



DELAWARE COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

# Shifting the Systems

A COMMUNITY-LEVEL APPROACH TO VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION

## Who are we?

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## Our Time Together

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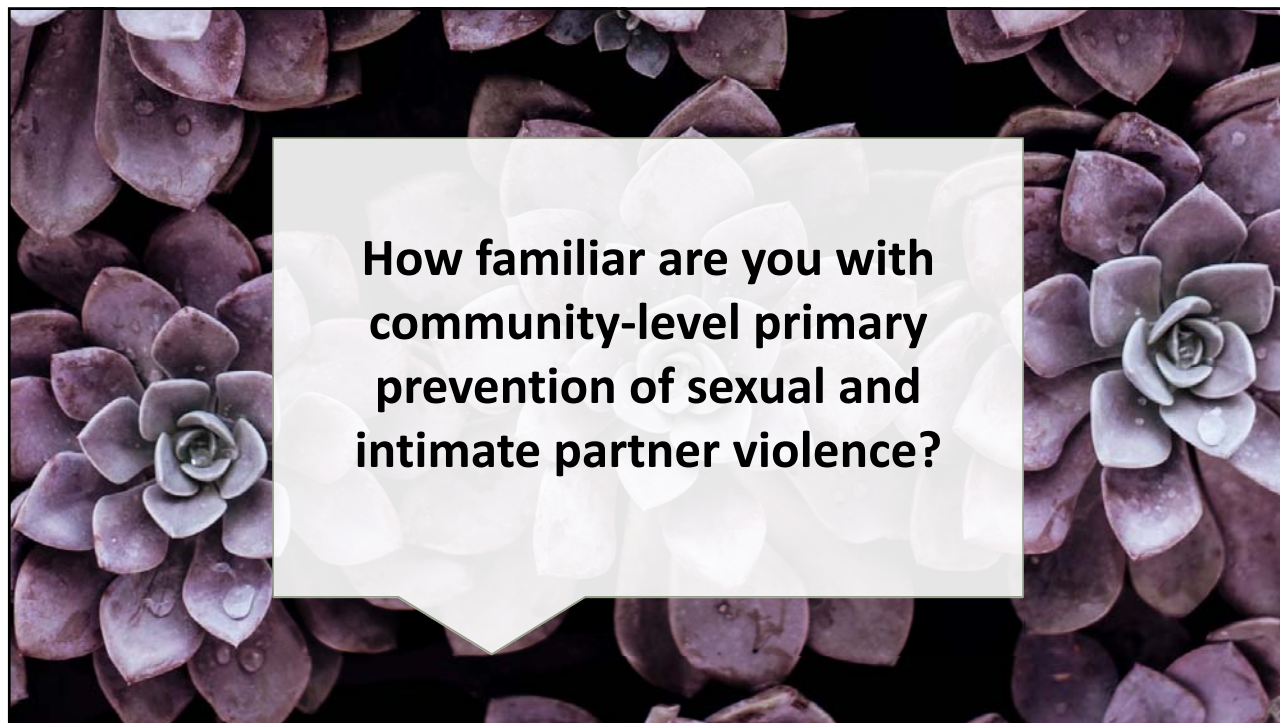
### Prevention review

