

Analyze It



Individuals, groups, or organizations analyze public policies related to dating abuse and educate about strong policies that appropriately address healthy relationships.

Why?

Public policies—laws, policies and regulations of local, state, or federal governments—are an essential part of creating an environment that supports healthful, respectful, and safe relationships among youth. If policies are in place that include clear sanctions against abusive behaviors, this discourages dating abuse and sends a clear message that such behaviors are unacceptable. Similarly, policies that encourage healthy relationship behavior and support dating abuse prevention programs signal that safe and respectful relationships are valued and expected. Both are critical elements in creating a culture of respect within our communities.

Where and When?

Policy monitoring should be ongoing. At minimum, policies should be examined yearly. Focus your efforts at the level where there could be the most impact (e.g., the local, county, or state level).

How?

Samples of policy and procedures can be found in the Zone 4 resources on the USB Flash Drive that comes with this Playbook.

Look for key components.

Gather a team to review policies. No matter what level you choose, policies should accomplish at least two things:

- Provide sanctions against dating violence and disrespectful behavior
- Promote healthy and respectful relationships

The combined effect of these two components will be an environment that discourages dating abuse and disrespectful behavior, while encouraging and supporting healthy and respectful behavior. Examine the current public policy and determine whether these components are addressed:

- If neither key component is addressed, develop new policies.
- If only one key component is effectively addressed, develop a policy to cover the missing component or make revisions to strengthen weak elements.
- If both key components are addressed, examine how well each policy is written. Make necessary changes to ensure the key elements are effectively addressed.

Sample policies that address each of these key components include:

- Sanctions against dating violence and disrespectful behavior:
 - Clear step-by-step procedures to follow to deal with instances of abusive or disrespectful behavior
 - Orders of protection for dating abuse
 - Laws against stalking
 - Punishments that increase for each succeeding domestic violence charge
- Promotion of healthy and respectful relationships:
 - Proclamation of Choose Respect Day
 - Classes on respectful relationships required for all domestic violence charge convictions
 - Formal support of a Choose Respect event
 - Funding and support for resources to prevent dating abuse and services for the victims of dating abuse

Look a little deeper.

If both key components are addressed in the public policy you review, then dig a little deeper. Adopting a policy is only the first step in creating a supportive environment. Implementing and enforcing the policy are the real tests of effectiveness.

Examine:

- Is the policy enforced? How is it enforced? Does this enforcement seem adequate?
- Is the policy open to interpretation? Are there clear guidelines as to appropriate sanctions (e.g., violation is punishable by 1–3 years in jail or a \$1,000 fine)? How could the policy be improved so there is no room for interpretation?
- How old is the policy? Is it still relevant or should it be updated?

Want to Do More?

Go up to the next level of public policy—if you started at the city level, try to make changes at the county level. If you started at the county level, move on to the state level. If you started at the state level, focus your attention on the national level.

Provide incentives for decision-makers to support new policies.

Use the *Promote It* play in this zone for ideas on how to gain support for changing policy. In addition, garner media attention to highlight supporters of the proposed policy changes.

Resources Needed:

Public policies for your area

Policy review team

Sample policy

Evaluation:

Document what you accomplish using Choose Respect tracking tools:

- **Stand Up & Be Counted**

Keep track of play participants and audience members. The Zone 4 Evaluation Tools contain a sign-in sheet.

- **Cheers & Changes**

After the play is complete, note your successes, challenges, and opportunities for the future. The Zone 4 Evaluation Tools contain a worksheet to help you do this.

Choose Respect feedback tools are recommended if you implement multiple plays. Take time to reflect on how far you have come in implementing Choose Respect in your community after completing a series of Choose Respect activities using Choose Respect feedback tools:

- **Policy Education and Advocacy Impact Survey**

After completing a series of activities, collect information for your evaluation. The Zone 4 Evaluation Tools contain a feedback form to help you do this.



CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER
6300 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 980
Los Angeles, California 90048

S.T.O.P. (School Training, Outreach, and Policy) Teen Dating Violence Initiative

The Problem:

Teen dating violence and sexual violence is an ignored epidemic in California schools.

