Lasting Change: A Case Study of Policy Change for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence at LAUSD

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How have you worked with schools?

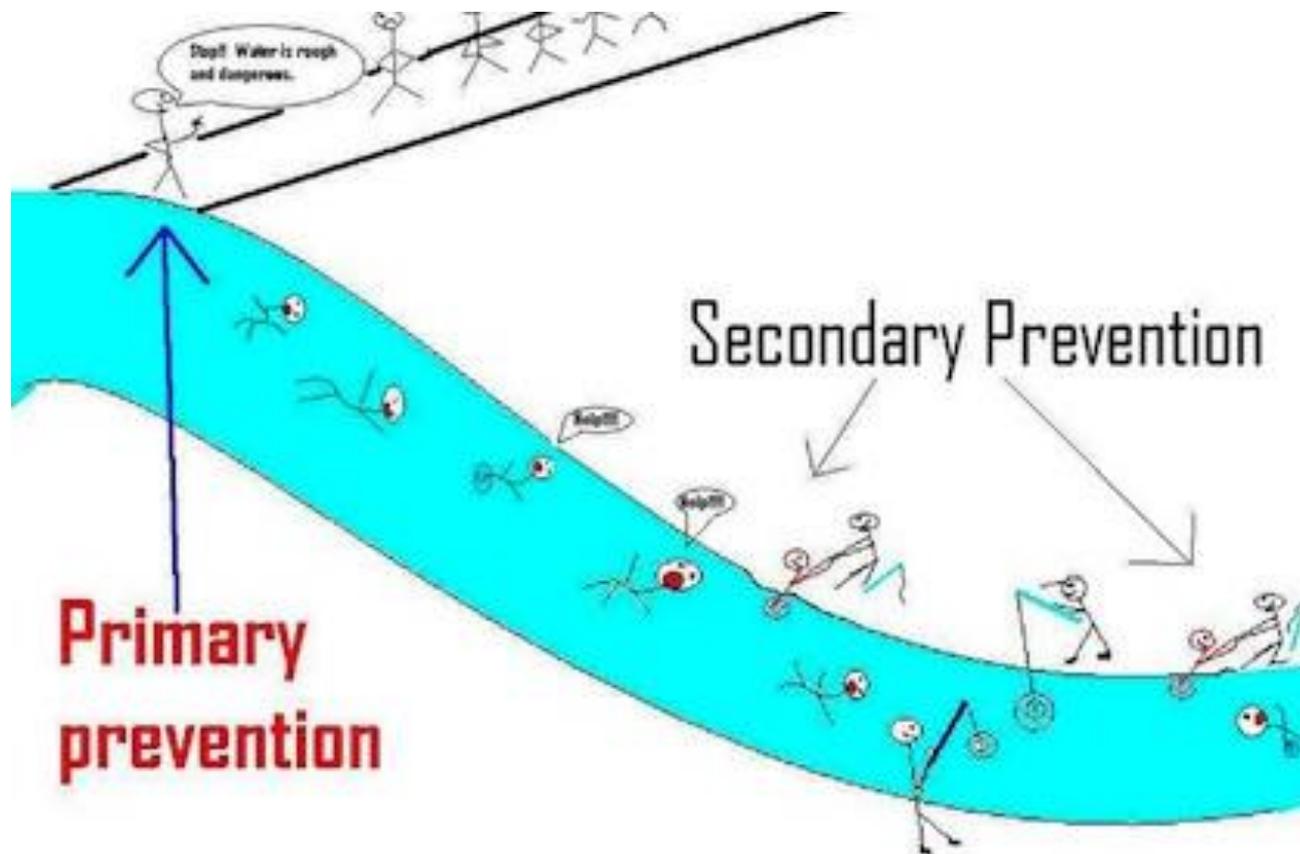# What has been your biggest challenging when working with schools?

What is Policy?

Why is School Policy Important?

❑ Foundation for allocating time and resources

❑ Increased awareness and responsiveness

❑ Ability to monitor incidents, outcomes

❑ Improved school safety

❑ Supports social norms change

How Policy Supports Lasting Change

The Spectrum of Prevention

Influencing Policy & Legislation

Changing Organizational Practices

Fostering Coalitions & Networks

Educating Providers

Promoting Community Education

Strengthening Individual Knowledge & Skills

About Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)

- Largest school district in CA, 2nd largest in the US
- Over 1000 schools
- Over 600,000 students, 45,000 teachers, 38,000 staff
- Over 180,000 English learners, over 92 languages spoken
- Own police force: Los Angeles School Police Department

Overarching Themes:

❑ Positive school climate

❑ Focus on prevention

❑ Engage teachers, parents, and students

Building Momentum: POV & LAUSD Partnerships

- Over 30 years in the classroom
- Relationship building with school board, administrators, and teachers
- 2008 California Attorney General and Dept of Ed TDV Trainings
- 2009 Miguel Contreras Learning Center Policy Pilot Project

Building Momentum: POV & LAUSD Partnerships

- 2009 Start Strong Initiative
- 2011 LAUSD School Board passes Preventing TDV and Promoting Health Relationships Policy Resolution
- 2012 Services, Education, Training, and Policies to Reduce Dating Violence, Sexual Violence and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant (STEP Grant)

Policy Components

1. Prevention Coordinator
2. Prevention Liaison
3. Education for Students
4. Training for Staff
5. Parent Engagement
6. Response to Dating Abuse
7. Reporting Incidents
8. Monitoring Program
9. Notice to Parents and Students

Training and Implementation

❑ Staff development

❑ Classroom lessons

❑ Parent sessions

❑ Print and online resources

❑ Student safety or climate survey

❑ Youth leadership (STOP Clubs)

