



Stop Family Violence

The Issue

Family violence is a common American tragedy. Child-maltreatment and intimate partner violence often occur together and predict other forms of violence, with women and girls disproportionately affected. Physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual violence, economic exploitation, and other forms of violence and abuse within the family carry harmful short and long term consequences, including physical injury and death.

Societal Goal

By promoting healthy, violence-free relationships between partners and among families we can bring about a 50% reduction in child maltreatment and gender-based violence (GBV) within the next decade.

A Decade of Work

Over the next ten years, researchers, practitioners and policymakers can engage in a variety of activities that will advance this Grand Challenge and ignite social work achievements, including efforts to:

- Link data systems in criminal justice, healthcare, and other social service agencies to identify and facilitate prevention services for families with young children at risk of maltreatment and to screen for violence exposure in health settings.
- Increase support for evidence-based intervention and prevention programs to reduce the structural inequalities that perpetuate family violence.
- Harness health care resources to increase engagement, screening, brief education, and warm referrals from primary care providers, the expansion of home visiting services, parent education, and a broader array of culturally relevant intimate partner violence and child abuse responses.
- Build healthy violence-free teen and parent relationships that will influence social norms and promote safety in the family and community.
- Increase research funding for culturally informed evidence-based interventions that encourage child welfare services and gender-based violence prevention and intervention services alignment in order to strategically address common risk and protective factors.
- Expand safe-haven laws to no less than 1 year of age and engage in signage, marketing, and public relations to increase community knowledge of such programs, as well as other child abuse prevention resources.

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- Ethically implement birth-match programs to identify and outreach to high-risk families within days of new births while ensuring the safety and autonomy of parents and children.

Resources

- Barth, R.P., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Shaw, T. V., & Dickinson, N.S. (2015). *Safe children: Reducing severe and fatal maltreatment* (Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative Working Paper No. 17). Cleveland, OH: American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.
- Edleson, J. L, Lindhorst, T., & Kanuha, V. K. (2015). *Ending Gender-Based Violence: A Grand Challenge for Social Work* (Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative Working Paper No. 15). Cleveland, OH: American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.
- Kulkarni, S. J., Barth, R. P., & Messing, J. T. (2016, September). *Policy recommendations for meeting the Grand Challenge to Stop Family Violence* (Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative Policy Brief No. 3). Cleveland, OH: American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare.

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