

Domestic Violence and Fatherhood Programs



Juan Carlos Areán
Family Violence Prevention Fund

Family Violence Prevention Fund

A national non-profit organization founded in 1980 and devoted to prevent violence within the home and in the community, to

help those whose lives are devastated by violence because everyone has the right to live free of violence.

endabuse.org

Family Violence Prevention Fund



New! Playbook for Coaches

[GET IT NOW](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

October 4, 2005

Senate Passes *Violence Against Women Act*

By unanimous consent, the United States Senate passed the *Violence Against Women Act of 2005* on October 4. "Today's action means our nation is on its way to improving its response to domestic, sexual and dating violence, and stalking," said Family Violence Prevention Fund President Esta Soler. "Coupled with House passage of the *Violence Against Women Act* last week, this is very good news."

[Read more](#)

September 28, 2005

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities

The following list includes some of the many national *Domestic Violence Awareness Month* activities planned for this October. Domestic violence experts and service providers are encouraged to contact the sponsoring organizations to find out more about each event and explore how local communities can get involved.

[Read more](#)

OUR CAMPAIGNS

New!
Coaches
Corner!
[View the
playbook](#)



Become a
Founding
Father
[Find out
more](#)



New
Workplace
Resource
[Learn more](#)



Health e-
journal
[Get it now](#)



Coaching
Boys into
Men
[See our ad](#)



OUR PROGRAMS

- ▶ Children
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Immigrant Women
- ▶ International
- ▶ Judicial
- ▶ Public Education
- ▶ Public Policy
- ▶ Teens
- ▶ Workplace

Violence Against Women Act 2005

Help pass it now! ▶

Why Should Fatherhood Programs Pay Attention to Domestic Violence (DV)?



Scope of the problem 1

- Nearly one-third of American women (31 percent) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. (1998 Commonwealth Fund Survey)
- Nearly 25 percent of American women report being raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at some time in their lifetime.

(1996 National Violence Against Women Survey)

Scope of the problem 2

Intimate partner violence is primarily a crime against women. In 2001, women accounted for 85 percent of the victims of intimate partner violence (588,490 total) and men accounted for approximately 15 percent of the victims (103,220 total).

(Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice)

Scope of the problem 3

On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day. In 2000, 1,247 women were killed by an intimate partner. The same year, 440 men were killed by an intimate partner.

(Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice)

DV as a major cause for divorce

According to the National Fatherhood Initiative's 2005 National Survey on Marriage in America:

- 42 percent of divorced women gave domestic violence as a major reason for divorce
- 9 percent of divorced men gave domestic violence as a major reason for divorce

Almost exact replication of the findings from the 2001 Oklahoma Baseline Survey on Marriage and Divorce, which yielded percentages of 8 and 44.

Definition Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a pattern of coercive behavior in which one person attempts to control another through threats or actual use of physical violence, sexual assault, verbal and psychological abuse and/or economic coercion.

Is all Domestic Violence the same?

There's no agreement in the field.

Some proposed typologies:

- Intimate Terrorism/Battering/Coercive and Controlling Abuse
- Situational Couples Violence
- Violent Resistance
- Pathological Violence
- Antisocial Violence

(Johnson, 2006; Pence, 2006)

Is all Domestic Violence the same?



CONCERN: How do we know?

We need good assessment
instruments

What about the children?

- The U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in this country.
- Studies suggest that between 3.3 and 10 million children are exposed to domestic violence annually.
- The devastating impact of violence on children has been extensively documented (100+ studies)

Resiliency 1

- 70% of abusive parents were abused as children themselves
- 70% of abused children do not become abusive parents

(Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2005)

- Number one factor for the difference is the development of empathy for self and others

(Steel et al, 1997; Higgins et al. 1994)

Resiliency 2

- Children's resilience to trauma is linked to the presence of a healthy parent or adult in their lives.

(Margolin, 1998)

- Children's emotional recovery from exposure to DV depends more on the quality of their relationship with the non-battering parent than any other single factor.

(Bancroft & Silverman, 2002)

What are the implications for Fatherhood Programs?

- It's very likely that some participants will be actively abusive with their partners and children.
- It's very likely that some participants will be survivors of childhood or adult abuse.
- All participants have a role to play in preventing domestic violence.

Can Fatherhood Programs be a substitute for Batterers Intervention Programs (BIPs)?



Key Elements of Effective BI

- A minimum of 3 months covering:
 - The dynamics of power and control
 - Definitions of all types of violence
 - Alternatives to violent behaviors
 - Effects of violence on victims and children
 - Intergenerational cycle of violence
 - Male and female socialization

(Gondolf, 2002)

Key Elements of Effective BI

- Excellent working relationship with the courts and other law enforcement
- Means to keep participants accountable
- Limited confidentiality and partner contact
- Coordinated with the community agencies which address the problem of DV locally
- Total transparency

What role can Fatherhood Programs play?

- Primary prevention
- Early intervention
- Address situational violence
- Create motivation to change and attend a BIP
- Support survivors of childhood and adult abuse
- Fathering skills for men who batter
(after BIP)

Organizational Preparedness

- Organizational Assessment
- Protocols
- Training
- Participant Screening Tools
- Intervention and Prevention Strategies
- Referral Partners

Partnerships with DV Providers

NATIONAL

- Protocols – *Anne Menard National Resource Center on Domestic Violence*
- Relationship Building Process – *Jacqueline Boggess and David Pate Center for Family Policy and Practice*

LOCAL AND STATE

- General Training on DV and BI
- Referrals

Family Violence Prevention Fund

- Organizational Assessment
- Framework for using fatherhood as a motivator for change
- Safety, Accountability and Preparedness Guidelines
- Strategies and Tools to use in programs

Examples of Strategies

- Universal messages that promote non-violence in parenting and intimate relationships
- Aspiration to be a good father
- Legacy



Examples of Strategies

- Experience of being fathered (or not)
- Power of breaking the cycle of violence
- Empathy
- Self-generated fathering values
- Culture

Tools

- *Something my Father Would Do* DVD
- Posters
- Exercises for BIPs
- CD: Michael's Story
- Children's Drawings



así como así Papa
Porque es muy amigable
Y se pone vacrecha
Y se pone 'Losojos' rayos

L. P. Ad.



April 25, 2007



April 25, 2007

¿Cómo veo a mi papa?
Por una personalidad más oscura

No lo debo juzgar por sus actos
Ya que el medita la vida, pero es
un irresponsable



← Por dentro
Por dentro



↑ Por fuera
Por fuera

Si de la montaña de la vida
resualo mi padre meda su mano
que me da fuerzas para seguir
subiendo.



THANK YOU!

