

The Texas Law and the Texas Team's Teen Dating Violence Awareness Toolkit

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTIONS

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TRAINING OVERVIEW

- ✘ Learn the Prevalence and Impact of Teen Dating Violence
- ✘ Discuss Texas Education Code 37.0831
 - + intent and school compliance
- ✘ Overview: *Guide to Addressing Teen Dating Violence*
- ✘ Introduce and Review Contents of *Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Toolkit*
- ✘ List Available Resources

DATING VIOLENCE (TEXAS FAMILY CODE 71.0021)

- ✘ An act by an individual that is against another individual with whom that person has or has had a dating relationship and that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the individual in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE NATIONALLY

- ✘ 1 in 11 adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating abuse (CDC 2006)
- ✘ 1 in 5 female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner (J.E. Hathaway, L. A. Mucci, A.Raj, & J.G. Silverman, 2001).
- ✘ Acceptance of dating abuse among friends is one of the strongest links to future involvement in dating abuse (Bergman, 1992; Arriaga & Foshee, 2004).

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IN TEXAS

□ 75% report having experienced dating violence or knowing someone who has

□ 1 in 2 Texas teens reported having experienced dating violence personally

□ 60% of Texas females surveyed experienced dating violence

- verbal abuse
- physical violence
- sexual violence



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS

- ✘ Approximately 43% of teen dating violence victims reported that the dating abuse they experienced occurred in a school building or on school grounds (C.Molidor, R.M. Tolman, 1998).
- ✘ 20% of students impacted by violence find it hard to pay attention in school (American Association of University Women Educational Foundation)
- ✘ 16% find it hard to study (American Association of University Women Educational Foundation)

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE, A LASTING EFFECT

- ✘ Girls with a history of physical and sexual dating violence are significantly more likely to:
 - + Engage in substance abuse (binge drinking, cocaine use, smoking, and unhealthy weight-control behaviors)
 - + Engage in risky sexual behavior before age 15
 - + Have multiple sexual partners
 - + To have been pregnant (4-6 times more likely than non-abused peers)
 - + To have attempted suicide during the previous year (8-9 times more likely than non-abused peers)

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

37.0831

TEXAS EDUCATION CODE 37.0831

- The Texas Legislature has passed, and Governor Perry has signed, an act requiring each school district in Texas to adopt and implement a dating violence policy.
- Each school district's dating violence policy must:
 - include a definition of dating violence
 - address safety planning
 - include enforcement of protective orders
 - include school-based alternatives to protective orders
 - address training for teachers and administrators
 - address counseling for affected students
 - include awareness education for students and parents.

COMPLIANCE

- **Dating Violence Definition**
- Teen Dating Violence is defined as the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in a dating relationship, as defined by section 71.0021, Texas Family Code. Teen Dating violence is a pattern of coercive behavior that one partner exerts over the other for the purpose of establishing and maintaining power and control.

COMPLIANCE

✘ Address Safety Planning

- + A Safety Plan is a tool used to assess risk and identify actions to increase safety for victims
- + Includes important telephone numbers including law enforcement, helpline, community organizations, etc.
- + Identifies supportive peers and adults at home and school
- + Outlines specific strategies for avoiding the abuser, and getting help when needed

COMPLIANCE

✘ Enforcement of Protective Orders

- + Obtain copy of protective order
- + Communicate information to appropriate school staff to ensure enforcement of order at school
- + Meet separately with victim and offender to obtain agreement on terms of protective order and how it will be enforced on campus
- + Make changes as needed to schedules, classes, lunch times, etc.
- + Identify supportive adults on campus for both students

Contact the Texas Advocacy Project's Teen Justice Initiative for questions about Protective Orders and Youth

www.texasadvocacyproject.org

COMPLIANCE

- ✘ **School based alternatives to protective orders**
 - + Develop a system for students to report incidents and threats to administration (Complaint forms or Incident Reports)
 - + Develop an investigation protocol or checklist for administrators.
 - + Develop a school-based stay away agreement to require offenders to avoid victims or be subject to additional consequences.

COMPLIANCE

✘ Training for Teachers and Administrators

- + Train school staff on teen dating violence and the new policy.
- + Invite local guest speaker from a domestic violence or sexual assault agency.
- + Utilize resources in the TX toolkit including Choose Respect video for adult audiences.
- + Present materials such as Risk Assessment and Safety Plan, Complaint Form, Investigation Protocol and School-based Stay Away Agreement.

