

# Domestic Violence Shelters' Efforts to Prevent Teen Dating Violence: A National Survey

## WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?

- There are many domestic violence shelters throughout the United States. Although domestic violence shelters largely serve adults, many shelters also offer teen dating violence (TDV) programming.
- However, not much is known about how many shelters offer TDV programming, and/or the specific kinds of programming they offer.
- This research identified what teen dating violence (TDV) programming (if any) is offered through domestic violence shelters – both within schools and within communities.

## **WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?**

- Most shelters offer TDV programming in schools and in their communities.
- Although most shelters try to provide adequate support for TDV prevention, there are limited resources (i.e., funding) to support these efforts.

## WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS DO?

- The researchers of this study surveyed 213 domestic violence shelters across the United States about their strategies for addressing TDV in schools and their communities.
- They asked shelters about efforts to address TDV in schools and their communities, and what forms of advocacy and outreach they used.



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## **WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS FIND?**

- The researchers found that approximately 95% of responding shelters provided TDV programming at high schools and 84% provided programming at middle schools.
- About one third of shelters provided some programming for parents.
- Only 15% of the shelters used a standard curriculum (i.e., a plan for how the program is delivered), 41% of shelters adapted TDV curriculum, and 44% did not use a standard TDV curriculum in programming.
- Shelters used public awareness campaigns with information booths and Internet-based activities most frequently to increase public awareness.
- Coalitions were also formed to advocate for TDV prevention efforts.
- Despite most shelters having few staff, low budgets, and limited resources, their TDV efforts reached many youth and community members.

## **HOW CAN YOU USE THIS RESEARCH?**

- More policy advocacy work is needed to require TDV prevention programming in middle and high schools.
- Policy should also require the use of evidence-informed standard curricula for TDV programming.
- More funding is needed to support shelters to offer TDV prevention programming.
- Researchers can conduct future work to examine which efforts are most effective at reducing TDV, and the impact that funding can have on a shelters' TDV prevention efforts.

## **ABOUT THE RESEARCHERS**

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## **KEYWORDS**

Domestic violence shelters, prevention programming, domestic violence, teen dating violence

## **FULL REFERENCE**

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