A Strong Economic Foundation: A Preventative Approach to SV/IPV

Nikki Kress, RPE Program Manager
Brooke Ophardt, Training & Prevention Specialist

Learning Objectives:

01 Describe the prevalence of SV on a broad level.
02 Identify the impacts of SV on individuals and communities.
03 Recognize the protective strategies for economic opportunities for SV.
WHAT IS PREVENTION?

Definition of Prevention (noun)

The act of stopping something from happening or of stopping someone from doing something.

Source: Cambridge Dictionary
Levels of Prevention

- **Tertiary**
  - Treatment
  - Strategies to minimize long-term effects or recurrence

- **Secondary**
  - Early Intervention
  - Strategies for early identification or immediate response

- **Primary**
  - Stop violence from ever occurring!
  - Strategies to reduce or eliminate risk factors

Stop violence from ever occurring!
Primary Prevention

Working to impact social structures and conditions to stop domestic violence from ever occurring in the first place.
Social Ecological Model

- Four-level model
- Demonstrates the need to work across multiple levels of the model at the same time.
- Addresses root-level prevention strategies

Represents ALL levels of Prevention & Social Ecological Model
Prevalence of Sexual Violence

WHAT WE KNOW

2 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men have experienced unwanted sexual contact at some point in their lifetime.

Source: CDC's STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence
WHO IT IMPACTS

Women
Women of Color
LGBTQ+
Young Women
Women in College / University

Source: CDC’s STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence

Risk Factors for Sexual Violence

- Characteristics of the individual
- Involvement in delinquent behavior
- Excessive alcohol use
- Poverty or low socioeconomic status
- Social norms supportive of sexual violence
- History of childhood physical abuse
- Acceptance of violence
- Early sexual initiation and sexual risk-taking behaviors
- Gender inequality
- Male sexual entitlement
- Exposure to parental violence
- Hyper-masculinity and other harmful gender norms
- Association with sexually-aggressive peer groups
- Exposure to community crime and violence
- Weak laws and policies related to sexual violence

Source: CDC’s STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence
SV and Other Forms of Violence

- Re-victimization
- Bullying
- Suicide
- Shared Risk Factors

Source: CDC's STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence

Impacts of Sexual Violence
Health Consequences

- Physical
- Psychological
- Chronic Health issues
- PTSD
- Change in behavior, including sexual behaviors
- Other challenges

Source: CDC’s STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence

Economic Consequences

- Increased medical care visits
  - Can be costly
- Employment instability
- Loss of Housing:
- Ability to afford child care
- Relying on abusive partner for financial help

Source: CDC’s STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence
Provide Opportunities to Empower & Support Women and Girls

- Intensive skill training
- Opportunities to practice & reinforce these skills
- Leadership positions
- Empowerment-based approaches
- Promoting healthy sexuality
- Teaching core social & emotional skills

Source: CDC's STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence
Rationale

- Gender inequality in:
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Income

Results in increased risks for SV

- Low socioeconomic status have been directly linked to SV

Source: CDC's STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence

Approaches

**Strengthening leadership and opportunities for adolescent girls**

- Addresses poverty
- Economic security
- Power imbalances between women & men
- Decreases gender inequality
  - Has been linked to risk for SV

**Strengthening economic support for women and families**

- Greater outcomes in:
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Community engagement
  - Political participation
- Safe space for girls to grow & connect while developing leadership skills and abilities

Source: CDC's STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence
Potential Outcomes

Increases in:

- Economic stability for women
- Equitable education opportunities
- Gender equality
- Economic & occupational statuses of women
- Knowledge of gender norms, healthy relationships, education, employment, civic engagement

Decrease or Reductions in:

- Poverty of women & children
- Pay differentials between women and men
- Sexual harassment
- Sex trafficking

Source: CDC’s STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence

Evidence

- Comparable worth policies around employment
  - Equal pay for equivalent work
- Adequate work supports
  - Paid Time Off
- Microfinance opportunities

Source: CDC’s STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence
Current Policy Initiatives - National

- Economic Abuse Law (2019)
- NYC - Earned Safe and Sick Time Act (2018)

Current Policy Initiatives - Delaware

- Expanding Microloan Program
- Financial Education for Youth
- Economic Opportunities for Women Committee
- Biden Summit on Economic Justice
Contact Us:

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

302-658-2958

www.dcadv.org

For additional training or resource needs,

contact:

Training, Outreach, and Prevention Team

training@dcadv.org