



# Raising Teen Dating Violence Prevention as a Public Health Priority

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PA Public Health Association  
Annual Fall Conference

## Purpose of CDC Grant

- Raise teen dating violence (TDV) as a public health priority
- Build/enhance partnerships among key TDV stakeholders
- Build capacity state/local health department to support and evaluate TDV programs/policies
- Generate recommendation to advance and support TDV prevention programs/policies

# Grant Activities

- Create a Teen Dating Violence Prevention Team (TDVPT)
- Conduct environmental and policy scans
- Inventory of data indicators
- Assessment of capacity and readiness
- Youth engagement

# Social-Ecological Model



# Recommendations

- Strengths and Opportunities
  - ▣ Strong local organizations providing TDV prevention services
  - ▣ University-based program evaluation and research experience and capacity
  - ▣ Legislation to encourage TDV prevention in schools

# Recommendations

- Challenges
  - ▣ Limited local leadership
  - ▣ Organizations have limited evaluation experience and capacity
  - ▣ Lack of funding

## Mission

- The mission of the TDVPT is to affect cultural and social norms change regarding healthy relationships in Philadelphia among persons ages 10 to 19 years old.

# Healthy Relationship Characteristics

The TDVPT has defined healthy relationships as characterized by:

- Mutual respect
- Communication
- Honesty
- Negotiation
- Positive equity
- Shared power
- Safety
- Supportive home environment
- Boundaries set
- Self-advocacy
- Self-esteem
- Decision-making with shared input
- Community support
- Peer support
- Trust
- Choice to be in the relationship
- Responsibility

# TDVPT Recommendations

## Goal I

- Develop collaborative relationships to support program and policy efforts across the Social-Ecological Model (SEM) to foster healthy relationships among persons ages 10 to 19.
  - Objective: Coordinate and collaborate with key partners to champion programs and policies that support the development of healthy relationships and prevention of teen dating violence.

# TDVPT Recommendations

## Goal II

- Design/adapt, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive programmatic approach across the Social-Ecological Model (SEM) to foster healthy relationships among persons ages 10 to 19.
  - ▀ Objective: Improve the design, implementation, and evaluation of teen dating violence prevention programs.

# TDVPT Recommendations

## Goal III

- Design, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive policy effort across the Social-Ecological Model (SEM) to foster healthy relationships among persons ages 10 to 19.
  - ▀ Objective: Improve the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies that support the development of healthy relationships and prevention of teen dating violence.

# TDVPT Recommendations

## Goal IV

- Improve data analysis to evaluate programmatic and policy efforts across the Social-Ecological Model (SEM) to foster healthy relationships among persons ages 10 to 19.
  - Objective: Access, assess, and analyze available data that support the development of healthy relationships and prevention of teen dating violence.

# ▶ Youth Engagement

## Six focus groups

- Involved 46 youth ages 14-19
- 79% Female
- 87% Black/African American
- 20% Hispanic or Latino
- 15% Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual

## ▶ Youth Engagement

What would a safer community look like?

“In these communities the streets are clean, people treat each other with respect, but in Philly the streets are dirty, the police don’t respect people, they come in the house and rip the furniture looking for drugs, little kids are out late at night, the curfews are not enforced by police or parents...lots of violence in general – in households and relationships.”

# Youth Engagement

## What would a safer community look like?

- “People would be happier.”
- “Less black eyes and less people on the street dying.”
- Parents would pay more attention to their kids.
- The neighborhood would be clean, peaceful.
- Kids outside playing, no trash, there would be places for cigarette butts.
- Laws and curfews would be enforced.
- There would be activities to keep teens occupied such as dance, art, music, basketball.
- There would also be more jobs.
- Police would know more about the community and treat people with respect and respect people’s privacy.

## Contact Information

### Violence and Injury Prevention Program

PA Department of Health

Room 1008 H&W Bldg.

625 Forster Street

Harrisburg, PA 17120-0701

Phone: 717.787.5900

[cathornton@pa.gov](mailto:cathornton@pa.gov)