

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE**



Teen dating violence is a pattern of behavior where one person uses intimidation, threats of or actual physical, emotional or sexual violence in order to maintain power and control over their partner. One or both partners are teens.

→ sometimes called Adolescent Relationship Abuse

Occurs among mixed or same-gender couples, and in all ethnic, racial, cultural and economic groups

Stats

- Nearly 1 in 11 female teens and about 1 in 15 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year.
- About 1 in 9 female and 1 in 36 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year.
- 26% of women and 15% of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 18.
- The burden of Teen Dating Violence is not shared equally across all groups—sexual minority groups are disproportionately affected by all forms of violence, and some racial/ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected by many types of violence.
- 52% of teens who experience digital abuse are also physically abused. Teens who are physically or sexually abused have 6 times the risk for pregnancy and are twice as likely to contract STIs.
- The severity of intimate partner violence is often greater in cases where the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence.
- Only 9% of abused teens seek help, and rarely from a parent or teacher.
- In California, 1 in 3 students cannot identify a single caring adult in their lives.

How to respond

“There is no more effective neurobiological intervention than a safe relationship“

–Bruce Perry, PhD, MD, researcher & child psychiatrist

In CA, 1 in 3 students cannot identify a single caring adult in their lives (California Healthy Kids Survey). Which is why we need to educate adults comprehensively about the issue and build them up to become youth allies.

Understand YOUR limits and comfort level

- Appropriate confidentiality and reporting requirements should be clearly articulated to youth in a way that they can understand
- Affirm that our roles as adults require us to place safety as our number one priority
- Talk to youth about skill-building and building support systems
- Validate feelings
- Address issues of self-blame
- Don't minimize → their experiences and feelings are real
- Because of the modeling that often takes place in the home, media and in the broader culture, a critical part of intervention with youth is deconstructing unhealthy behavior patterns and gender norms

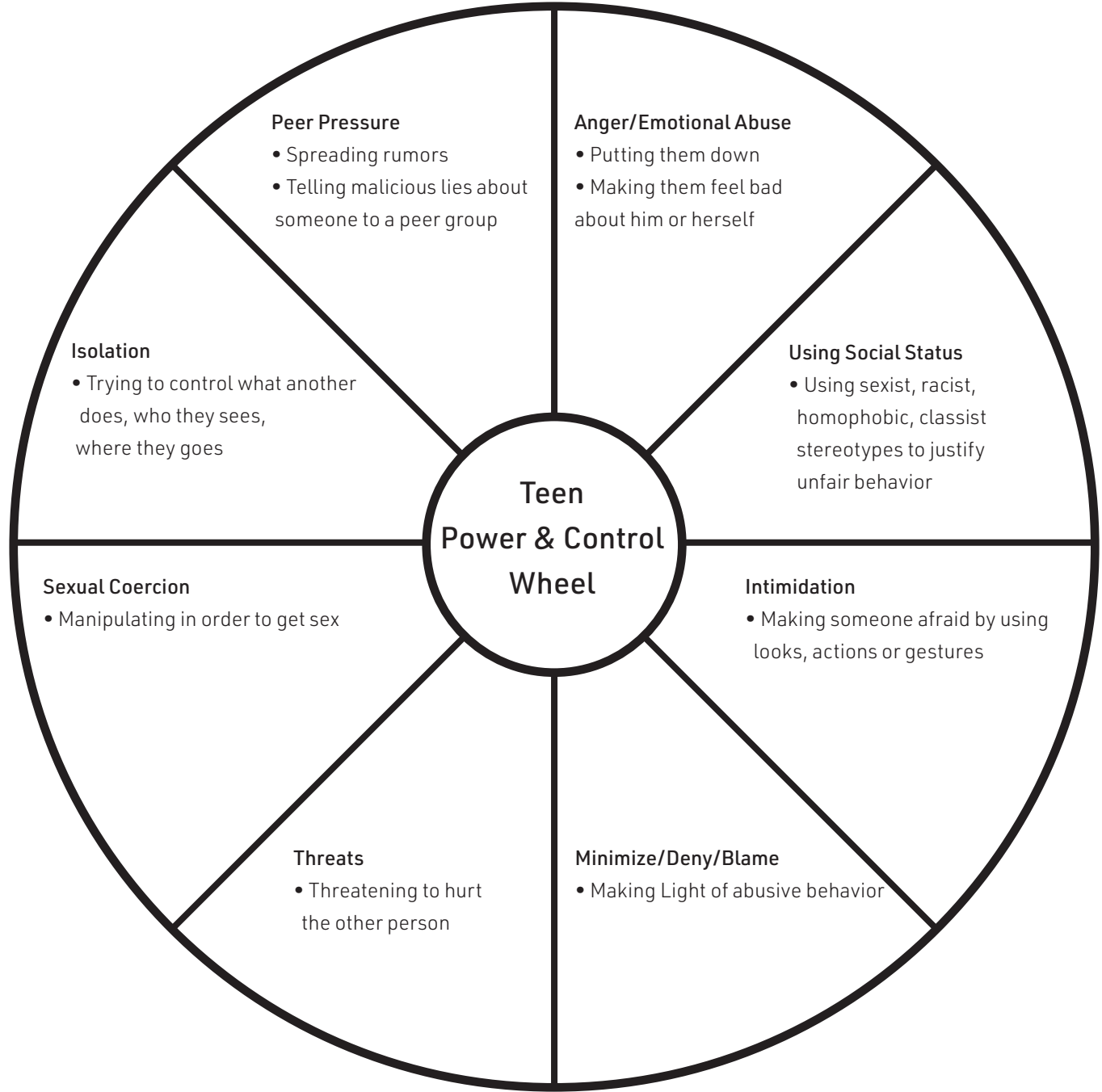
Possible School Accommodations to Consider