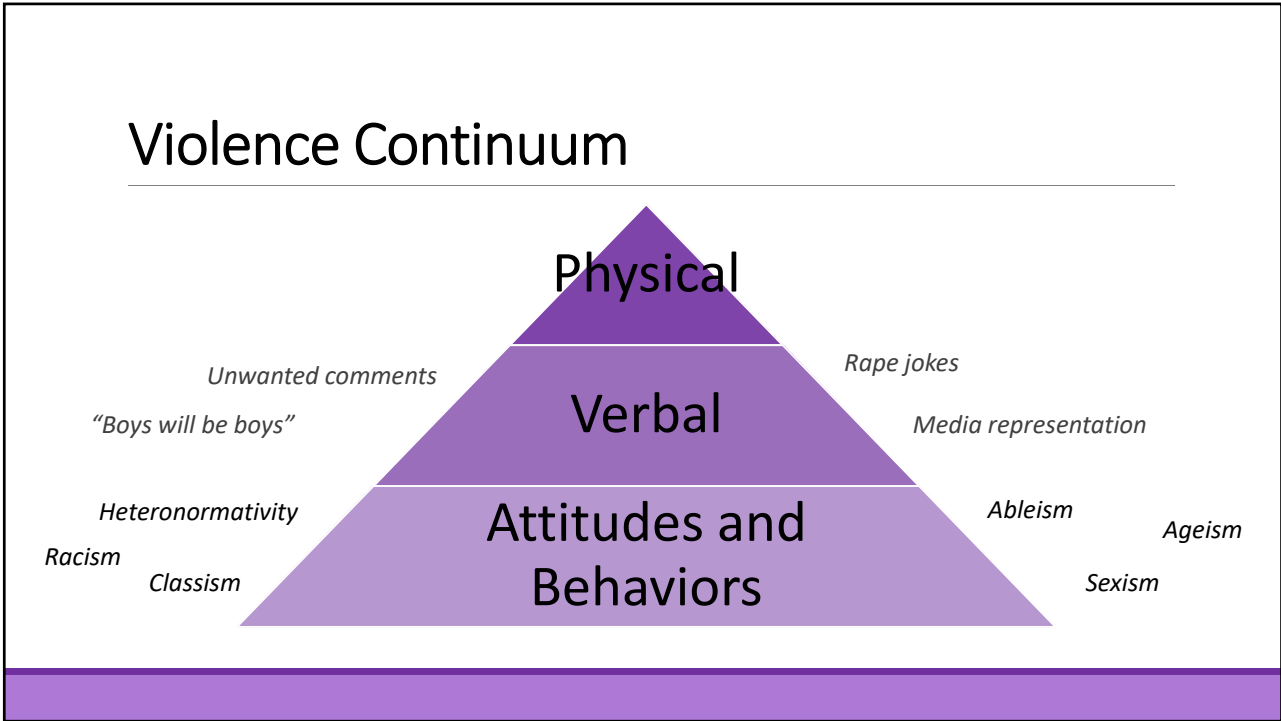
- Violence continuum
- Review of prevention vs. intervention
- Socioecological model

### Community-level prevention

- Defining “community”
- Community-level vs. community-based
- Promising practices

