



TEEN PEP (PEERS EDUCATING PEERS)

ProMedica | Toledo, OH

CASE STUDY

Overview

Established in 1995, Teen PEP (Peers Educating Peers) is a primary abuse-prevention program that focuses on rape and sexual-violence prevention education as well as teen dating violence and bullying prevention. The project is based on a CDC-evaluated, evidence-based curriculum *Expect Respect: A School-Based Program Promoting Safe and Healthy Relationships for Youth*, and integrates concepts from Safe Dates. The goal of the program is to train students as teen leaders to reduce the incidence of sexual violence in Lucas County.

Impact

Annually, Teen PEP staff conducts weekly and/or bi-weekly training sessions with up to 150 teen leaders to prepare them to deliver primary abuse-prevention presentations to up to 4,000 teens in Lucas County schools. The project targets youth ages 11 to 18 in Lucas County, where the health assessment indicates that bullying has decreased in grades 9 to 12 from 43 percent in 2011 to 38 percent in 2013/14 and to 34 percent in 2016/17 since inception of the program.

Lessons Learned

As schools, teachers and administrators experience increased pressures to increase academic time, Teen PEP must regularly engage with school leaders

to ensure that the program is understood as an educational opportunity rather than time away from academics. To help further this understanding, Teen PEP updates its curriculum to include speakers and presentations from community partners such as local EMS, YWCA's Rape Crisis Program and Toledo Police. Additionally, Teen PEP shares the program

feedback, survey results and outcome measurements with school leaders to help combat this issue.

Future Goals

In 2016-17, the program updated its evaluation methods to provide more programming time with the students. This new methodology is retrospective testing, which is a one-time survey during which students self-report the same

information as in previous evaluations. The program will be expanding into Defiance City Schools next year and, as funding becomes available, additional expansion will take place.

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CONTACT

Stephanie Cihon

Senior Specialist

567-585-3896

stephanie.cihon@promedica.org