- Twenty to 33 percent of teens will experience abuse in a dating relationship.¹
- Nearly 1.5 million high school students report physical dating violence each year.²
- Young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of non-fatal intimate partner violence.³
- Teen dating violence is associated with high-risk behaviors, such as carrying a weapon to school, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, unhealthy weight gain or loss, high absenteeism, and low grades.⁴
- Studies show that nearly half of teen dating violence victims experience some dating abuse on school campus.⁵

The California Constitution requires schools to provide a safe campus for students.⁶ Although schools often address gangs, bullying and sexual harassment, teen dating violence and sexual violence has been largely overlooked as a source of violence on campus. Most importantly, schools do not know how to respond to teen dating violence or they respond in a way that endangers the students.

S.T.O.P. Teen Dating Violence Initiative:

The California Women's Law Center (CWLC) has developed a pilot program that trains administrators, teachers, school counselors, and staff on teen dating violence, the school's duty to respond to this violence, and CWLC's recommended best practices. The training helps schools to:

- Define and identify teen dating violence
- Understand how school safety is impacted by teen dating violence
- Understand the legal duties schools have for responding to teen dating violence
- Develop prevention and response strategies
- Learn about resources available in California and in their community

To schedule a training or learn more contact:

Emily Austin at (323) 951-0256 or emily.austin@cwlc.org

¹ Carolyn Halpern, *Partner Violence Among Adolescents in Opposite-Sex Romantic Relationships: Findings from the national Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health*, 91 Am. J. Pub. Health 1679, 1679 (2001).

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Physical Dating Violence Among High School Students, United States, 2003*, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, May 2006/55(19): 532-35.

³ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Special Report: Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-1999* (Oct. 2001).

⁴ Girls, Incorporated., *Girls and Violence, Facts*, May 2004.

⁵ Christian Molitor and Richard Tolman, *Gender and Contextual Factors in Adolescent Violence*, 4Violence Against Women 180-94 (1998).

⁶ Cal. Const. Art. I, § 28 (2006).



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School Response to Teen Dating Violence: Administrator and Staff Training Outline

Topics Covered:

- Teen Dating Violence: Definitions and Effects of Abuse

- Effect of Teen Dating Violence On Schools

- Schools' Duty to Respond
 - Legal Duties
 - Federal
 - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
 - No Child Left Behind Act
 - California
 - Constitution
 - Statutory law
 - Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse
 - School Safety Plans

- Model Policy Implementation
 - Victims' Bill of Rights
 - Specially Trained Personnel
 - Response Protocol
 - Training for Employees
 - Education for Students
 - Confidentiality
 - Reasonable Accommodations
 - Notification
 - Enforcing Restraining Orders
 - Retaliation and Appeals
 - Data Tracking

- Resources
 - o Community Resources for Victims and Perpetrators
 - o California Women's Law Center
 - o Peace Over Violence
 - o Break the Cycle

S.T.O.P. Teen Dating Violence Initiative

SCHOOL COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

School: _____ School District: _____

Completed By: _____ Circle ONE: Student, Teacher, Counselor,
Administrator, Parent/Guardian,

Date: _____ Other: _____

Training and Education:

- I. Does your school provide staff, faculty and administrator training on teen dating violence and sexual assault?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- II. Does your school educate students about teen dating violence, sexual assault and healthy dating relationships?
 - a. Yes
If so, describe how: _____
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- III. Does your school educate students about teen dating violence, sexual assault and healthy dating relationships in Health Class?
 - a. Yes
If so, describe how: _____
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- IV. Does your school educate students about teen dating violence, sexual assault and healthy dating relationships during Sex Education?
 - a. Yes
If so, describe how: _____
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- V. Does your school have a policy that explains teen dating violence and sexual violence victim's rights?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

Victim Confidentiality:

