Dating Matters®: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships

Teen dating violence is a preventable public health problem. It requires a comprehensive community-driven strategy to stop it before it starts.

- Approximately, one in 10 high school students has experienced physical violence from a dating partner in the past year.
- One in 4 adolescents reports verbal, emotional, physical or sexual dating violence each year.
- Across studies, 15-40% of youth report perpetrating some form of violence towards a dating partner.
- Risk factors for teen dating violence include individual, peer, partner, parent, and neighborhood influences.
- Perpetrating dating violence in adolescence increases the risk of perpetrating violence toward a partner in adulthood.
- Exposure to dating violence significantly affects a range of mental and physical health problems.

Three significant gaps exist in teen dating violence prevention:

- Little is known about what works to prevent dating violence among youth in urban communities with high crime and economic disadvantage.
- Local public health agencies often are not the primary agents for dating violence prevention programming in communities.
- A lack of local data on teen dating violence limits communities' ability to monitor and track the problem.

To address these issues, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed ***Dating Matters®: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships***, which aims to:

- **Develop, implement, evaluate, and disseminate a comprehensive approach** to promote respectful, nonviolent dating relationships and decrease emotional, physical, and sexual dating violence among youth in high-risk urban communities
- **Build local public health capacity** to implement evidence-based and evidence-informed violence prevention strategies across the social ecology
- **Identify and validate community level indicators** of teen dating violence

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Division of Violence Prevention

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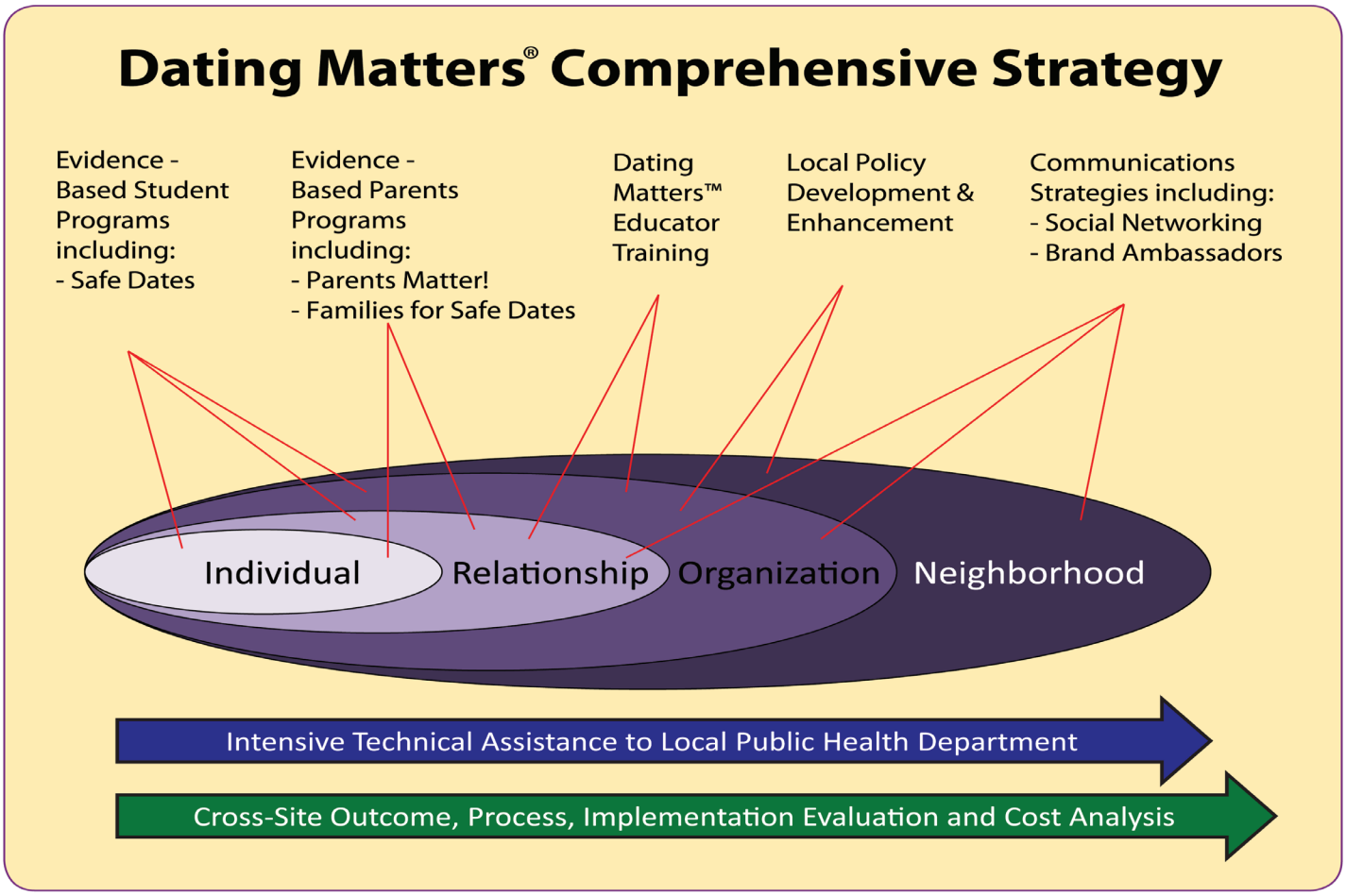
Dating Matters®: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships®™ employs a comprehensive, community-driven approach to stop violence before it starts.



Dating Matters® will provide teen dating violence prevention programming to youth, parents, and educators of youth in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, in order to stop dating violence before it begins.

The first phase of Dating Matters® (2011-2016) is a five-year demonstration phase in Baltimore, Chicago, Oakland, and Ft. Lauderdale, during which CDC examines the cost, feasibility, sustainability, and effectiveness of a comprehensive approach to prevent teen dating violence in four high-risk urban communities. Starting in 2014, CDC will disseminate prevention strategies used in ***Dating Matters®***. It is anticipated that the following tools and strategies will be available:

- Teen Dating Violence Prevention Policy Package
- Online Organizational Capacity and Readiness Assessment
- CDC-Developed Teen Dating Violence Prevention Curricula Package*
- Teen Dating Violence Prevention Communications Package
- Teen Dating Violence Community-Level Indicators Package
- Teen Dating Violence Evaluation Package

**if effective in evaluation*

Dating Matters® Educator Training—***Dating Matters®****: Understanding Teen Dating Violence Prevention* and is available at www.vetoviolence.org

It's Everyone's Responsibility to Stop Dating Violence