

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- About one in three female homicide victims is murdered by her intimate partner.
- One in six American women has been raped at some time in her life.
- Nearly two-thirds of women who reported being physically assaulted, raped, and/or stalked after age 18 were victimized by an intimate partner.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

CDC funds all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight territories to support rape prevention and education efforts. The states educate communities about the extent of sexual assault and develop programs to prevent it. CDC also funds 14 state domestic violence coalitions. The Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances program is adding a prevention focus to existing community-based domestic violence efforts and providing prevention funding to local communities.

CDC researchers demonstrated that the health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking, and homicide by intimate partners exceed \$5.8 billion each year. Of this total, nearly \$4.1 billion are for direct medical and mental healthcare services, and productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion. Researchers examined the data from the 1995 National Violence against Women Survey for the incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV), costs, how healthcare was used, and how much work-related time was lost for women who were assaulted by intimate partners.

Example of Program in Action

CDC is funding activities in five states (KY, OK, OR, MI, and MN) to monitor and track occurrences of IPV. The goal is to help reduce IPV in these states by collecting timely and credible data that can be used to plan, implement, and evaluate prevention programs. CDC has developed a guide for practitioners who specialize in preventing violence against women. This guide describes recent prevention and batterer intervention programs showing promising results and makes recommendations that can be incorporated into prevention programs.

CDC is also studying the linkages between dating violence, other peer violence, and suicide to assess shared and unique risks and protective factors. This information will guide decisions about using strategies to prevent many forms of violence versus taking unique approaches to prevent specific types of violence.

The *Violence against Women Outcome Evaluation Guide* is designed to help programs develop and implement outcome evaluations. The guide will provide a clear definition of evaluation research based on CDC guidelines and an overview of the issues to be considered in evaluating violence against women programs.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

CDC will continue to identify effective approaches and programs that prevent violence against women. These programs will focus on primary prevention and will aim at reducing perpetration. By better understanding the current social norms that influence violence against women, it may be possible to affect change in social norms and thereby reduce the violence.

For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/program

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