



CHOICES is a short-term counseling program for boys ages 12 to 17 who have begun using verbal, emotional or physical abuse to gain power and control in their relationships with dating partners or family members. The program teaches boys the skills to develop and maintain healthy relationships. Addressing boys' abusive behavior while they are young can help prevent them from abusing their partners as adults and break the cycle of abuse.

Who are some of our participants?

John, a 16-year-old was referred by his high school for intimidating and verbally abusing his girlfriend.

Raj, a 14-year-old was referred for his verbal and emotional abuse of his mother and for physical abuse of his brother.

Ramone, a 17-year-old father of an 11-month-old son was referred by CP&P after physically abusing his partner in front of his child.

Chris, a 16-year-old was arrested and charged for physically abusing his girlfriend and was referred by his probation officer.

How does the program work?

A counselor meets with the client for an intake and then once a week for 12 individual sessions. The topics addressed are: understanding abuse; forming healthy relationships, jealousy and manipulation; accountability for behavior and preventing abuse, and communication/negotiation skills. Group sessions are available when a minimum number of clients is reached. Also, we provide support to parents & caregivers as well as training/case consultation to professionals working with teens.

Who can refer?

Representatives from Juvenile Courts, Probation, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P), schools, youth-serving agencies and parents/caregivers can make referrals to the **CHOICES** program.

What are the costs?

Fees are \$50 for the intake and \$30 per session. A reduced fee application is available for those with special financial needs.

CHOICES is a service of *Jersey Center for Non-Violence*,
a program of JBWS.

For services, please call 973-539-7801.