



Our Commitment to Prevention in Texas



An Invitation

Teen dating violence is preventable. We invite you and all individuals, families and communities in Texas to join as we envision a future in which interpersonal violence never occurs. We can stop violence before it starts! Here is what we are doing to make it a reality.

TCFV's Solid Prevention Focus

Texas Council on Family Violence's dedicated Prevention Team leads statewide initiatives that share powerful messages for social change, and partners with organizations to advance the understanding of violence prevention. We strengthen the ongoing prevention work in Texas by creating communities of practice where prevention workers come together to offer peer support and build leadership skills. We offer research, training, technical support and guidance; develop new methods for engaging communities; share best practices; and provide support for implementation and evaluation of programs.

Why Prevention is Essential

Prevention efforts pay off in the short run *and* the long run. A community that invests in prevention has healthier people, families and communities—and simply less violence to address with valuable public resources. Our goal is to educate and empower more prevention voices in our state, and to create a Texas that is saturated with positive messages about relationships based on mutual dignity and respect.

TCFV starts from the understanding that preventing family violence requires a community-centered approach. With enough support, every community can solidify its commitment to safe relationships, and examine the social and cultural norms which allow partner violence to take place. It can then determine the pathways to change those norms, and give those who are managing the effects of violence a base for recovery.

Meaningful and long-lasting prevention work takes an investment of time and resources. We leverage communities of influence, such as athletic coaches, health care providers, faith leaders and young people themselves to be catalysts of change over time.

Whether a community is just beginning prevention efforts, or has a flourishing program in place already, TCFV's Prevention Team is here to support its effort to prevent violence before it starts. These are some of the initiatives we are working on at TCFV:

Project Connect | Texas

Project Connect is a national initiative that seeks new ways to identify, respond to and prevent domestic and sexual violence, and promote an improved public response to abuse. *Project Connect | Texas* is a collaboration of the Texas Council on Family Violence and state and private organizations across Texas, including the Texas Department of State

Health Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Office of the Attorney General, University of Texas and the Texas Healthy Start Alliance.

Public health systems and health care providers are natural allies to the domestic violence movement. Their understanding of violence as a health issue gives providers a unique opportunity for early detection and prevention. Providers that see young patients in particular are positioned well to reinforce messages about healthy relationships and help them make connections between their relationships and their health.

Working with Health Care Providers

For many teens and young adults, health care providers are seen as a neutral and acceptable source of information, guidance and resources. We help providers make the connection between violence and health for their patients, empowering young people to make healthy decisions about relationships.

Project Connect | Texas provides trainings across the state addressing an array of topics, including reproductive coercion, birth control sabotage, the impact of violence on women's health, best practices for screening and responding to violence in the healthcare setting, and harm-reduction strategies. These trainings also provide important information and opportunities for providers to practice the skill of talking to young people about relationships in the context of ordinary clinical visits.

Working with Family Violence Programs

Too many victims of family violence use emergency services to meet their health care needs. *Project Connect* also aims to work with programs to help victims establish medical homes and access ongoing health services. To this end, *Project Connect | Texas* has worked with domestic violence programs around the state to develop onsite health services for women and children accessing shelter or non-residential services. We are committed to increasing the capacity of domestic violence advocates to understand the intersections between violence and health, so that they may better facilitate partnerships with health systems.



Project Connect | Texas

A Public Health Collaboration to Prevent Family and Sexual Violence

Project Connect | Texas has continued to open doors to new partnerships and collaborations with organizations across the state. Exciting programs in Texas are making considerable headway in the field of women's health and violence prevention, and *Project Connect* has discovered organizations and individuals working for change across all levels.

Coaching Boys Into Men

Coaching Boys INTO MEN

Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) is a primary prevention curriculum developed by Futures Without Violence. CBIM is a coaches leadership initiative that works with coaches to talk to athletes about honor and respect toward the women and girls in their lives. Why this approach? Coaches work with athletes to improve their athletic skills and support their social and emotional growth to become responsible well-meaning men. They have long been regarded as mentors and have an ability to inspire, challenge and shape the lives of young athletes.

The CBIM Coaches Leadership Program builds upon character-developing philosophies that many coaches already implement. The curriculum equips coaches with the tools necessary to talk to their athletes about self respect and, more importantly, having respect for women and girls. It provides coaches with messages for athletes about integrity and non-violence.

