

# MYLCNOTES

November 6, 2011

Sam Lyman of MYLC holding one of the hundreds of dating violence post-it notes that members will use to decorate bathrooms at Stamford High.

November 4, 2011



## Who Does Your Daughter Confide In?

*The important role of friends in teen dating violence*

So, who do teens talk to about the abuse in their dating relationships? The Liz Claiborne Foundation found that nationally 80 percent turn to their friends *first* for help.

“Do you need anything else to tell you why our classroom discussions and street outreach activities with people our age are so important?,” asked Sam Lyman of the Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council (MYLC).

Here are a few stats for parents to keep in mind when they talk to their daughters about their dating history.

According to the Family Violence Prevention Fund, the majority of teens who are in abusive relationships report that they have not talked to their parents about the relationships.

Of the fewer than one-third who have confided in their parents, 78 percent report staying in the

abusive relationship despite their parents’ advice.

“The numbers don’t lie,” said Sam, “and neither do stats about dating violence.”

The Centers for Disease found that ten percent of teens were in a physically violent dating relationship last year. The Connecticut Department of Public Health found that ten percent of the teens it surveyed were in a physically violent



**Jess Vitale (photo left) and her MYLC buddy Myuki Blois use post-it notes to write a story about dating violence. Hundreds of notes will be posted in bathrooms at Stamford High next week.**

*November 4, Stamford High*

**Officer Adriana Molina of the Stamford Police Department's SVU poses with Emily Pinto (left) and Maddie Dinucci after meeting with MYLC members.**

*November 3, Stamford High*



dating relationship last year; 17 percent were in an emotionally abusive dating relationship. But that's not all. Of the teens in Connecticut who were in an abusive dating relationships: 30 percent considered suicide; 25 percent made a suicide plan; and 20 percent attempted suicide.

Members of MYLC were reminded of these stats, and the role of friends in dating violence, as they listened to a presentation by Adriana Molina, an officer with the Stamford Police Department's SVU. "She reinforced a lot of the things we learned in the orientation when we joined MYLC," said Sam. "Finding a friend you can

talk to, identifying an adult you can trust and looking for legal help and counseling from a domestic violence agency are all important steps."

Officer Molina's presentation on November 3 was followed the next day by our Post-It Notes Project. "It's pretty simple," said Sam, "and really effective. I've been in the bathroom watching as girls read the messages about dating violence. Some shake their heads. Some write down the hotline number. And others make fun of the display. But at least people are reading the notes. That's all we care about."