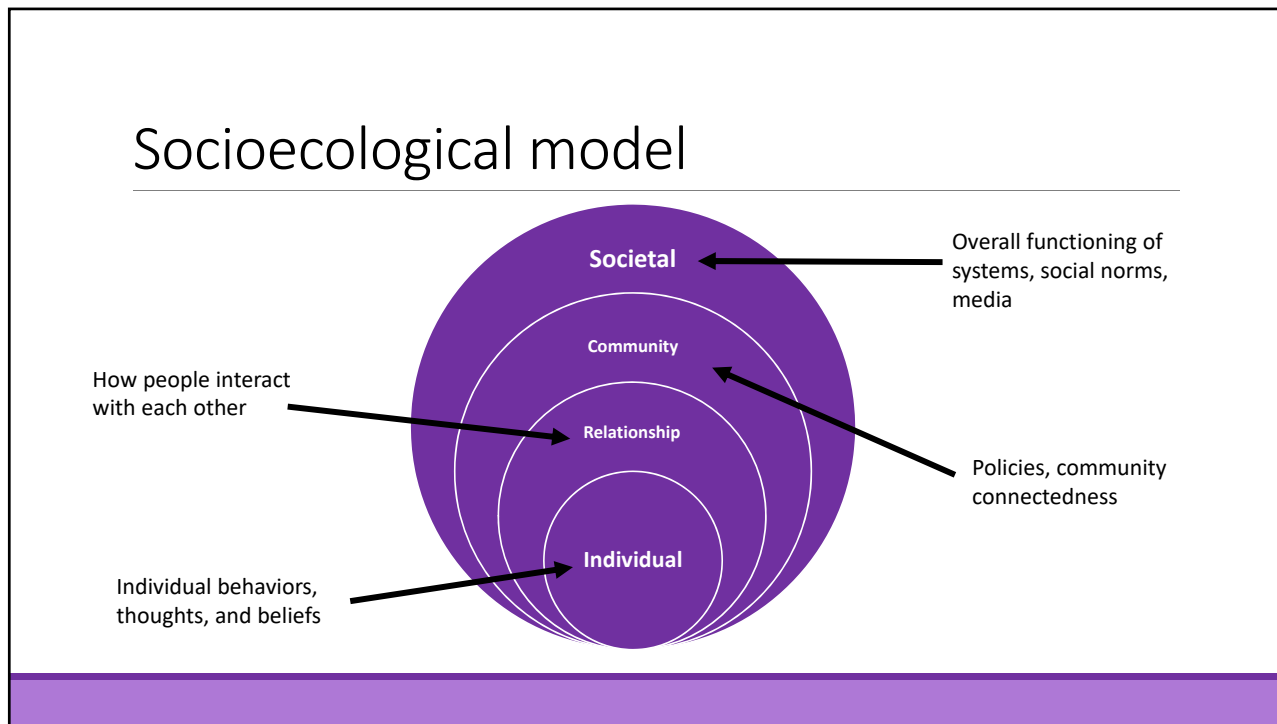
### Delaware initiatives





## Prevention vs. Intervention: What’s the difference?

PREVENTION	INTERVENTION
Decreasing someone’s likelihood to <b>commit</b> violence	Support for <b>victims and survivors</b>
Stopping violence <b>before</b> it occurs	Decreasing the short-term and long-term impact of trauma for the victim/survivor
Eliminating power imbalances and oppressive structures	<b>After</b> violence has already occurred
<b>Examples:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating more equitable systems (community- and societal-level)</li> <li>• Skill-building through long-term, multi-session programming (individual- and relationship-level)</li> </ul>	<b>Examples:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating support structures for survivors (i.e. service provision)</li> <li>• Policies that improve survivors’ abilities to heal (i.e. IPV policies in the workplace, SH policies)</li> </ul>



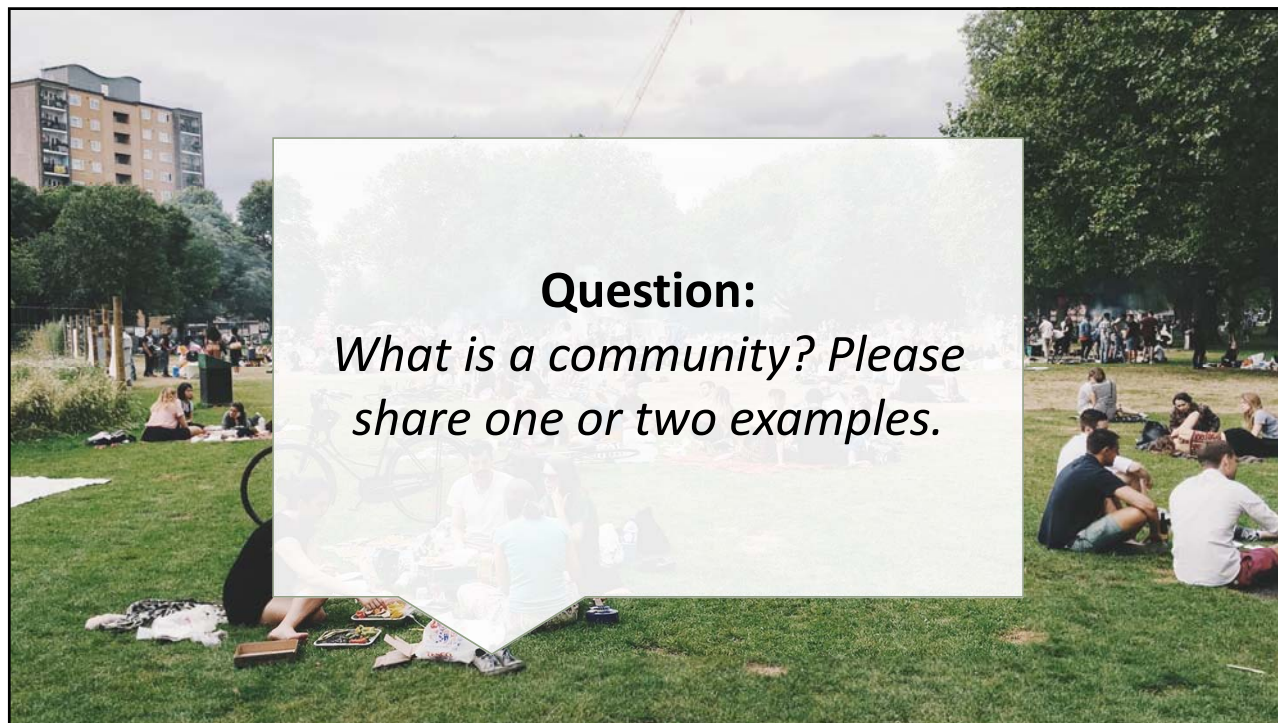
## Risk and Protective Factors

**Risk factor:** a characteristic that contributes to the likelihood that violence will occur

**Protective factor:** a characteristic that may reduce risk factors by buffering against them

# Community-Level Prevention

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY?  
COMMUNITY-LEVEL VS. COMMUNITY-BASED  
PROMISING PRACTICES



**Question:**

*What is a community? Please share one or two examples.*

## What is a community?

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A **community** is a group of individuals whose members share one or more common characteristics (culture, behavior, identity, social norms, beliefs/practices) and/or a common geographical area.