- VI. Does your school have a policy of maintaining victim confidentiality whenever possible (not gossiping about students or incidents)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- VII. Do school employees advise students involved in investigations of what limitations of confidentiality exist? (When school employees cannot keep something confidential, e.g. child abuse reporting)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- VIII. Do school employees receive training on mandated reporting?
 - a. Yes
If so, how often do are they trained? _____
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- IX. Does your school keep teen dating and sexual violence complaints and investigations in a separate file from academic records?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

Complaint Process:

- X. Do students know where to report an incident of teen dating violence and/or sexual violence?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- XI. Has your school responded to and investigated complaints of dating violence and/or sexual assault?
 - a. Yes
If so, how many? _____
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- XII. Does your school have a policy to not respond to teen dating violence/sexual assault incidents that take place off of school grounds?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

- XIII. Does your school discipline policy include teen dating violence and sexual assault as violations that must be disciplined?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not Sure
- XIV. Does your school allow a support person for the victim to be present during teen dating violence and/or sexual violence investigations?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not Sure
- XV. Does your school district have a specially trained person that oversees teen dating violence and/or sexual violence employee trainings and student education?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not Sure
- XVI. Where can students appeal a teen dating violence and/or sexual violence complaint decision?
- _____
 - Not Sure
- XVII. Do the campus police and administrators report and promptly respond to claims of a violation of a restraining or protective order?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not Sure

Resources:

- XVIII. Does your school and/or school counselor have resources on campus for **victims** of teen dating violence?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not Sure
- XIX. Does your school and/or school counselor have resources on campus for **perpetrators** of teen dating violence?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not Sure
- XX. Does your school refer victims to resources?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure

- XXI. Does your school refer perpetrators to resources?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure

Notices and Publication of Policy:

- XXII. Does your school have information posted around campus about teen dating violence?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure
- XXIII. Does your school have a teen dating violence and sexual violence response protocol?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure
- XXIV. Have your students' parents/guardians received copies of the teen dating violence and sexual violence protocol?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

Data Tracking:

- XXV. Does your school include teen dating violence and sexual violence as a separate category of crime when reporting crime statistics at the state or federal level?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure

**FAX YOUR COMPLETED CHECKLIST TO THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER
(323) 951-9870.**

If you answered **No** or **Not Sure** to more than one of the above questions, your school is not in compliance. Contact the California Women's Law Center and your school district administration to arrange for training and implementation of a teen dating violence and sexual violence protocol.

California Women's Law Center
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Sample Policies



An important part of promoting healthy relationships is putting policies in place that foster healthy and relationships within the organization and among its members. Policies should clearly state what behavior is expected and what steps to follow is disrespectful behavior occurs. The Zone 4 resources on the USB Flash Drive that comes with this Playbook contain several samples of existing policies. Sample policies were selected for inclusion if they met the criteria or “essential components” listed in the play *Respect Bill of Rights*. Many of the policies are self-titled “model policy” but this does not imply CDC endorsement.

Sample Policy 1: [NYSOPDV.pdf](#)

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (<http://www.opdv.state.ny.us/index.html>)

Original Setting: Schools (teen dating violence)

Recommended Setting: Schools (teen dating violence)

Sample Policy 2: [TCFV.pdf](#)

Source: Texas Council on Family Violence (<http://www.tcfv.org/>)

Original Setting: Schools (teen dating violence)

Recommended Setting: Schools (teen dating violence)

Sample Policy 3: [CWLC.pdf](#)

Source: California Women’s Law Center (<http://www.cwlc.org/>).

Original Setting: Schools (teen dating violence)

Recommended Setting: Schools (teen dating violence)

Sample Policy 4: [Training Outline](#)

Source: California Women’s Law Center (<http://www.cwlc.org/>).

Original Setting: Schools (training plan for school staff to support teen dating violence initiative)

Recommended Setting: Schools (training plan for school staff to support teen dating violence initiative)

Sample Policy 5: [Checklist](#)

Source: California Women’s Law Center (<http://www.cwlc.org/>).

Original Setting: Schools (school compliance checklist to support teen dating violence initiative)

Recommended Setting: Schools (school compliance checklist to support teen dating violence initiative)