

February 21, 2012

<b>DIRECTIVE:</b>	<b>JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 11-48</b>
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**TO:** ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF  
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF  
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS  
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS  
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS  
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

**FROM:** EDNA PRIMROSE  
National Director  
Office of Job Corps

**SUBJECT:** National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month 2012

1. Purpose. To remind the Job Corps community that February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention (TDVAP) Month, and to provide center staff and students with ideas and resources to support it.

2. Background. On January 31, 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed February 2012 as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Dating violence is a serious problem in the United States. Among adult victims of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, 22.4 percent of women and 15.0 percent of men first experience some form of partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age.<sup>1</sup> About 10 percent of students nationwide report being hit or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriends or girlfriends in the past 12 months.<sup>2</sup> Women in the age group of our Job Corps population, 16 to 24, experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault<sup>3</sup>, and people ages 18 and 19 experience the highest rates of stalking.<sup>4</sup> Teen dating violence is a disturbingly common phenomenon among youth.

Job Corps has taken a strong stance against violence, including teen dating violence and sexual assaults, and every Job Corps center is required to have a Sexual Assault and Response Team (SART). This team is comprised of center staff and outside resources to provide sexual

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<sup>1</sup> Black MC, Basile KC, Breiding MJ, Smith SG, Walters ML, Merrick MT, Chen J, Stevens MR. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance—United States, 2009. MMWR 2010;59(No.SS-5).

<sup>3</sup> Rand, Michael. 2008. Criminal Victimization, 2007. U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics. <http://www.mnadv.org/NCVS07.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Baum, Katrina, Catalano, Shannan, Rand, Michael and Rose, Kristina. 2009. Stalking Victimization in the United States. U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics. <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/svus.pdf>

assault prevention, education, counseling, treatment, follow-up care and reporting. Each center has a comprehensive prevention and response program focused on increasing our students' awareness of all forms of power-based violence, including teen dating violence, and providing assistance to students who may be the victims of such acts. In addition, centers are required to report sexual assaults immediately to law enforcement authorities and to the National Office through the Significant Incident Reporting (SIR) system (PRH-6: 6.11, R6). Job Corps maintains a Zero Tolerance (ZT) policy for violence and drugs. Sexual assault is a Level 1 offense that results in separation from Job Corps.

3. Recommendations. Job Corps has always done an excellent job in addressing the many forms of power-based violence, including teen dating violence. Here are some additional suggestions and resources for centers to expand their teen dating violence education and prevention activities with a focus on healthy teen relationships.

- Read President Obama's Proclamation (attached); also can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/31/presidential-proclamation-national-teen-dating-violence-awareness-and-pr>.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention features many campaigns and resources such as the "Dating Matters" and "Choose Respect" initiatives which can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/datingviolence/>.
- The "Love is Respect" website is a teen friendly site which includes a blog and live chat with peer advocates: [www.LoveIsRespect.org](http://www.LoveIsRespect.org).
- Invite a guest speaker to the health education class to talk about teen dating violence, healthy relationships, and/or the use of digital technology in relationships.
- Have an information booth or table set up in the cafeteria or in the halls during lunch and distribute the "Girls to Girls" brochure found on the Job Corps Health and Wellness website.
- Give information about teen dating violence or healthy relationships during a student assembly.
- Start a Healthy Relationship Club on center including males and females.

4. Action. Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

5. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Carol Abnathy at (202) 693-3283 or [abnathy.carol@dol.gov](mailto:abnathy.carol@dol.gov), or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or [davis.johnetta@dol.gov](mailto:davis.johnetta@dol.gov).