## Community-Based vs. Community-Level

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**Community-based approaches:** interventions implemented in community settings but target behavior at individual- and/or relationship-levels of the SEM

**Community-level approaches:** approaches or interventions that target modifiable structural, policy, economic, or environmental characteristics to reduce the risk for violence to occur; seek to change the climate, processes, or policies within the community; focus on the risk factors that exist at the community-level of the SEM

## Risk Factors for SV and IPV

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- Poverty and associated factors (i.e. high unemployment rates)
- Weak community sanctions against IPV and SV perpetrators (i.e. unwillingness of neighbors to intervene in situations where they witness violence)
- General tolerance of violence
- Low community cohesion
- Weak laws and policies related to IPV, SV, and gender equity
- Norms that support IPV and SV
- Rigid norms around masculinity and femininity (i.e. male superiority and sexual entitlement; female inferiority and sexual submissiveness)

## Research Challenges

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Defining a community

Minimal research for community-level interventions

Community-based research is difficult to measure!

## Practicing Community-Level Change: Theory Application

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1. Target specific risk and protective factors
  - Can be used as benchmarks
2. Look at overlapping risk and protective facts and consider prevention strategies for related health outcomes

## Practicing Community-Level Change (cont.)

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3. Use theory to identify promising practices
  - Behavioral theory
  - Social learning theory
  - Feminist theory
4. Look at built environment
  - Community gathering spaces
  - Accessibility



## Practical Application

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**Community-level approaches:** approaches or interventions that **target modifiable structural, policy, economic, or environmental characteristics** to reduce the risk for violence to occur; seek to change the climate, processes, or policies within the community

### Policy change

Remember: Prevention targets violence *before* it occurs!

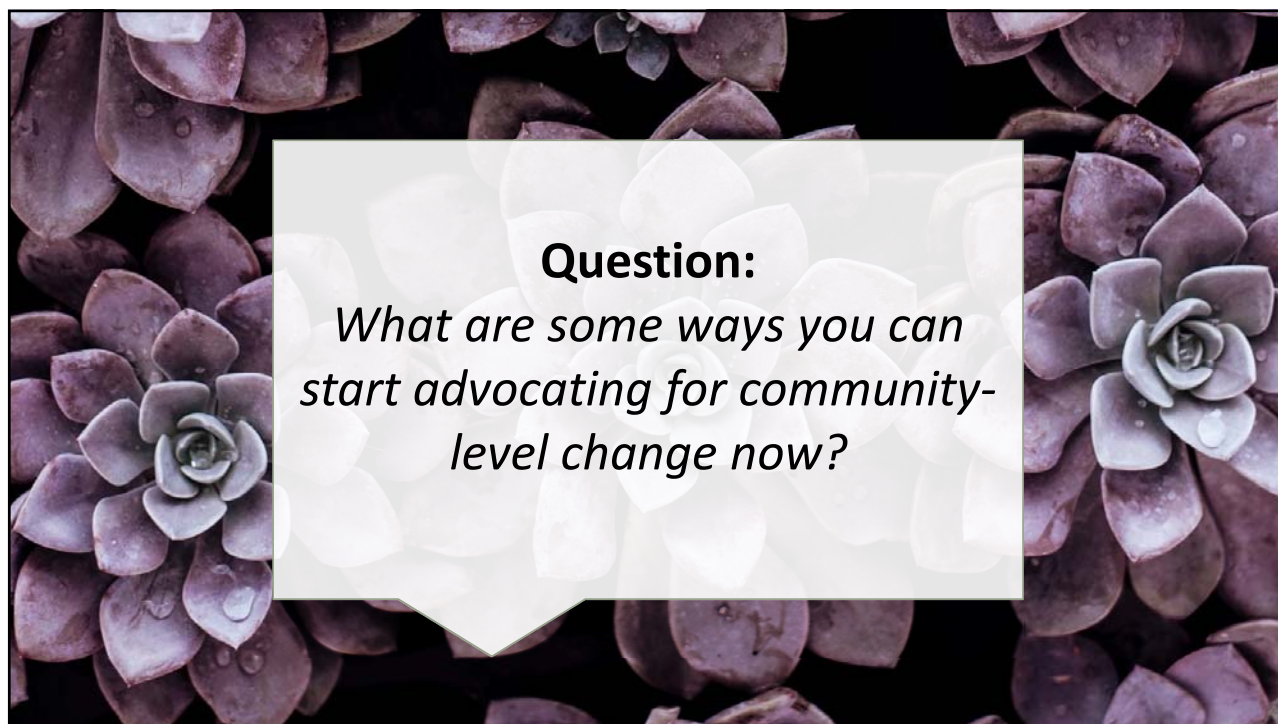
Creating equitable spaces (i.e. schools, workplaces)

