

LOS ANGELES

In Touch with Teens Curriculum

Contact: Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW)
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"Students Together Organizing Peace (STOP) was started because a girl at a high school was raped and nothing was done about it. I've been part of the STOP Club for two years now, and I've learned so much. STOP taught me to be more aware and at some point changed my passionate/aggressive attitude into being assertive."

-- *Jasmine Vasquez, STOP Club, Marshall High School*

Mission: To prevent the tragedy of relationship violence through education, advocacy and organizing.

Overview: LACAAW's curriculum, "In Touch With Teens," addresses violence in teen relationships. Since 1991, LACAAW has provided a Teen Relationship Violence Prevention curriculum to junior high and high schools, juvenile detention centers and other community-based, youth organizations. Program elements include:

- The Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI), which seeks to prevent interpersonal violence in the Mid-San Fernando Valley by educating youth and organizing community events and media campaigns
- The Teen Abuse Prevention Network (TAPNet), providing domestic-violence program assistance
- "Parenting for Healthy Relationships" a collaboration of LACAAW, KCET-TV and the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles that educates parents about creating violence-free relationships and families
- The Gender Specific Program, serving young women in Los Angeles' juvenile hall and camps with essential violence prevention training and education in health, the law, self-esteem and the arts
- Students Together Organizing Peace (S.T.O.P), a violence prevention club with a focus on peer-to-peer education
- The Campus Project, established to reduce violent crimes (e.g., sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking) on college campuses
- The Digital Storytelling Project, in which youth work with new media to support recovery and prevent violence.
- Arts for Peace, which uses the arts as tools of healing and expression; projects include mask-making and timed writing exercises

Results:

In 2003, 13,181 youth were served by the "In Touch with Teens" program.

Key Elements of Success:

- Multiple collaborations with funders, service organizations and schools
- A focus on relationship violence
- Youth leadership and participation

Target Population: Teens in the Los Angeles community

Evaluation: TAPNET Evaluation, conducted by the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, June 2000

“The evaluation results show that the curriculum was helpful in providing teens with the information, knowledge and skills needed to avoid abusive relationships and to promote healthy relationships. The majority of facilitator training participants found the curriculum to be a valuable resource and thought it was a good foundation for general information on topics related to teen violence.”

Awards:

- The “In Touch With Teens” curriculum was selected as one of five model youth-violence prevention programs in the United States (and the only such program from California) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- “In Touch With Teens” was selected as the relationship-violence curriculum for the "Life Skills for the 21st Century" curriculum of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

“Our club meets at least once every week during lunchtime. I've been through two trainings, Education Day and Self Defense. Through these trainings, I gain insight and get the chance to work with other people as well. I wish I could have learned about STOP earlier, because it's just a great opportunity and experience to work and teach others about violence prevention.”

--Jasmine Vasquez