

DATING MATTERS CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING TOOL: AT-A-GLANCE

The **Dating Matters Capacity Assessment and Planning Tool** (DM-CAPT) is a free online tool that uses input from partners and stakeholders to help communities assess and improve their skills, resources, and ability to carry out comprehensive teen dating violence prevention initiatives. The DM-CAPT is one component of the Dating Matters comprehensive prevention model. Based on the unique strengths and resources of the community, the assessment helps communities continually assess and support their efforts to build the capacity necessary to prevent teen dating violence.

WHY IS ASSESSING CAPACITY IMPORTANT?

Capacity refers to the information, skills, resources, abilities, and support needed to develop, evaluate, and sustain a public health approach to preventing teen dating violence. Stakeholders and partners that support public health prevention efforts—such as funders, community organizations, schools, and human service organizations—are often faced with limited financial, personnel, and material resources. These groups want to be sure that their resources support goals that communities can achieve. Capacity assessment helps communities direct their resources to organizations and activities with the best chances of success. Capacity assessments can also help organizations identify opportunities to enhance or improve their ability to carry out teen dating violence prevention efforts. Communities may be better able to secure additional resources when they can document their ability to succeed.

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 **DM-CAPT**, the Dating Matters model also includes:

- Parent Programs
- Youth Programs
- Guide to Informing Policy
- Training for Educators
- i2i Youth Communications Program
- Guide to Using Indicator Data



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



DM-CAPT COMPONENTS

The DM-CAPT walks users through a four-step capacity-building process:

- **Capacity Assessment Tool:** collects information from public health stakeholders and partners using an online survey that measures capacity (e.g., skills, resources, and abilities) to successfully carry out a comprehensive teen dating violence prevention model. Surveys assess 15 capacity areas and are designed to be used by health department staff, school representatives, community advisory board members, and other stakeholders or partners involved in supporting Dating Matters implementation.
- **Assessment Report:** shows the results of the survey and helps organizations identify priority capacity areas to improve.
- **Planning Tool:** helps partners and stakeholders create strategies to enhance an organization's ability to set up a teen dating violence prevention model. Strategies are based on priority areas selected through the Assessment Report. The Planning Tool also includes Action Planning Worksheets to help stakeholders and partners develop goals and action steps to carry out the strategies.
- **Action Plan:** helps communities enhance their ability to carry out programming. The plan is based on identified priority areas and developed from the Action Planning Worksheets.

HOW IS THE DM-CAPT IMPLEMENTED?

Staff from the local health department or community organization responsible for assessing capacity send online surveys (generated through the DM-CAPT online tool) to community partners and stakeholders. The surveys help to assess an organization's current ability to deliver a comprehensive teen dating violence prevention model. After organizations complete the surveys, the system automatically generates an Assessment Report with results. The Planning Tool and Action Planning Worksheets support the community in developing an action plan based on identified priority areas.

Staffing Requirements

CDC encourages local health departments (or the community organization that oversees the set up of Dating Matters) to designate a point person responsible for completing the steps of the DM-CAPT.

Time Required

It takes approximately 30 minutes for each participant to complete the online survey. Additional time is required to engage stakeholders and partners in the planning and development of an Action Plan, and the time needed will vary.

Access

DM-CAPT is available through CDC's Dating Matters website at <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/datingmatterscapt/>. The DM-CAPT User's Guide provides detailed instructions on how to access and complete each step of the DM-CAPT.

Cost

There is no cost to use the DM-CAPT online tool.



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 vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/dating-matters-toolkit. The Toolkit is your one-stop-shop for everything Dating Matters.