



consensual sexual behaviors as one of its five goals. Additionally, the Sexual Assault Task Force has offered [webinars](#) on preventing sexual violence through promoting sexual health, and the 2011 [Oregon Adolescent Sexual Health Conference](#) focused on healthy relationships, hosting the first statewide cross discipline meeting for sexual health promotion and sexual violence prevention educators. The cross-discipline conversations continued at the 2012 Conference. These efforts represent a closing of the gap between sexual health promotion and sexual violence prevention efforts.

In the spring of 2010, a group of stakeholders working in sexual violence prevention, sexual health promotion, education, and similar fields came together to form Oregon's statewide Sexual Health Work Group (SHWG). The SHWG is coordinated by the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force's Prevention and Education Subcommittee. Open to stakeholders from across the state, the SHWG exists to explore, identify, and promote the connections between sexual health promotion and sexual violence prevention.

Scope of Work

The SHWG believes that sexual health promotion *is* sexual violence prevention. Only by developing a positive frame that recognizes the interrelatedness of these two fields can we create a healthy and safe Oregon. To this end, since its inception, the SHWG, has accomplished the following:



- Reviewed curriculum and key documents to identify key themes for healthy relationships and sexuality education (detailed below);
- In partnership with the Oregon Public Health Division SHWG undertook an assessment of the current state of Oregon's sexuality education efforts, specifically efforts to teach about healthy relationships and sexuality. The assessment, completed in the summer of 2012, included surveys of teachers, nonprofit advocates and public health workers, as well as focus groups with students.
- Supported development of the [Healthy Teen Relationship Act Toolkit](#), An Advocate's Guide to Engaging Local School Districts in Teen Dating Violence Prevention.
- In June 2013, SHWG members from SATF, Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Advocacy Organizations, Oregon Public Health Division, Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence presented a [webinar in support of the Toolkit](#).

The SHWG meets periodically to identify and discuss key issues and plan activities that promote the connections between sexual health promotion and sexual violence prevention. If you are interested in knowing more about SHWG or attending a meeting, [click here to email Nancy Greenman, SATF Prevention Program Coordinator](#).

Key Themes for Healthy Relationships and Sexuality Education

After a review of curricula and key documents, the SHWG identified the following key themes present nationally and internationally in healthy relationships and sexuality education:

- Sex positivity: celebrates health sexuality, no fear-based information
- Sexuality based in emotional and biological spheres
- Promotes sexual rights of individuals
- Discusses issues of consent
- Addresses respectful interpersonal and intrapersonal communication
- Addresses power dynamics and healthy boundaries in relationships
- Illustrates examples and qualities of healthy, safe and equitable relationships
- Moves beyond victim-focused risk reduction
- Youth empowerment
- Gendered lens: explores stereotypes, gender roles, and social constructions of identity
- Acknowledges needs of marginalized populations
- Addresses oppression-both institutional and internalized
- Calls upon involvement between the individual, family, and community

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