- Route changes
- To and from school
- To and from any classes
- Change of class seat assignment
- Change of locker assignment
- School-based stay-away agreement
- Change of class/class schedule
- Permission to leave class to see a counselor
- Excused absence for classes missed
- Make up class work missed
- Alternative education plan
- School transfer
- Other

The Spectrum of Prevention

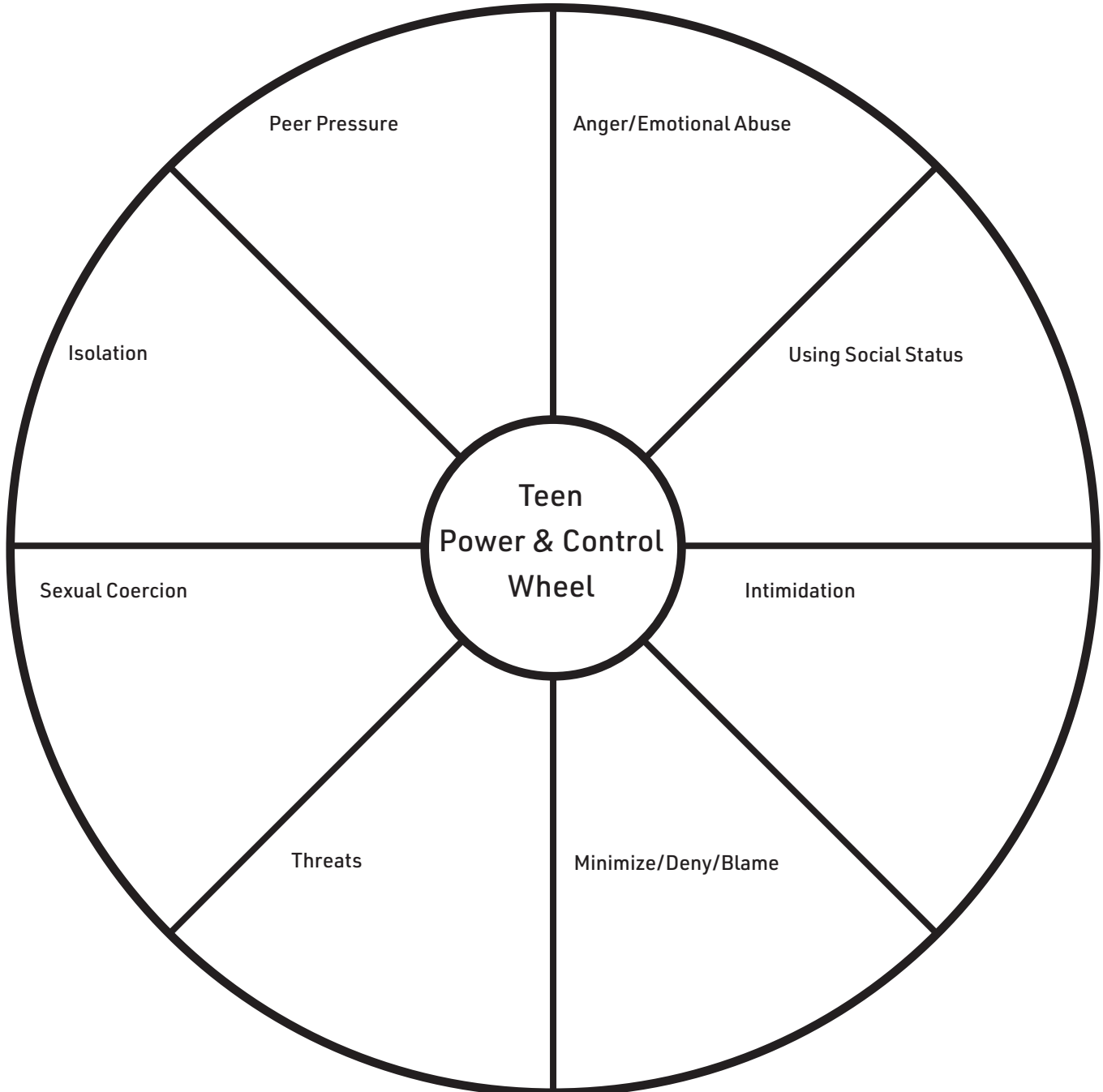


Teen Power and Control Wheel



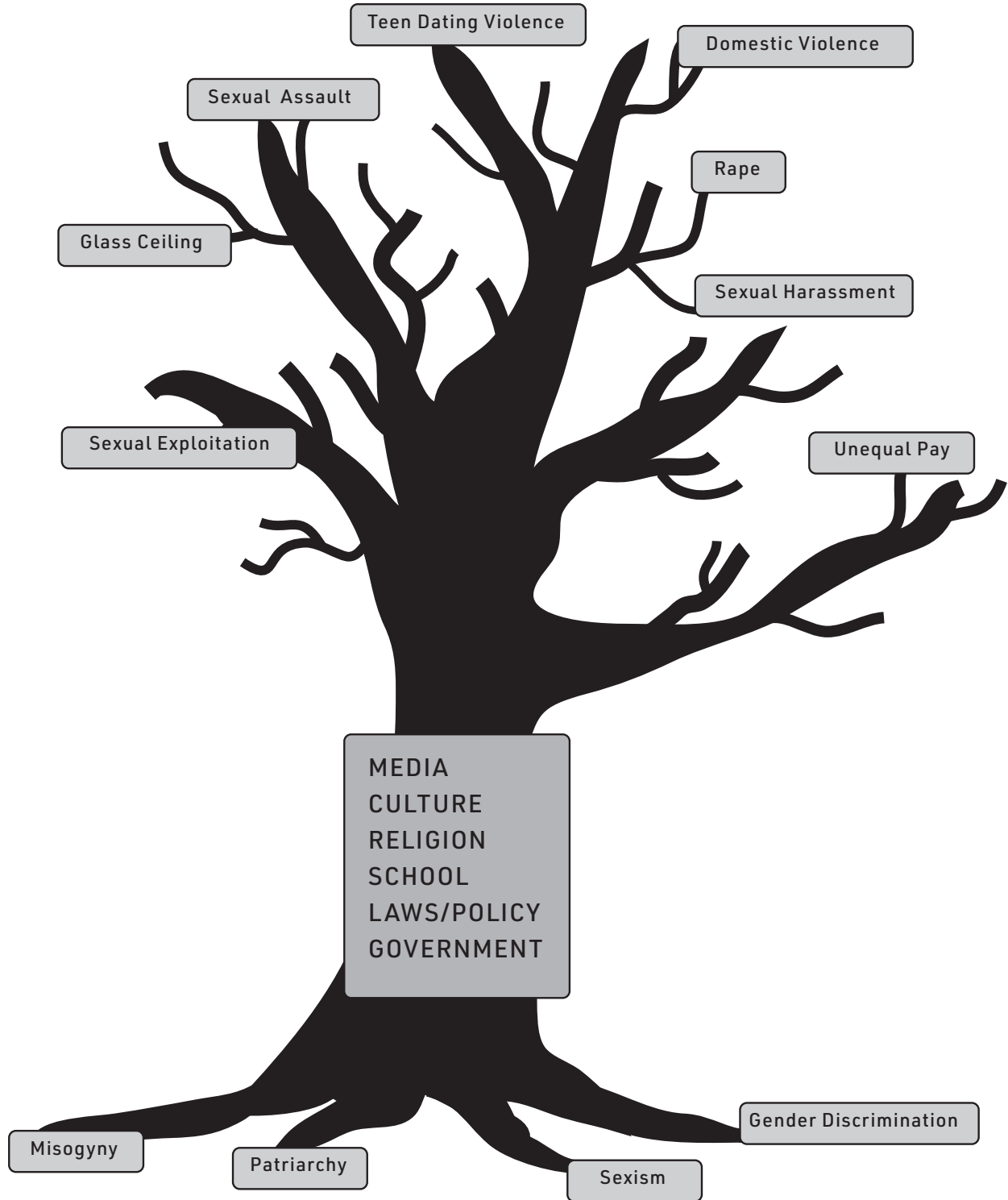
Adapted from the Power and Control Wheel, developed at the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth, Minnesota

Teen Power and Control Wheel



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Roots of Gender Oppression Sample



Roots of Gender Oppression

