



EMPOWERING Collegians about SAFE SMART DATING

The shocking statistics surrounding the pervasiveness, uncertainty and underreporting of sexual assault incidents on campuses across the United States are just a few reasons why Jewish Women International, Sigma Delta Tau and Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity created Safe Smart Dating, a program which brings male and female college students together to discuss and define healthy relationships and sexual violence.

Safe Smart Dating was piloted in 2013-14 and rolled out to Greek communities on 11 campuses this year.

Safe Smart Dating provides a framework to help collegians:

- Look for abuse in their own or their friends' relationships through the lens of power and control.
- Think critically about sexual assault and consent.
- Intervene in situations of sexual assault and dating abuse.

This program boldly tackles pressing issues including alcohol and sexual assault, victim-blaming and the unique dynamics of abusive relationships on college campuses. Participants are engaged with real-time text surveys about their experiences, a video of young people talking about dating violence and engaging realistic scenarios, all led by coed facilitators.

A big part of the program is dedicated to defining and discussing dating abuse and sexual assault by exploring gender norms and considering elements of healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships.

Dating abuse is about power and control. There are many ways an abuser can use their power to control a victim: physical (e.g., slapping), emotional (e.g., threats), digital (e.g., tracking location) and/or sexual (unwanted interactions).

Sexual assault means that someone is threatened, coerced, or forced to engage in any type of sexual activity without their consent. It can include, but is not limited to rape, it can be unwanted touching, kissing or penetration (attempted or completed).

After discussing what abuse and assault look like, participants then explore what appropriate intervention looks like by learning how to start a conversation with both perceived victims and perpetrators, and what to do after those conversations if abuse is suspected.



Safe Smart Dating at Emory University

"This is a significant issue that collegiate women and men face on a daily basis. We hope this program will educate and empower young women and men to do the right thing, by respecting others, as well as themselves,"

– Debbie Snyder, Executive Director

"The program provided useful and practical information that was applicable to collegians. The technology used in the presentation showed the prevalence of unhealthy relationships and sexual assault among sorority sisters and friends within the room, and that truly helped students to understand the magnitude, and also the proximity of this problem. The brothers of Zeta Beta Tau were a great partner on this event, and added a lot to the conversation."

– Lindsay Baker, Delta Epsilon-Emory

43% of Women and **28%** of Men report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors that are physical, sexual, digital, verbal or controlling. **22%** of Women and **6%** of Men have been the victim of physical abuse, sexual abuse or threats of physical violence.*

*2011 College Dating Violence and Abuse Poll. June 2011. Knowledge Networks for Love is Respect/Liz Claiborne.