



School Nurses on the Front Lines of Healthcare: A Guide in the Recognition of and Response to Teen Dating Violence in Your Schools

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?

In this brief paper, the authors provide a case study and recommendations for how school nurses can recognize and respond to teen dating violence. A past survey found that though dating violence is an issue that most school nurses encounter, the majority do not have a protocol in their school for responding to it. Although this paper is aimed towards school nurses, the content would be helpful for any school staff member, including school administrators, teachers, and guidance counsellors.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

- School nurses can play an important role in supporting and advocating for youth who are experiencing dating violence.
- School nurses can work to prevent school violence by engaging school staff and by screening, listening to, advocating for, and educating youth.
- Youth may be unlikely to disclose dating violence to an adult without being prompted; a few clear, nonjudgmental questions can help school nurses screen for dating violence.

WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS DO?

The authors reviewed research on dating violence and provided recommendations for school nurses to recognize and respond to teen dating violence.



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WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS FIND?

The authors summarized research that shows that a few clear, nonjudgmental questions can be very effective at screening youth for experiences of dating violence. They include recommendations for the school nurse's role in collecting data on the student body's experiences of teen dating violence and working with administrators to strength school teen dating violence curriculum and policies.

These programs also yielded significant decreases in dating violence perpetration. However, there were not significant overall effects for experiences of being victimized by dating violence or on bystander behaviours.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS RESEARCH?

This work can be used by decisionmakers, program developers, and researchers. First, it suggests that prevention programs vary in their effectiveness, and that different program components may impact effectiveness. Programs should be carefully for selected for how they can meet the users' goals. Further, while current programs are effective at improving knowledge and attitudes around dating violence, these changes are not necessarily translating into long-term behavioural changes. Additional work is needed on the part of program developers and researchers to ensure that prevention programs effectively address dating violence.

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