No Longer A Private Trouble:
A Community Approach to Ending Domestic Violence

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The Ripple Effect

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Domestic Violence as a Major Public Health Issue

Prevalence

- 4 million women in America experience a serious assault by an intimate partner during an average year.
- Nearly 1 in 3 adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner in adulthood.

Domestic Violence as a Major Public Health Issue

Risk Factors

- The chance of being victimized by an intimate is 10 times greater for a woman than a man.
  

- Domestic violence is statistically consistent across racial & ethnic boundaries.
  
Domestic Violence as a Major Public Health Issue

Morbidity

- Over 1.5 million women seek medical care each year for injuries related to domestic violence.
- 20% of female patient ER visits for injury are caused by DV.

Domestic Violence as a Major Public Health Issue

Mortality

- Homicides are the fourth leading cause of death of injury among females of childbearing age
- Half of all female homicides are battering-related.

Domestic Violence: Cost to Society

Impact on the workplace

- Each physical assault victim averages productivity losses of $476 per victim.
- Productivity losses per homicide average $610,000.
- Lifetime costs paid by society for assault victims is estimated at $96 billion.

Domestic Violence: Health Care Costs

Each year, DV injuries result in:

- 21,000 hospitalizations
- 99,800 inpatient treatment days
- 28,700 Emergency Room visits
- 39,000 medical office visits.
- Total medical costs exceeding $44,393,700

### An Ecological Perspective: Levels of Influence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intrapersonal Factors</strong></td>
<td>Individual characteristics that influence behavior, such as knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and personality traits</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interpersonal Factors</strong></td>
<td>Interpersonal processes with peers, family, friends that provide social identity &amp; role definition</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Institutional Factors</strong></td>
<td>Rules, regulations, policies and informal structures to constrain or promote behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community Factors</strong></td>
<td>Social networks and norms which exist as formal or informal groups and organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public Policy</strong></td>
<td>Local, state, and federal policies and laws for disease prevention, early detection, control and management</td>
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Domestic Violence & Health Education

Health educators’ expertise needed in:

- Community education
- Media advocacy
- Public policy advocacy
- Strong theory base in prevention methods
- Community collaboration
- Evaluation
Domestic Violence: A Call to Action

“Of all the health and human services challenges we face, perhaps the most devastating, and ironically, most preventable is the epidemic of violence sweeping across this nation.”

--Donna Shalala, US Secretary, Health & Human Services