

## February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month



Since 2004, Congress has designated the first full week in February as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week." However, this year the Justice Department worked with the Senate to designate the entire month of February as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month."

### Vice President Biden's Statement on Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month

"After fifteen years of working to end domestic violence, we have learned that teens are not immune from abuse in relationships. Teen dating violence is all too common, and ends up leading to vicious and unhealthy cycles for years to come. Our responsibility - as parents, teachers, mentors, and community leaders - is to guide our young people towards respectful relationships free from harassment and abuse; teach them that it's ok to walk away from a bad situation; and encourage them to speak out when they see a friend in trouble. In many communities, teens themselves are leading the way in organizing their schools and communities to stand against violence. I commend them."

### Teen Dating Abuse: The Basics

Many teens report knowing a friend who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend. Whether you know them personally or not, teens at your own school might be in unhealthy relationships involving control, physical abuse and other behaviors. Now is the time for them to get help!!

Teen dating abuse isn't the same as having an argument every once in a while, or being in a bad mood after a bad day. Dating or relationship abuse is a pattern (meaning it happens time and time again) of controlling and abusive behavior. It can cause injury and even death - these are often the stories

that we hear on the news. But abuse doesn't have to be physical. It can be verbal and emotional - such as constant insults, not letting you hang out or talk to family and friends, controlling what someone wears, and making threats.

Constant texts or phone calls can be a way to monitor and control someone. Many teens send text messages - that is normal, but sending them repeatedly can become a form of stalking in which someone is trying to monitor the other person's whereabouts and activities. Sending rumors or sharing embarrassing pictures and private moments with others on cell phones and social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook can be other forms of abuse.

One National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline is called "loveisrespect". According to its site, it sees a steady stream of calls and chats from both teens and parents. Visitors to the [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) website continue to grow as word gets out about their special brand of advocacy, "peer advocacy". Peer advocates, between the ages of 16-24, offer support and referrals through the 24/7 telephone helpline and a live chat, between the hours of 4pm CST - 2 am. To contact the hotline, call 1-866-331-9474 (1-866-331-8453 TTY) or chat live at [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org).

Loveisrespect offers the following questions that can help you decide if your relationship is healthy or not. If you answer yes to even one of these questions, consider talking to a peer advocate:

#### Does your boyfriend/girlfriend:

- Look at you or act in ways that scare you?
- Act jealous or possessive?
- Put you down or criticize you?
- Try to control where you go, what you wear or what you do?
- Text or IM you excessively?
- Blame you for "making" them treat you badly?
- Threaten to kill or hurt you or themselves if you leave them?
- Try to force or guilt you into sexual activity?
- Try to stop you from seeing or talking to friends and family?

Sources:

[www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/January/10-asg-091.html](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/January/10-asg-091.html)

[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)



# Crime Statistics

2

## From February 1-15, 2010

### **Warrant Arrests:** 29

### **DUI Arrests:**

- Carter & Merriam Drive
- 8700 Block of W. 63rd Street
- 8600 Block of W. 63rd Street

### **Traffic Accidents:**

If it's snowy and icy out, it's safest to stay home if you can!!

- 9600 Block of W. 60th Street
- 7400 Block of W. Frontage Road (weather related)
- NB Ramp to SM Parkway
- 5500 Block of Antioch (non-injury hit and run))
- 75th & E. Frontage Road
- 6300 Block of Goodman (pedestrian (Jack Canada) fatally wounded by a hit and run driver; suspect has been located and an investigation is under way)
- 6800 Block of Farley Lane (weather related)
- SM Parkway & Robinhood Lane
- SM Parkway & Antioch (non-injury hit and run)
- NB entrance of I-35 from 75th Street
- 47th & Antioch
- 75th & I-35
- SB I-35 & Johnson Drive
- 63rd & NB I-35
- 8800 Block of SM Parkway

### **Suspicious Activity:**

- 8200 Block of W. 64th Terrace; victim saw male in his 20's looking in cars in his driveway; suspect left the scene

### **Disorderly Conduct:**

- 10200 Block of W. 49th Place - victim's car hit with eggs

### **Check The Welfare:**

- 6200 Block of Slater
- 9600 Block of W. 49th Street (Child in need of care)

### **Possession of Controlled Substance/ Drug Paraphernalia:**

- 7200 Block of Eby - marijuana and pipe found
- 55th & Hayes - suspect in possession of Marijuana
- 5200 Block of Knox - police rec'd a call regarding a suspect seen using illegal drugs; syringe found outside the property

### **Residential Burglary:**

- 6100 Block of Knox - damaged doorknob and stolen tools (were later recovered)
- 9200 Block of W. 72nd Street - storage locker tampered with
- 6900 Block of Benson - door pried open on empty home; no inside damages noted
- 6900 Block of Grandview - forced entry and stolen jewelry and jewelry box