Examples – breast feeding/pumping policies, childcare, dress codes

## Review

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1. Communities are **more than just the people** in them.
2. **Community-level interventions** should **focus on risk and protective factors** that have been identified at the community-level of the SEM, *not* the individual beliefs and behaviors within a community.
3. While there is limited researched, we can still use **promising practices** to inform our interventions.
4. Maximize the existing violence prevention strategies that address similar and **shared risk factors**.
5. Consider policies that impact the **violence continuum**.



# Delaware's Approach

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DELAWARE?

WHAT ARE WE HOPING TO DO?

## DCADV's Economic Justice Efforts

Economic Justice Summit + Biden Institute Collaboration

Environmental Policy Scan

Engaging Legislators / Financial Sectors

Policy Subcommittee / Bill Review Committee

## Economic Justice + Biden Institute Collaboration

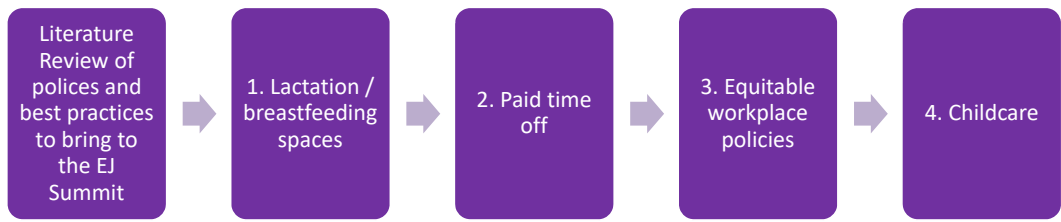
### What is the purpose ?

- **Education** - Increased understanding within the financial sector in the state to understand the relationship between SV/DV and economic justice
- **Prevention** - Strategizing with corporations and sectors to create inclusive workplace policies that ultimately will help prevent violence from occurring in the first place
- **Intervention** – Encouraging policy development to support individuals already affected by SV/DV

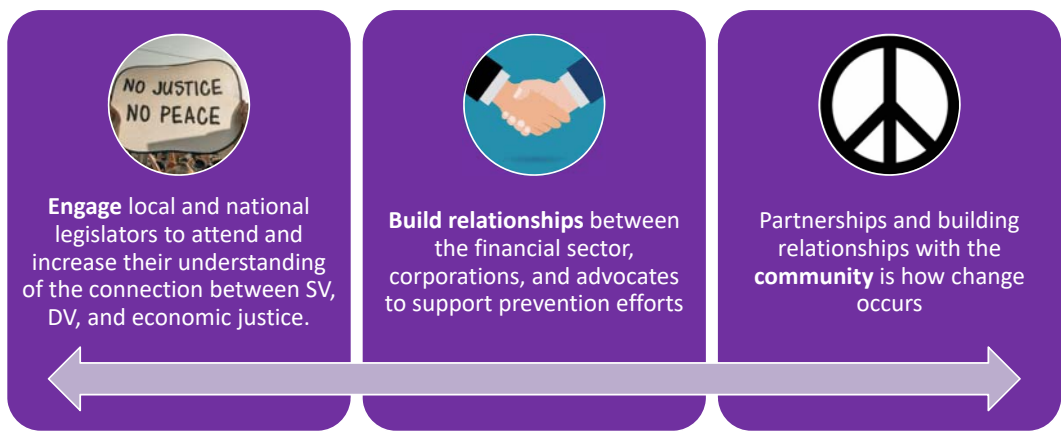
### Audience

- Banks
- Credit lenders
- Legislators
- Advocates

## Environmental Policy Scan



## Engaging Legislators & the Financial Sector



## What are some of our community partners doing to prevent violence?

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**CHILD, Inc.:** DV hotline, DV Shelters, DV advocacy program in courthouse

**ContactLifeline :** Rape Crisis Help Line & advocacy services to survivors

## CHILD, Inc.

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### **Sparrow Run Community Program**

- Family Resource Center Offers services to members in the neighborhood of Sparrow Run in Bear, DE
- “The Kids Place, a center for children and youth in the community of Sparrow Run, was established in 2014. Kids Place is designed to bring important programs and services to disadvantaged children in the community with a focus on education, recreation and community service.”

