



BCHD PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Baltimore City Health Department's Office of Youth Violence Prevention Awarded \$1.75 million to Prevent Teen Dating Violence

BALTIMORE, MD (September 14, 2011) – The Baltimore City Health Department is receiving a grant for \$1.75 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to participate in a violence prevention initiative aimed at preventing teen dating violence. The grant covers five years.

Across the country, one in 10 high school students has experienced physical violence from a dating partner in the past year, and one in four reports verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual dating violence each year according to a CDC national survey.

The grant will allow Baltimore to join three other cities in developing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive approach to prevent teen dating violence before it starts. The approach will include evidence-based student and parent programs, educator training, local policy development and enhancement and communications strategies like social networking and brand ambassadors.

“Teen dating violence is a serious yet preventable public health problem that requires a coordinated and comprehensive community response with an eye toward prevention,” said Dr. Barbot. “We are fortunate to have this opportunity to work with CDC and others in our community to stop teen dating violence before it starts.”

CDC developed the initiative, called [Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships](#). The roll-out of the initiative in this five-year demonstration phase will help CDC examine the cost, feasibility, sustainability, and effectiveness of a comprehensive approach to teen dating violence in four high-risk urban communities, including Baltimore City. CDC also seeks to build the health department's capacity to become the primary agent for dating violence prevention programming in Baltimore, implementing evidence-based violence prevention strategies as well as identifying risk factors for teen dating violence.

For local media inquiries related to BCHD's work and plans to use CDC funding in Baltimore City, please contact Brian Schleter, Public Information Officer at Brian.Schleter@baltimorecity.gov or 443-984-2623. 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.

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