

Combining Strengths:

Project of the VA Statewide PREVENT Team

PREVENT Institute

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

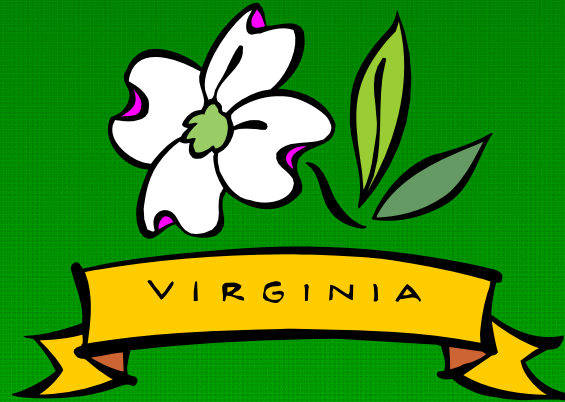
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Combining Strengths in Virginia



- Virginia Teen Dating Violence Prevention Taskforce
- PREVENT Institute/Virginia Team

Background (1)



- Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies (SDVAs) have been on the forefront of this work in localities for 30 years.
- SDVAs are typically visible and respected hubs of expertise on these issues in a given community.
- Many are currently doing SV/DV primary prevention work.

Background (2)



- Community-based youth-serving agencies (CBYSAs) exist in almost every community.
- CBYSAs reach many youth on a long-term basis (Access & Rapport).

Our Rationale



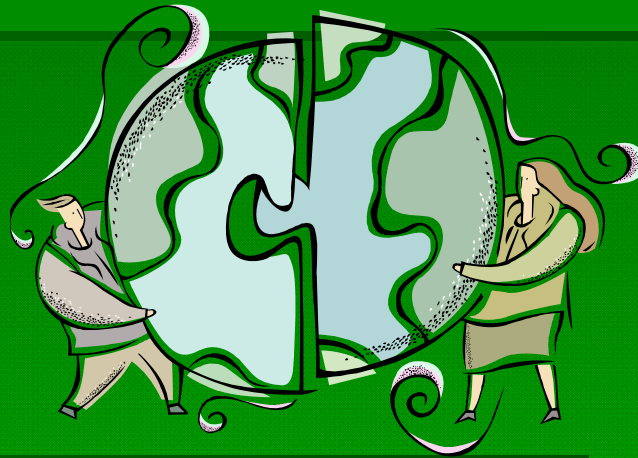
- Healthy relationship and healthy sexuality education is only marginally, if at all, part of the mission of community-based youth serving agencies.
- At the present time, the number of hours SDVA teen dating violence prevention educators spend with any specific group of youth is typically very limited.
- Therefore youth are not receiving healthy relationship and healthy sexuality education in an effective and sustainable manner.

Our Goal



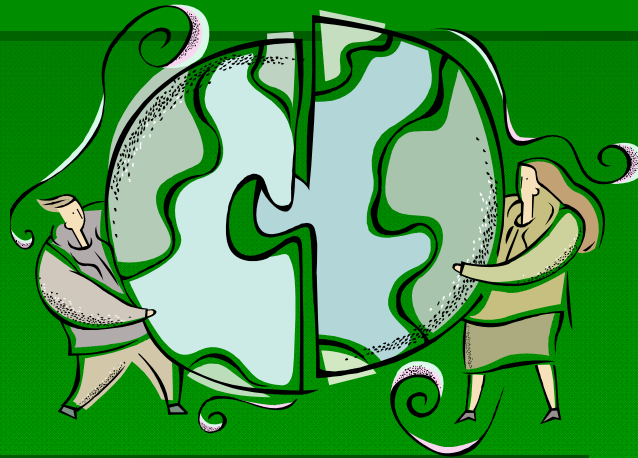
Promote healthy relationships and healthy sexuality and to reduce teen dating violence by developing a statewide network of trained CBYSA professionals who will implement education on these issues for 11-14 year-olds within their programs.

Our Plan (1)



- Obtain formal agreements from SVAs in at least four Virginia communities. Additional SDVAs may also participate.
- PREVENT Team will provide training to the SDVAs by July 2008.
- SDVAs will provide training to CBYSAs by October 2008.
- CSBYS will implement PREVENT program during the 08/09 school year.

Our Plan (2)



- Work with SDVA & CBYSA staff to infuse dating violence prevention into mission and practice of CBYSA:
 - Permanently incorporate education about healthy relationships/healthy sexuality / teen dating violence into existing programming
 - Model healthy relationships when working with youth
 - Constructively intervene when youth behave abusively
 - Identify warning signs of perpetration and victimization of teen relationship violence

Our Plan & Primary Prevention



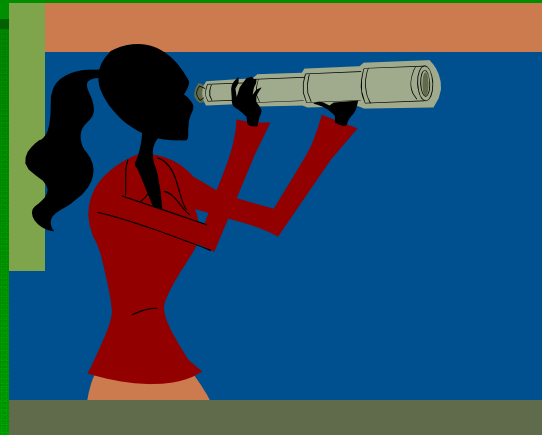
- Impacts multiple levels of the social ecology.
- Content will focus more on changing the factors underlying teen dating violence and less on managing it.
- Sustainability is built in from the beginning as SDVAs become technical advisors to CYBSAs.

Challenges

- Finances
- Time/ Agency Support
- Interagency Cooperation



The Future (1)



- Provide train-the-trainer program.
- Provide youth curriculum to attendees.
- Develop process for curricula review and program evaluation

The Future (2)



- Review PREVENT process during and following first year of implementation.
- Incorporate the “lessons learned”.
- Expand the project to additional communities.