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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENT

[www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov)

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## **Choose Respect Podcast Contest Open to Kansas Youth**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is collaborating with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to create a podcast series for the Choose Respect initiative. Kansans ages 11–16 are invited to enter a writing contest to develop scripts to ensure the series is youth-driven.

The Choose Respect initiative focuses on assisting youth in choosing healthy relationships and avoiding behaviors that would lead to future dating abuse. Each year, about 1 in 11 youth reports being a victim of physical dating abuse. Helping youth develop skills for healthy relationships can prevent many of these cases. Through the youth media project, KDHE and CDC hope to educate and engage youth around the issue of dating abuse. It will also provide them with skills to produce insightful and artistic media about the alternatives to abuse.

“Hopefully, the information provided and distributed through the Choose Respect project will help generate learning, understanding, and community debate to encourage further violence prevention efforts in Kansas,” said KDHE Secretary Roderick L. Bremby.

The entry deadline is April 20, and winners will be announced May 1. Please visit [www.kdheks.gov/idp/choose\\_respect\\_contest.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/idp/choose_respect_contest.htm) for contest instructions. The first 200 entries will receive a Choose Respect t-shirt. Five to ten submissions will be selected to use in whole or parts during the development of the podcast series. The selected students will be interviewed to expand on what they have written and to include their voices in the podcast. The winners will also each receive an iPod shuffle.

The Choose Respect initiative was launched in Kansas in June 2006. The national initiative includes a website that provides a variety of materials to inform youth, parents, and educators on choosing healthy relationships. For more information about the Choose Respect initiative, visit [www.chooserespect.org](http://www.chooserespect.org).

The Kansas Choose Respect initiative is coordinated through KDHE Injury and Disability Prevention Programs. For more information on injury and disability prevention, please visit [www.kdheks.gov/idp/](http://www.kdheks.gov/idp/).

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