Preventing violence against women: A framework for action

Addressing the social and economic determinants of violence against women

Key social and economic determinants of violence

Theme for action: promoting equal and respectful relationships between men and women

Individual and relationship	Community and organisational	Societal
• Belief in rigid gender roles and identities and/or weak support for gender equality • Masculine orientation or sense of entitlement • Male dominance and control of wealth in relationships	• Culturally-specific norms regarding gender and sexuality • Masculine peer and organisational cultures	• Institutional and cultural support for, or weak sanctions against, gender inequality and rigid gender roles

Key contributing factors

Theme for action: promoting non-violent norms and reducing the effects of prior exposure to violence

Individual and relationship	Community and organisational	Societal
• Attitudinal support for violence against women • Witnessing or experiencing family violence as a child • Exposure to other forms of interpersonal or collective violence • Use and acceptance of violence as a means of resolving interpersonal disputes	• Neighbourhood, peer and organisational cultures that are violence-supportive or have weak sanctions against violence • Community or peer violence	• Approval of, or weak sanctions against, violence and/or violence against women • Ethos condoning violence as a means of settling interpersonal, civic or political disputes • Colonisation

Theme for action: improving access to resources and systems of support

Individual and relationship	Community and organisational	Societal
• Social isolation and limited access to systems of support • Income, education or employment • Relative labour force status • Alcohol and illicit drug use* • Poor parenting • Personality characteristics and poor mental health* • Relationship and marital conflict • Divorce or separation	• Weak social connections and social cohesion and limited collective activity among women • Strong support for the privacy of the family • Neighbourhood characteristics (e.g. service infrastructure, unemployment, poverty, collective efficacy)	• Support for the privacy and autonomy of the family • Unequal distribution of material resources (e.g. employment, education)

* Denotes increased risk of perpetration only.

VicHealth

Priority populations and preventative actions

Priority populations	Preventative actions
• Children • Young people • Women and men • Indigenous communities • Culturally and linguistically diverse communities • Rural communities • Neighbourhoods affected by disadvantage • Women with disabilities	• Research, monitoring and evaluation • Direct participation programs • Organisational and workforce development • Community strengthening • Communications and social marketing • Advocacy • Legislative and policy reform

Priority settings for action

• Community services • Local government • Corporate • Faith communities • Education	• Workplace • Cultural institutions and networks • Arts • Sports and recreation • Media and popular culture	• Health • Cyberspace and new technologies • Justice • Academic • Military and like institutions

Intermediate outcomes

Individual and relationship	Organisational	Community	Societal
Individuals and relationships with: • improved connections to resources and support; • respectful and equitable gender relations; • improved attitudes toward gender equity, gender roles and violence and/or violence against women; • improved skills in non-violent means of resolving interpersonal conflict; and • responsible alcohol use.	Organisations that: • model, promote and facilitate equal, respectful and non-violent gender relations; • work in partnerships across sectors to address violence; • implement evidence-based violence prevention activities; and • are accessible to and safe and supportive for women.	Environments that: • value and support norms that are non-violent and build respectful and equitable gender relations; • build connections between people and sources of formal and informal support; and • take action to address violence.	A society in which there are strong legislative and regulatory frameworks and appropriate resource allocation for supporting: • gender equity; • the prevention and prohibition of violence; • the positive portrayal of women (e.g. in advertising); and • the development of healthy relationships between men and women.

Long-term benefits

Individual and relationship	Organisational	Community	Societal
• Reduction in violence-related health problems and mortality • Improved interpersonal skills and family and gender relations • Reduced intergenerational transmission of violence and its impacts	• Violence prevention resources and activities integrated across sectors and settings • Organisations that value and promote respectful gender relations • Improved access to resources and systems of support	• Communities that value gender equity and respectful relationships between men and women • Reduced social isolation and improved community connections	• Reduced gender inequality • Improved quality of life for men and women • Reduced levels of violence and/or violence against women • Improved productivity