COMPLIANCE

✘ Counseling for affected students

- + Provide school counselors with training, resources, and teen dating violence prevention materials.
- + Let students know that they can talk to the counselors about dating and relationships.
- + Utilize local resources such as domestic violence and sexual assault centers.

COMPLIANCE

- ✘ **Awareness education for students and parents**
 - + Use free resources provided in your toolkit.
 - + Collaborate with your local domestic violence or sexual assault center on available awareness and education programs.
 - + Integrate prevention materials into curriculum and school events.
 - + Develop youth leaders to become role models and peer educators.

COMPLIANCE

- ✘ Effective dating violence prevention engages the whole school community, students, teachers and parents in promoting healthy relationships.
- ✘ Healthy relationships = Safer schools

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS TOOLKIT

- 2006 - created and distributed by the American Bar Association
- 2007 – Choose Respect and Texas specific materials added and wider distribution
- 2008 – Choose Respect , Love Is Not Abuse, Guide to Addressing Teen Dating Violence, Community Action Planning Guide

TOOLKIT CONTENTS

Tab 1: About this Toolkit

- ✘ Texas Education Code 37.0831
- ✘ A Guide to Addressing Dating Violence in Texas Schools
- ✘ Guide to Using the Texas Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Week Toolkit

TOOLKIT CONTENTS

Tab 2: Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Week

- ✘ Call To Youth
- ✘ List of Youth Activities – Outreach and Education Ideas
- ✘ Teen Dating Violence Facts
- ✘ Sexual Violence in Teen Dating Relationships
- ✘ Posters
- ✘ National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline cards
- ✘ Choose Respect Overview Packet & Pocket Guides for Girls and Boys
- ✘ Expect Respect Brochure – A School-Based Program

TOOLKIT CONTENTS

Tab 3: Classroom Materials

- ✘ Choose Respect Educational Videos “Causing Pain: Real Stories of Dating Abuse and Violence”
- ✘ Choose Respect Educational Video Supplemental Discussion Guide
- ✘ Teacher’s Guide – Interesting, Fun, and Effective Classroom Activities To Influence Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
- ✘ Love Is Not Abuse: A Teen Dating Violence Prevention Curriculum (LINA)
- ✘ Teen Dating Violence Brochure – Legal Solutions to End Violence

TOOLKIT CONTENTS

Tab 4: Parent & Community Involvement

- ✘ Teen Dating Violence Prevention Recommendations
- ✘ Choose Respect Materials
 - + Magnet
 - + Media Access Guide and Card
 - + Radio and Television Public Service Announcements
- ✘ Planning for Community Involvement
 - + Spheres of Influence
 - + Mapping Community Partners
 - + Developing a Plan for Increasing Participation by Community Action
 - + Involving People Most affected by a Problem
 - + Methods for Contacting Potential Partners
 - + Making Personal Contact with Potential Participants
 - + Holding Community Meetings
 - + Action Plan

TOOLKIT CONTENTS

Tab 5: Survey & Evaluation Forms

- ✘ Survey & Evaluation Form for Adults
- ✘ Survey for Youth

Tab 6: Contacts & Resources

BUILDING A TEAM – SCHOOL PARTNERS

- ✘ Administration
- ✘ Counselors
- ✘ Teachers
- ✘ Other Staff
- ✘ Students

BUILDING A TEAM – COMMUNITY PARTNERS

✘ Informal Social Networks and Individuals

- + family and friends

- ✘ Youth

- ✘ Parents

✘ Formal Social Networks

- + Associations and groups

- ✘ PTA

- ✘ Youth organizations

✘ Service Providers

- + Rape Crisis Centers and Domestic Violence Agencies

- + Individual healthcare agencies

✘ Institutions and Government Agencies

- + Criminal Justice

- ✘ Law enforcement

- ✘ Judges

- + Local media

S.T.A.R.T. Break the Cycle:
Helping Teens Stop the Cycle of Dating Violence



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THE S.T.A.R.T. PROGRAM

- ✘ Teaching students skills to be active bystanders and providing youth who experience direct or indirect acts of domestic violence the education and resources available to prevent further victimization, promote change and awareness through a therapeutic environment, and receive knowledge of available legal rights.
- ✘ Training educators about the same issues and implementing policies on campus that address sexual harassment, dating violence, and sexual assault.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE POLICY

Preparation for Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Week can be a good time to train staff on your new teen dating violence district policy. Training should include:

- ✓ Review of the policy
- ✓ Methods of dissemination to staff, students and parents
- ✓ Procedure for response to a dating violence situation
- ✓ School-based resources – alternatives to protective orders, safety planning, etc.