Coaches are the key in this strategy: they can effectively deliver the message that violence does not have a place in healthy relationships. Coaches can leverage their unique connection with young athletes to shape their knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors on elements of healthy relationships versus dating violence. Coaches also are uniquely positioned to hold athletes accountable for their behaviors on and off the field. As an even broader reach, athletes are peer leaders and change agents within school settings and carry tremendous power to shift school culture. This program is gaining national popularity and is currently undergoing formal evaluation.



Coach Peach and the Arlington High School Football Team

TCFV has piloted CBIM in the greater Dallas / Fort Worth area and recently partnered with the Texas High School Coaches Association for further implementation.

The project encompasses these steps:

- Kickoff! Launch a coaches' training session
- Xs and Os – Implementation
- Score! Evaluation for change in knowledge, attitude and behavior of athletes and coaches

Engaging Youth



Engaging youth in prevention allows for deep-seated community transformation. When youth recognize and choose healthy romantic relationships, they

challenge generational cycles and prepare the ground for a world without violence. We are excited to be launching a new focus on Youth Engagement. TCFV is currently researching the very best prevention programs for youth on the international, national and local levels. Our vision is that young people across Texas will be empowered to choose healthy relationships, create gender equity and act with safety and confidence when confronting the warning signs of abuse. We have an array of evidence-based resources and guidance already available for member programs who are working on engaging youth to prevent dating violence, and we are ready to help activate youth as peer leaders.

Engaging Faith Communities



Faith leaders touch the lives of thousands in Texas, and hold a place of honor in communities, making them good instruments for change. The Prevention Team developed a skills building curriculum designed to support prevention and community education staff who are working to engage faith leaders as partners in prevention. The dynamic and interactive training involves a panel of local faith leaders and builds on the history of cooperation with faith communities that programs have established as they support families rebuilding their lives. Programs interested in the training should contact the Prevention team. Additionally, TCFV will convene a Communities of Faith Work Group to chart a course for our work with faith communities statewide. The goal is to support religious leaders as they promote religious teachings that uphold healthy relationships and clarify those teachings that can be misused to justify abuse.

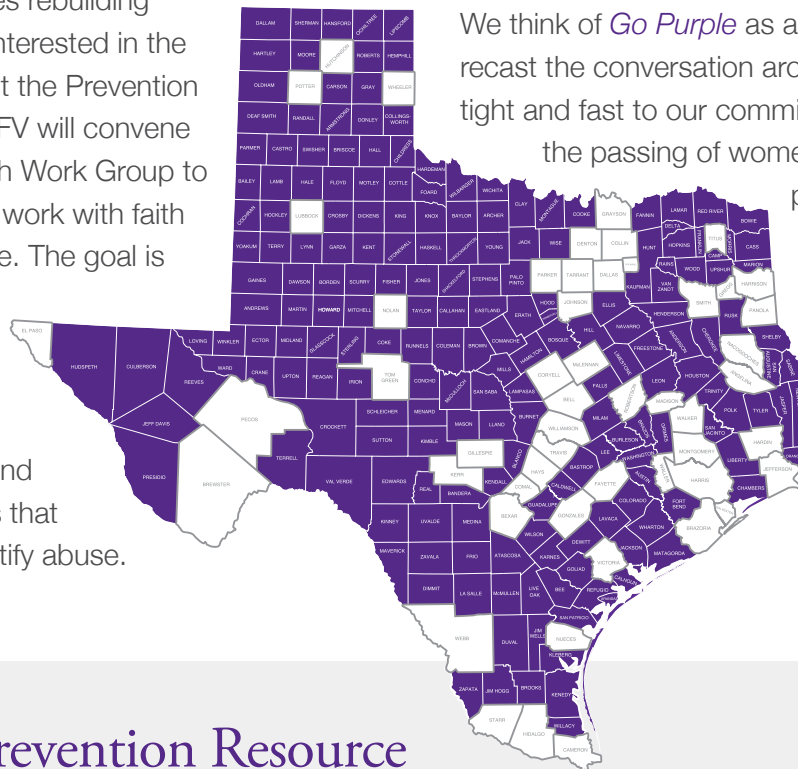
Faith leaders touch the lives of thousands in Texas, and hold a place of honor

Go Purple

What do we mean when we say, “Go Purple”? Take a look at our Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Victims in 2010 at www.tcfv.org/pdf/Honoring-Texas-Victims.pdf. Note the map on Page 6. Realizing and seeing the stark reality that 142 victims of family violence were killed by their intimate partners in 2010 becomes all the more striking when we see the map of our great state. Counties shaded in purple represent those parts of our state where no murders occurred in 2010; murders did occur in counties shaded in white. It comes down to a simple statement: We want all of Texas to *Go Purple*.