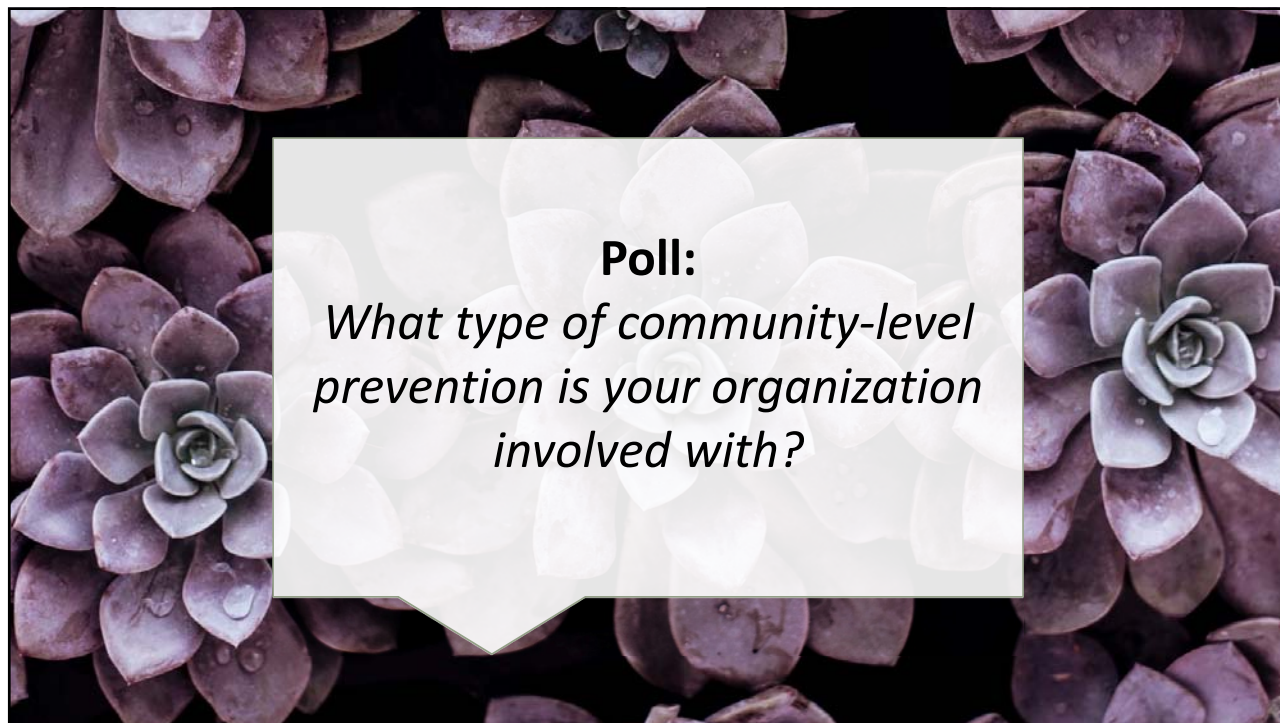
### **DV Shelters:**

- The Parent & Child Counselors in each shelter talk with teens & pre-teens (who have parental consent) about healthy dating relationships & friendships as well as birth control and safer sex.
- Financial literacy classes

## ContactLifeline

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- Public outreach at different health fair events help promote information about services and share information on Healthy Relationship, Safe Dating, and Understanding Suicide.
- In addition, presentations on healthy relationships facilitated at the high schools and community events.



## Remember...

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Violence can be prevented if we all do our part to educate, spread the word and encourage our communities to invest in the people that live, work, and play in the community.



## References

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). *Risk and protective factors for perpetration*.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html>

Degue, S., Hipp, T., & Herbst, J. (2016). *Community-Level Approaches to Prevention Sexual Violence*. *Sexual Violence: Evidence Based Policy and Prevention*. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-44504-5\_11.

# Thank You!



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