

**Start Strong: Building Healthy Teens Initiative**  
**Policy Champion Interview Guide (1/20/2010)**

**Introduction**

**Study Description and Background**

Thanks for talking with us about teen dating violence policies in your community. This interview is part of a study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and is being conducted by RTI International. The interview will take 60 minutes or less to complete.

Our goal is to describe policies related to teen dating violence as they currently exist in your community, and to understand your efforts to modify policy and advocate for changes in the policy environment. We will use this information to describe the types of activities used most often in the adoption and implementation process and to identify the strategies found to be most effective across sites. We will be conducting interviews with all 11 Start Strong sites with people who have been identified as policy champions in their communities.

**Consent and Confidentiality**

You received information about this interview in an email, but let me review a few points first:

- Your participation in this interview is voluntary and will have no effect on any level of funding that the school receives as part of any current or future funding from RWJF
- If there are any questions you prefer not to answer, let us know and we can move to the next question.
- Information you provide, along with that from others, will be used as the basis for an evaluation report and issue briefs about the implementation of the Start Strong, which will be disseminated to an array of audiences.
- We would like to identify persons interviewed by their name and role if quoted in the text of any reports. However, specific statements do not need to be identified by name, and we will ensure confidentiality if there are topics you would like to discuss without attributing them to your name or to this agency, so please let us know if that is the case, and we will include them only in a general discussion. We also will list all persons interviewed in an appendix to the report.
- We would like to audio-record this interview as a back-up to our written notes. This recording is only for use of our evaluation team. May we have your permission to do this? (Record only if participants agree).

## **Interviewee Information**

1. To start, let me confirm what we have listed about your position and your role with respect to Start Strong. How long have you been in your current position? What is the nature of your position? How long have you been involved with Start Strong?

## **Description of current policy**

2. Now, let me be sure that our basic understanding of your policy is correct [*Review our understanding of policy based on October 2010 memo, with respect to the following*]:
  - a. Level at which policy exists (state/district/school)
  - b. Policy form (policy, administrative regulation)
  - c. Focus (specific to teen dating violence or part of violence prevention or bullying policy)
3. We are interested in several specific aspects of the existing policy. [*Refer to policy document if provided in advance*].
  - a. Does the current policy link teen dating violence to other forms of violence, such as bullying or sexual harassment?
  - b. Does the current policy link prevention of teen dating violence to positive school outcomes such as student achievement, school climate or teacher retention?
  - c. Does the policy address electronic forms of teen dating violence, such as sexting?
  - d. Does the policy designate responsibility for implementation to a specific person at the school level? At the district level?
  - e. Does the policy require a process for monitoring incidents of teen dating violence?
  - f. Does the policy require a process for responding to incidents of teen dating violence, including serious and escalating incidents?
  - g. Does the policy require training on teen dating violence for all school personnel, for certain roles, or not at all?
  - h. Does the policy require that a teen dating violence curriculum be taught? How is the requirement framed (i.e., does it apply to all students, are standards for curriculum specified?)
  - i. Does your district (or school) conduct climate assessments? If so, do they include items related to teen dating violence, sexual harassment or healthy relationships?

### **Resources related to teen dating violence prevention**

*Confirm whether following applies to district or specific school(s)*

4. To what extent did the following exist in your target school(s) or school district, prior to implementation of the Start Strong Initiative? Are they implemented currently?
  - a. Universal student teen dating violence activities (e.g., curriculum delivered to all students in a grade) *[pre-Start Strong / current]*
  - b. Targeted student teen dating violence activities (i.e., support groups, e.g., support groups for students at risk of teen dating violence) *[pre-Start Strong / current]*
  - c. School personnel training on teen dating violence *[pre-Start Strong / current]*
  - d. Parent education on teen dating violence *[pre-Start Strong / current]*
  - e. Monitoring of incidents of teen dating violence *[pre-Start Strong / current]*
  - f. Process for responding to incidents (including serious/escalating incidents) of teen dating violence

### **Activities related to policy change and advocacy** *[Refer to policy memo]*

5. What are your long term goals (4-12 months) regarding policy implementation, adoption and advocacy?
6. What are your short term goals (next 3 months) regarding policy implementation, adoption and advocacy?
7. Who are key players involved with this effort and what are their roles? Are there others who you would like to engage in this process?
8. What have been the most important activities related to policy change and advocacy? Please describe meetings, communication or other events related to policy change and advocacy, and your assessment of these.
9. What has been helpful to move this effort forward?
10. What barriers have been encountered?
11. What are successes with this effort?
12. Have there been any recent events that have influenced awareness and attitudes related to teen dating violence? (e.g., incidents of teen dating violence that have prompted media attention?)
13. That's all the questions we have. Do you have any questions for me?
14. As mentioned before, we plan to repeat these interviews during this academic year and in 2011-2012. Any schedule considerations we should note for the end of this academic year, in May or June? *The next interview will be substantially shorter.* We'll be in touch as the time gets closer.