❑ School and community task forces

STEP Grant

- Pilot full policy implementation in 2 middle schools and 1 high school
- Flesh out and expand Resolution for campus level implementation
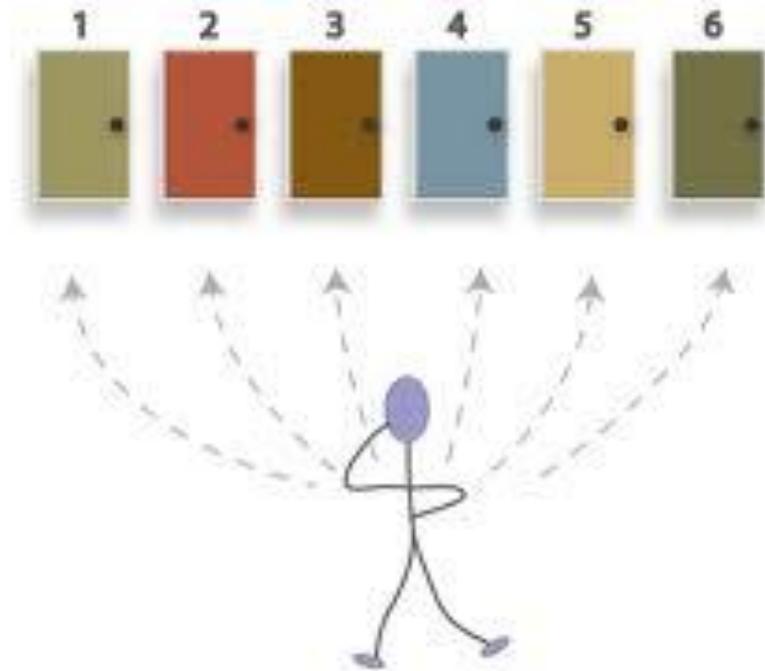- Integrate TDV, SA, stalking response into discipline matrix

Strategies

What we have learned from our policy work with schools

Where to Start on Policy Change?

- ❑ State
- ❑ District
- ❑ School
- ❑ Community
- ❑ Other

Entry Points

How will you find your way in?

Engage Existing Programs

School-based Support Services

- ❑ Counseling and advocacy
  - ❑ Mental health services
- ❑ Linkage of students/families to community services
- ❑ Consultation and safety planning
- ❑ Wellness Centers

Making the Case

Messaging and Language

❑What language do we use?

❑Tone

   ❑Positive messaging
   ❑Negative messaging

Recruiting and Utilizing Champions
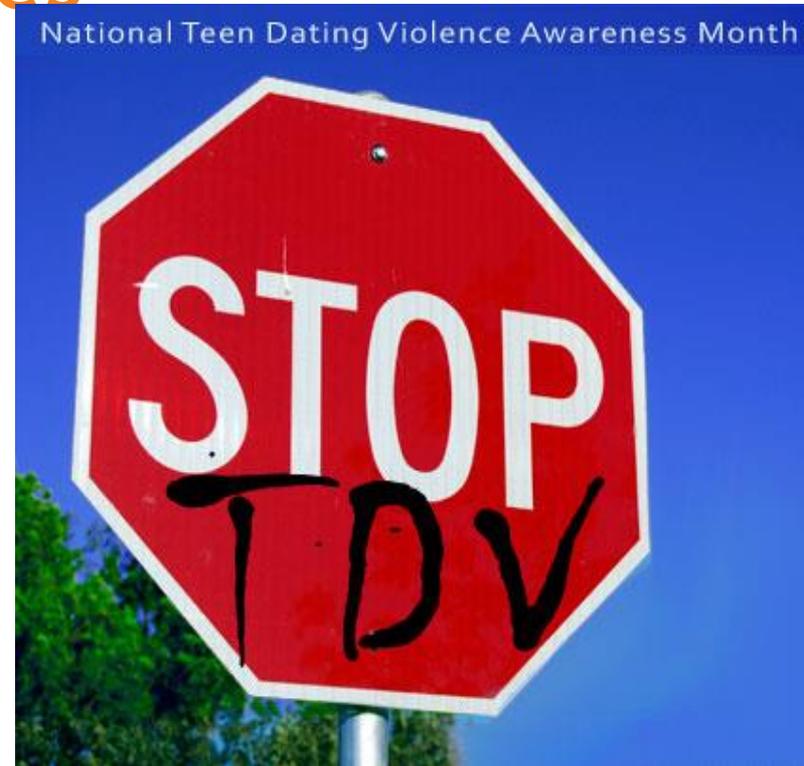
Media Outreach

Timing and Opportunities

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

❑ Aligning policy efforts with current events

❑ Awareness months-- TDVAPM, SAAM

❑ Other policy efforts (state level policy change)

❑ Incidents on campus or in the community

LAUSD School Board Passes Resolution

Cindi Santana

On September 30,2011, Cindi was stabbed by her ex-boyfriend, Abraham, on South East High School.

Beyond Schools: Planning and Policy Development in the Community

- ❑ Enhance policies/programs in youth organizations
- ❑ Identify relationship indicators for children's social and emotional health

Challenges

❑ Lack of awareness/prioritization of teen dating violence and its impact

❑ Lack of local data to substantiate need

❑ Competing community interests

❑ Limits of policies as prevention tools

❑ Difficulties with implementation and dissemination of policies

Flexibility

- ❑ Changes in personnel
- ❑ Changes in funding
- ❑ Changing school /community needs

Resources

- Start Strong Model Policy
  - www.startstrongteens.org
- Lausd.net
  - Student/Parent Handbooks
- Title IX
  - Knowyourix.org

Questions?

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