

Dating Matters™ : Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions related to Dating Matters:

What is Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships?

CDC has developed a comprehensive teen dating violence prevention initiative that builds on the current evidence base for prevention. The initiative focuses on 11 to 14 year olds in high-risk, urban communities. It will involve preventive components for individuals, families, schools, and neighborhoods. The initiative is designed to increase public health departments' capability to sustain implementation of teen dating violence prevention strategies and to sustain the collection of data about teen dating violence over time.

What do you hope to accomplish with this? (specify how this benefits individual communities)

Dating Matters aims to prevent dating violence from occurring and to promote healthy relationships. This means that fewer youth will experience the negative physical, emotional, social, and academic consequences of dating violence.

How will you build local public health capability to address this problem?

CDC will build capability of local public health departments to do teen dating violence prevention by providing intensive technical assistance, by assessing capacity and developing action plans to address gaps in capacity, and by partnering with the communities to implement Dating Matters.

Is teen dating violence really a public health concern?

Teen dating violence is a public health problem because it:

- Is a gateway to intimate partner violence
- Has numerous health consequences that have implications for health throughout life
- Is associated with other teen risk behaviors such as cigarette use, alcohol abuse, and frequent sexual activity

But teen dating violence is preventable by teaching youth skills to build healthy relationships, manage their emotions, and communicate with their partners when they are hurt or upset.

Who is at risk?

Dating violence can happen to any teen at any time and have a negative effect on health throughout life. Teens who are victims are more likely to do poorly in school or engage in unhealthy behaviors, like drug and alcohol use. Similarly, teens who perpetrate violence also evidence a variety of other problem behaviors. Many teens are both victims and perpetrators of dating violence, suggesting fundamental problems in how these teens behave in relationships and underscoring the need for skills to build healthy relationships.

Why is it important to teach teens about healthy relationships?

Early efforts to promote healthy, respectful dating relationships are more likely to prevent dating violence before the problem begins. Prevention efforts in adolescence have the potential to positively influence attitudes and behaviors toward dating violence in adulthood and reduce the incidence of intimate partner violence in these later years.

Where can I get more information about Dating Matters?

- For general information, visit our website at www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention.
- For local media inquiries related to [Health Department] work and plans to use CDC funding in [Health Department] community, please contact [Health Department public relations information].
- For national media inquiries related to national teen dating violence prevention or Dating Matters, please contact the CDC's Injury Center media line at 770-488-4902.
- For any specific questions related to the project or funding, please contact your project officer.

Questions related to being CDC Grantee:

This funding is through a cooperative agreement, how do I describe the arrangement/relationship with CDC?

A cooperative agreement indicates a high degree of collaboration between CDC and the grantee, therefore, you may state that the initiative will be conducted “in collaboration with CDC.”

May we use the CDC logo on documents/announcements related to Dating Matters?

The CDC logo may not be used, but you may state that the initiative is made possible through funding from CDC ([funding #] U88 CEXXXX).

How do we acknowledge CDC’s funding in documents/products we may develop or prepare?

Publications, journal articles, etc. produced under a CDC grant support project must bear an acknowledgment and disclaimer, as appropriate, such as: This publication (journal article, etc.) was supported by the <recipient must insert applicable Notice of Award Number> from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Does CDC need to review anything we send out?

CDC must formally review documents on which staff are co-authors and the following statement should appear (in addition to the funding statement above: *The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

CDC does not need to formally review documents on which they are not co-authors, but project leadership would welcome the opportunity to review documents grantees develop related to Dating Matters.

May I distribute the documents and materials I receive from CDC for Dating Matters (e.g., curricula, guidance, policy package)?

Dating Matters documents may only be shared with individuals directly working on the initiative. They should not be distributed to any person, agency or listserv who is not working on Dating Matters with a funded community.

Some products CDC provides (e.g., press release, 1-pager) have been cleared and may be distributed. CDC will clearly indicate when a document may be shared. Unless stated assume that the document is only for Dating Matters grantees and contractors.