### **Theft:**

- 6600 Block of E. Frontage Road - \$200 Bank card stolen from wallet

### **Business Burglary/Theft:**

- 6000 Block of Antioch - trailer license stolen
- 5300 Block of Merriam Drive - 6 cases of assorted snacks stolen from trailer
- 6900 Block of Antioch - door pried open; several hand and power tools stolen
- 8000 Block of SM Parkway - tool and wood flooring stolen from storage shed
- 8700 Block of SM Parkway - stolen video games
- 8300 Block of SM Parkway - suspect did not pay for \$3850 worth of auto repairs

(continued on next page)

## Crime Stats Continued...

### Auto Burglary/Damage:

- 10200 Block of W. 49th Place - van broken into; \$4,500 worth of tools stolen
- 9600 Block of W. 50th Terrace - window broken out of van; \$2,000 worth of tools/ladders stolen
- 5800 Block of Antioch - suspects seen trying to open car doors in parking lot; noted stealing from one. Both were apprehended
- 5500 Block of Antioch - 28 auto burglaries in parking lot between 2030-2100. Mostly small items were stolen and broken windows
- 5500 Block of Antioch - 2 children's jackets stolen from auto
- 7300 Block of W. Frontage Road - Honda Odyssey broken into; purse stolen
- 5600 Block of Perry Lane - power tools stolen from work van
- 5600 Block of Perry Lane - \$2400 worth of heating/cooling tools stolen from work van
- 5900 Block of Merriam Drive - windshield of vehicle smashed with rock
- 7300 Block of W. Frontage Road - stolen walled, digital camera and Nintendo DS from vehicle

### Auto Theft:

- Flatbed reported stolen Dec. 11, 2009 from the 1000th block of W. 75th Street was recovered in KCMO on Feb. 3
- 2004 Monte Carlo stolen Feb. 5; recovered in Independence, Missouri on Feb. 7
- Auto stolen in Overland Park on Feb. 5 was recovered near 65th Street in Merriam
- Vehicle stolen from Shawnee recovered in the 9200 Block of W. 50th Terrace

- 1990 Buick La Sabre stolen from the 10200 Block of W. 62nd Street; later recovered in KCMO
- 1991 Jeep Cherokee stolen in the 5500 Block of Antioch
- 1991 Jeep Cherokee stolen in the 5700 Block of Antioch



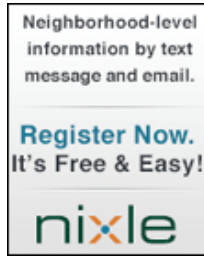
## Graffiti - Art or Not?

We've all seen it...those intricate, blocky, spray painted designs on train cars, along abandoned buildings, and on the concrete highway bridges. We've probably wondered who the "artists" are and why they leave their art behind (or to ride along thousands of miles of train tracks to be seen by people across the nation).

Graffiti has a long history. Some of it is done purely for the sake of self-expression and art. There are even designated Graffiti projects throughout our city (and many other major cities).

But when we start seeing it show up in random places on buildings, fences, and on other property around Merriam, it could signal trouble. Gangs often leave behind their "tag" (sort of like a signature) through graffiti. These "tags" are not just randomly spray painted symbols, letters and numbers. They are left to say, "we were here"...sort of a warning and a way to mark out their territory.

This is the type of "art" we don't want in our city. If you see any graffiti, please call the police as soon as you can and file a report. We have detectives on the force who specialize in gangs. They work hard to keep our city safe from gang violence and appreciate your help. You can also make an anonymous call to the TIPS Hotline - (816)474-TIPS.



The Merriam Police Department is trying to contact you...not because you're in trouble, but because there are times when something important is going on in the Merriam community that you need to know about as soon as possible.

It's free and it's easy to sign up for "Nixle", the service that lets you get these important news via text messages & emails. Sign up now at:  
**<http://local.nixle.com/register/>**

Whether you work, live, go to school, hang out with friends, shop, dine, or have family and friends in Merriam...Nixle is for you. **Don't receive today's pressing news tomorrow!**

## Why a Crime Bulletin?

### The Merriam Police Department operates under the "Community Policing Philosophy"...

This means we are committed to providing the highest quality of police services by partnering with you - the citizens of our community. Together, we work as a team to maintain a high quality of living in Merriam, keeping it a safe place to be. This crime bulletin lets us share information with you, helping us reach these goals. We hope you forward this to others who will find it interesting and useful!

The Police Department asks you to report any suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1. Go to:  
<http://www.merriam.org/MPD/Patrol/report-a-crime.htm> for ways to report non-emergency crimes.



**You can now subscribe to get the Merriam Police Department's crime bulletin sent directly to your email inbox!!**

**Sign up on the home page of the website at:**

**<http://www.merriam.org/MPD/>**



9010 W. 62nd Street  
 Merriam, Kansas 66202  
 Station: 913.322.5560  
 Dispatch: 913.782.0720  
 Emergency: 911  
[police@merriam.org](mailto:police@merriam.org)

Station Hours:  
 Mon. - 8AM to 6PM  
 Tues. thru Fri. - 7AM to 9PM  
 Sat. - 10AM to 6PM  
 Sun. - CLOSED

**Prepared by Suzette Mack**