



Build Healthy Relationships to End Violence

The Issue

Interpersonal violence has a traumatizing impact—across the lifespan—on individuals, families, communities, and society. Oppression based on factors such as a person's age, race, gender, identities, abilities, or socioeconomic status alter these experiences. Healthy relationships foster emotional resilience and strength. Developing and broadly implementing interventions, both universal and targeted, with individual, relationship, community, and service delivery systems can bolster a range of interpersonal relationships, reduce violence more broadly, and strengthen our mental and physical health, our families, and our communities.

Societal Goals

- Increase the availability of services that strengthen healthy relationships to prevent and interrupt violence by 10%.
- By promoting healthy, violence-free relationships, we can bring about a 10% reduction in interpersonal violence, including 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:

- Identify and facilitate prevention services for families with young children at risk of maltreatment and screen for violence exposure in health settings.
- Increase support for evidence-based intervention and prevention programs to reduce the structural inequalities that perpetuate interpersonal violence across the lifespan.
- 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 broad array of culturally relevant intimate partner violence and child abuse responses.
- Build healthy violence-free relationships across the lifespan that will influence social norms and promote safety in the family and community.
- Increase research funding for culturally informed evidence-based interventions that improve alignment of child welfare services and gender-based violence prevention and intervention services to strategically address common risk and protective factors.
- Increase the availability of parenting support (including safe-haven, birth match, and home visiting programs) for all families, including families where children may be at risk for abuse or neglect.

Stop Family Violence

- Support the expansion of trauma-informed service delivery models as a foundation for the implementation of universal and targeted interventions that treat trauma and enhance resilience and relational health.

Resources

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