



CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER
6300 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 980
Los Angeles, California 90048

S.T.O.P. (School Training, Outreach, and Policy) Teen Dating Violence Initiative

The Problem:

Teen dating violence and sexual violence is an ignored epidemic in California schools.

- Twenty to 33 percent of teens will experience abuse in a dating relationship.¹
- Nearly 1.5 million high school students report physical dating violence each year.²
- Young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of non-fatal intimate partner violence.³
- Teen dating violence is associated with high-risk behaviors, such as carrying a weapon to school, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, unhealthy weight gain or loss, high absenteeism, and low grades.⁴
- Studies show that nearly half of teen dating violence victims experience some dating abuse on school campus.⁵

The California Constitution requires schools to provide a safe campus for students.⁶ Although schools often address gangs, bullying and sexual harassment, teen dating violence and sexual violence has been largely overlooked as a source of violence on campus. Most importantly, schools do not know how to respond to teen dating violence or they respond in a way that endangers the students.

S.T.O.P. Teen Dating Violence Initiative:

The California Women's Law Center (CWLC) has developed a pilot program that trains administrators, teachers, school counselors, and staff on teen dating violence, the school's duty to respond to this violence, and CWLC's recommended best practices. The training helps schools to:

- Define and identify teen dating violence
- Understand how school safety is impacted by teen dating violence
- Understand the legal duties schools have for responding to teen dating violence
- Develop prevention and response strategies
- Learn about resources available in California and in their community

To schedule a training or learn more contact:
Emily Austin at (323) 951-0256 or emily.austin@cwlc.org

¹ Carolyn Halpern, *Partner Violence Among Adolescents in Opposite-Sex Romantic Relationships: Findings from the national Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health*, 91 Am. J. Pub. Health 1679, 1679 (2001).

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Physical Dating Violence Among High School Students, United States, 2003*, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, May 2006/55(19): 532-35.

³ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Special Report: Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-1999* (Oct. 2001).

⁴ Girls, Incorporated., *Girls and Violence, Facts*, May 2004.

⁵ Christian Molitor and Richard Tolman, *Gender and Contextual Factors in Adolescent Violence*, 4Violence Against Women 180-94 (1998).

⁶ Cal. Const. Art. I, § 28 (2006).



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School Response to Teen Dating Violence: Administrator and Staff Training Outline

Topics Covered:

- Teen Dating Violence: Definitions and Effects of Abuse
- Effect of Teen Dating Violence On Schools
- Schools' Duty to Respond
 - Legal Duties
 - Federal
 - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
 - No Child Left Behind Act
 - California
 - Constitution
 - Statutory law
 - Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse
 - School Safety Plans
- Model Policy Implementation
 - Victims' Bill of Rights
 - Specially Trained Personnel
 - Response Protocol
 - Training for Employees
 - Education for Students
 - Confidentiality
 - Reasonable Accommodations
 - Notification
 - Enforcing Restraining Orders
 - Retaliation and Appeals
 - Data Tracking
- Resources
 - Community Resources for Victims and Perpetrators
 - California Women's Law Center
 - Peace Over Violence
 - Break the Cycle