We think of *Go Purple* as a way to reconsider and recast the conversation around family violence. We hold tight and fast to our commitment to solemnly marking the passing of women killed by their intimate partners. At the same time we also look to and expect a future without violence. But how do we get there?

Go Purple offers a path.



Online Prevention Resource

Prevention is a vital component of TCFV's dedication to ending IPV in Texas. We seek to amplify additional voices for prevention by offering a dedicated prevention section on our website.

Visit www.tcfv.org/our-work/prevention where you will find:

- A searchable inventory of national best practices that are age-, gender-, and culturally-specific and deal with issues like primary prevention, bullying, and teen dating violence
- A prevention resources directory for Texas
- Materials to promote community engagement
- Information on working with communities of faith and men and boys around our state
- Examples of strong prevention work from Texas and across the country

Other Notable Prevention Initiatives

Start Strong Media Literacy Tools:

Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships

Start Strong is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) aimed at preventing relationship violence and abuse among young people by promoting healthy behaviors. One of the strategies used by Start Strong is the development of media literacy tools for youth engagement.

Some examples are as follows:

Sound Relationships: The next time you are ready to download that song from iTunes, you may want to check out how healthy it is for you. Just as a nutritional label allows you to count the calories in a fast food hamburger, this tool helps to measure what is in the songs you listen to and evaluate how healthy – or unhealthy – songs are.

True View: Music videos can have an influence on our health and the health of our relationships so it is especially important to be a critical viewer. This tool helps you assess the healthy or unhealthy relationship images in music videos.

For more on these and other Start Strong Media Literacy tools go to: www.startstrongteens.org

Start Strong Austin

Texas is home to one of the 11 Start Strong sites nationwide. Start Strong Austin, led by SafePlace and the Expect Respect Program, are engaging new partners and empowering youth to create new standards for mutual respect, trust and support in relationships through theater, music, art and digital media. Check out the Texas Start Strong site for information resources and ideas!

www.startstrongaustin.org/

Green Dot

The Green Dot strategy draws its name from the image of a map covered in red dots representing a terrible epidemic. For every action taken to change the conditions – or culture - that allowed the epidemic to get a foothold, a green dot replaces a red one until green dots gradually cover the entire map. The green map represents a place where violence against women never starts.



A green dot is any behavior, choice, word or attitude that promotes safety for all of us and communicates absolute intolerance for any form of violence. To turn the map green, Green Dot strategy treats everyone as bystanders who can choose to passively accept violence by doing nothing or to do their part to eradicate it by actively intervening. Goals are accomplished by reaching out to well respected women and men who represent groups within the community and working to engage those groups through awareness, education and skills practice. Everyone is encouraged to integrate moments of prevention into daily activities. By using new behaviors, gradually the culture changes and violence does not start.

www.livethegreendot.com

Texas PEACE Project

The Texas PEACE Project is the youth program for the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. The project works to engage, encourage, educate and support youth activists and their adult allies to create social change and equity across Texas in order to end sexual and dating violence. The Texas PEACE Project employs a peer education model based on the belief that youth educating their peers is the most effective means to bring about that change.



The Texas PEACE Project targets middle school, high school, and college-aged youth across Texas with training on speaking out against all forms of oppression – in particular sexism, racism, homophobia and adultism. These are all root causes of sexual violence and have a profound impact on Texas youth.

For more about the Texas PEACE Project go to: www.taasa.org/tpp/

Thank You

If you are reading this, you are already an important part of violence prevention. The change we envision takes each one of us making shifts in our collective culture. A world where intimate partner violence simply never starts may seem a heroic vision, but it is within reach. In exploring the resources above, connecting with prevention programs and spreading the word, you contribute to the change. Thank you.



www.tcfv.org