month of February to discuss healthy relationships. Members of SAFE's Expect Respect team and other SAFE staff will also be available. Please contact SAFE Communications Coordinator Antwon R. Martin at amartin@safeaustin.org or 512.772.9374 for more information.

Upcoming events

Starting Feb. 1 – What is Love? Take a Dive into Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships

– An asynchronous training for youth and adults [available now on nearpod.com](https://nearpod.com). Use code QZE8N in "Students Join a Lesson" field to join. Code will be active through Feb. 28

Available Feb. 9 – Down the Rabbit Hole: Prevention during the Pandemic – A podcast for advocates [available here starting Feb. 9](#). Hosted by the Texas Council on Family Violence.

Feb. 10 – Online Hate Uncovered: From Real Life Stories to Real World Solutions – A virtual panel for adults at **3:30 p.m. CT on Feb. 10**. Hosted by the Austin Anti-Defamation League. To attend, [RSVP here](#).

Feb. 18 – Showmance: When Jealousy Takes the Stage – A theater performance over Zoom at **7-8:30 p.m. CT on Feb. 18**. Performance by Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble, a collaboration of Creative Action and Expect Respect. To attend, [RSVP here](#).

Feb. 20 – Where's Your Line? (for students) – An interactive educational program for teens using digital storytelling, virtual activities, and facilitated discussion at **7-9 p.m. CT on Feb. 20**. To attend, [RSVP here](#).

Feb. 23 – Emergent Strategies: Prevention during COVID Pandemic – A web conference for advocates at **noon-1:30 p.m. CT on Feb. 23**. Hosted by PreventConnect. [More info here](#).

Feb. 25 – Where's Your Line? (for adults) – Training for parents, teachers, advocates, and service providers at **10:30 a.m.-noon CT on Feb. 25**. To attend, [RSVP here](#).

About Expect Respect

Serving the Austin area since 1989, Expect Respect works to promote healthy relationships and prevent violence and abuse among children and teens. We provide innovative, research-based programs and trainings and collaborate with schools, health care, law enforcement, and other youth-serving organizations to create a safer environment for all young people. Learn more at safeaustin.org/expectrespect.

About Creative Action

Founded in 1997, Creative Action is the largest arts education organization in Central Texas. Professional Teaching Artists, who position themselves as guides and facilitators, create dynamic learning experiences where Creative Action students engage with various art forms as they strengthen their creativity, confidence, courage, and critical thinking skills. Core programs include school-based instruction to support campus success, after school youth development classes, and intergenerational opportunities based in the community to support positive social change. Those that participate in Creative Action programming further develop their creative expression, commitment to social justice, and social-emotional skills—attributes highly valued and sought after in the 21st century. Learn more at creativeaction.org.

About SAFE

At SAFE, we strive to provide safety, stability, and healing for children, adults, and families that have experienced violence and abuse. We do this by providing shelter and housing, support services, and prevention programs to stop the cycle of violence. Learn more at safeaustin.org.