

Executive Summary

The purpose of the program, *Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships*, is to build local public health capacity to establish a comprehensive community-wide teen dating violence prevention initiative that focuses on 11-14 year olds to promote respectful, non-violent dating relationships among youth in high-risk urban communities.

The Dating Matters initiative builds on core principles of sustainability, evidence-based practice, and population-based methods to develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive approach to promote respectful, non-violent dating relationships in high-risk urban communities. The Florida Department of Health in Broward County and Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) will collaboratively provide a comprehensive approach to promoting healthy relationships and preventing teen dating violence. The initiative includes multiple strategies intended to influence teens, parents/caregivers, schools and communities. In addition, sustainable prevention strategies require the existence of an infrastructure that will continue to support implementation over time.

Middle Schools participating in the initiative include: Apollo, Attucks, Crystal Lake, Deerfield Beach, Gulfstream, Lauderdale Lakes, McNicol, Olsen, Pompano Beach, Rickards, Silver Lakes, and William Dandy.