

# Lakeview Center



BAPTIST HEALTH CARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

**Pensacola, Fla. (February 3, 2020)** – According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 9% of high school students report being hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend. These behaviors are meant to hurt, intimidate, frighten and ultimately, control. Often, it works. Most teens don't report dating violence because they are afraid to tell anyone. February is a time to increase awareness to this topic and support teens by showing them how to identify dating violence and where to turn for help.

### Fast Facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Dating violence isn't always physical. It can be emotional or sexual as well.
- Unhealthy relationships can start with playful name calling or teasing, before escalating to abuse.

Teen victims of dating violence are more likely to also experience depression and anxiety. They are more likely to engage in unhealthy behaviors like using tobacco, drugs or alcohol. Victims also are more likely to think about suicide.

### Some helpful resources can be found at:

- Lakeview Center Victims Services helpline 850.433.7273
- eLakeviewCenter.org has information about programs and services
- [cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datingmatters](https://cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datingmatters)
- [nsvrc.org](https://nsvrc.org)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800.799.SAFE (7233)
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800.656.HOPE (4673).

### CONTACT BELOW IS FOR MEDIA USE ONLY

For more information about this press release or to schedule an interview, please contact Tish Pennewill at 850.469.3621 or [Tish.Pennewill@bhcpns.org](mailto:Tish.Pennewill@bhcpns.org).

#### *About Lakeview Center, Inc. Behavioral Health*

*The Mission of Lakeview Behavioral Health is to help people throughout life's journey. We specialize in providing effective, research-based services for children and adults with mental illnesses, drug and alcohol dependencies, and intellectual disabilities. Our services range from inpatient and residential treatment to outpatient counseling, psychiatry, case management, day treatment, and round-the-clock support for those with serious mental illnesses. Additionally, Lakeview Behavioral Health provides specialized trauma services, medication-assisted treatment for opiate dependency, and medically supervised drug and alcohol detoxification. In all, Lakeview Behavioral Health offers more than 60 programs and services for people in the northwest Florida area. To learn more, go online to [eLakeviewCenter.org](https://eLakeviewCenter.org).*

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