You may also want to bring in guest speakers to discuss:

- ✓ Dynamics of dating violence and sexual violence
- ✓ Warning signs of dating violence
- ✓ Responding to teen dating violence

MATERIALS

- ✘ Choose Respect
- ✘ Love Is Not Abuse
- ✘ Prevention Recommendations
- ✘ A Call to Youth
- ✘ Classroom Activities
- ✘ Other Awareness Materials

CHOOSE RESPECT CAMPAIGN

- ✘ Goal: to prevent dating violence **before it happens**
- ✘ Target audience: 11-14 year old youth and the adults in their lives
- ✘ Award-winning videos, Speakers' Kit, PSA's, posters, pocket guides, fact sheets, website, media access guide, parent information, online teacher training coming soon, and more



THE EXPECT RESPECT PROGRAM

AVAILABLE IN 2008 AT WWW.AUSTIN-SAFEPLACE.ORG

- ✦ Comprehensive program manual includes:
 - + Research on effective dating violence prevention strategies
 - + Support group curriculum for at risk youth
 - + Teen leadership training
 - + School-wide prevention strategies



MATERIALS – LOVE IS NOT ABUSE

The *Love Is Not Abuse* Curriculum is a step-by-step guide to teaching high school students about the issue of dating violence. Using literature and poetry, this program provides teachers with the tools to teach about this sensitive subject and is intended to be taught in either Health or English/Language Arts classes.

... from *Love Is Not Abuse Website*, www.loveisnotabuse.com

MATERIALS – PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Concrete actions various community members can take to raise awareness about teen dating violence and work to end it. Includes recommendations for:

- Teens
- Domestic Violence Organizations
- Mental Health Professionals
- Victim Attorneys & Prosecutors
- Physicians/Health Care Professionals
- Parents
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Judges & Court Personnel
- School Personnel

MATERIALS – CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

✘ A Call to Youth

- + Remember to engage youth in your planning from the beginning, including engaging students in choosing and facilitating classroom activities

✘ Classroom Activities

- + Ideas for different activities that can help education students and spark conversations to help raise awareness about dating violence and challenge attitudes that contribute to violence

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- ✘ S.T.A.R.T Team

- ✘ Others from around the state
 - + Friendship of Women, Inc. – Brownsville
 - + Reagan County High School – Big Lake
 - + Reagan High School - Austin

EVALUATION

It is critical that the Texas Team receive feedback from each school who utilizes the toolkit.

Evaluation includes completion of:

- + Adult Surveys
- + Youth Surveys

WHAT TO DO WHEN TEEN DATING VIOLENCE OCCURS

- ✘ Do a risk assessment and safety plan
- ✘ Discuss how to break up safely
 - ✘ Avoid being alone with abuser
 - ✘ Make it clear that relationship is over
 - ✘ Be cautious and report stalking or threats
 - ✘ Create a support system
- ✘ National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
1-(866) 331-9474, www.loveisrespect.org
- ✘ Gather evidence-photos, clothing, messages and letters
- ✘ Get written statements from witnesses
- ✘ Assist with filing charges and/or protective order
- ✘ Initiate school interventions-Stay Away agreement, counseling, support group, escort between classes, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON DATING VIOLENCE

- ✘ Texas Governor's Commission for Women
www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/women/work/violence/toolkit
- ✘ Texas Council on Family Violence Red Flags Project www.knowtheredflags.com
www.tcfv.org
- ✘ Dating Violence Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime
www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB_DatingViolenceResourceCenter101
- ✘ National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center
www.safeyouth.org/scripts/teens/dating.asp
- ✘ Choose Respect, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.chooserespect.org
- ✘ The Expect Respect Program Manual, SafePlace www.austin-safeplace.org
- ✘ Teen Action Campaign www.seeitandstopit.org
- ✘ Liz Claiborne <http://www.loveisnotabuse.com/home.asp>
- ✘ Family Violence Prevention Fund <http://endabuse.org/programs/teens/>
- ✘ Texas Association Against Sexual Assault: STAR Program
www.taasa.org/star
- ✘ Texas Advocacy Project: Teen Justice Initiative
www.texasadvocacyproject.org