

DATING MATTERS INTERACTIVE GUIDE TO INFORMING POLICY: AT-A-GLANCE

The **Dating Matters Interactive Guide to Informing Policy** provides a framework for understanding and informing policies related to teen dating violence as one component of the Dating Matters comprehensive prevention model. The guide provides an overview of teen dating violence prevention policy approaches, important considerations for informing policy, guidance for developing a policy plan, and tools and resources to support policy development.

Community efforts to prevent teen dating violence should ensure that the best available data, evidence, and practices inform policy development, program implementation, and evaluation.

HOW DO COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM USING THE GUIDE TO INFORMING POLICY?

To understand and inform local policy, it is important to first document existing state and local public health and organizational policies related to teen dating violence. This policy guide¹ is designed to:

- Highlight important considerations to keep in mind when informing policy,
- Describe ways to translate teen dating violence-related policies into practice, and
- Provide worksheets, tools, and resources related to policy efforts, reaching consensus, evaluation, and partnership building.

¹ The Dating Matters Interactive Guide to Informing Policy is provided for informational purposes only. Note that certain restrictions apply to the use of CDC funds for impermissible lobbying. For more information concerning such restrictions see the CDC Anti-Lobbying Guidelines.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships

is a comprehensive teen dating violence prevention model. Dating Matters focuses on 11- to 14-year-olds and is based on the best available evidence on what works to prevent teen dating violence. It includes multiple components that target individuals, peers, families, schools, and neighborhoods. These components work together to promote respectful, nonviolent teen dating relationships.

In addition to the Guide to Informing Policy, the Dating Matters model also includes:

- Capacity Assessment and Planning Tool
- Parent Programs
- Youth Programs
- Training for Educators
- i2i Youth Communications Program
- Guide to Using Indicator Data



HOW IS THE GUIDE IMPLEMENTED?

Staffing and Time Required

Developing policy plans can be an intensive process. The interactive guide provides tools and resources to begin that process, but the staffing and time needed to complete the process will vary based on the community's needs and ability to do the work. Work to assess and inform policy efforts to prevent teen dating violence should be led by one or more staff members at the local health department or other community organization overseeing Dating Matters.

Access

The Dating Matters Interactive Guide to Informing Policy is available online at:
<https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/dating-matters-toolkit/informing-policy#/>

The resources and tools in the interactive guide offer support for an organization's work but do not provide recommendations about specific policies for communities or sample language for writing policies.

Cost

CDC provides this guide to communities at no cost. Communities should budget for staff time to carry out related activities.



LEARN MORE ABOUT DATING MATTERS!

The Dating Matters Toolkit—with all of the materials, guidance, and tools you need to implement Dating Matters — is available on CDC's VetoViolence website at <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/dating-matters-toolkit/#>. The Toolkit is your one-stop-shop for everything Dating Matters.