



Addressing Domestic Violence: The Role of Fatherhood Programs

April 16, 2014



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National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Overview

- Office of Family Assistance (OFA) funded national resource for fathers, practitioners, federal grantees, states, and the public at-large who are serving or interested in supporting strong fathers and families.



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National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

- Visit the NRFC: www.fatherhood.gov
 - www.fatherhood.gov/toolkit for *Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit*.
 - www.fatherhood.gov/webinars for archives of all our webinars.
- Contact any of our staff: info@fatherhood.gov
- Encourage fathers or practitioners to contact our national call center toll-free at **1-877-4DAD411 (877-432-3411)**.
- Engage with us via social media:
Facebook: [Fatherhoodgov](https://www.facebook.com/Fatherhoodgov) Twitter: [@Fatherhoodgov](https://twitter.com/Fatherhoodgov)
- See website for information on the *President's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative* and NRFC *Fatherhood Buzz* events.
- Look for examples of our *Annual Media Campaign* designed to promote the Responsible Fatherhood field.



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Resources are available for:

- **Dads** looking for tips, hints & activities for dads and kids (see *DadTalk Blog* and "*For Dads*" corner).
- **Fatherhood programs** looking to get started or expand (check out "*For Programs*" and *webinars*).
- **Researchers and policy makers** looking for the latest on responsible fatherhood (search our *Library*).



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Fatherhood Programs and Domestic Violence: Community Support and Collaborations

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April 16, 2014



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Center for Family Policy & Practice

- Who we are and what we do:
 - Nonprofit, social policy advocacy organization.
 - Policy analysis and public education.
 - Focus on low-income families from the perspective of low-income men while *also* promoting women's safety and well-being.
- US Dept. of Justice, Office on Violence against Women (OVW), Technical Assistance grantee since 2005.



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Domestic Violence

- The provision of social services to men is complicated by the reality of domestic and family violence.
- More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Summary Report, CDC)
- Fatherhood service providers are in a unique position to:
 - Institutionalize anti-violence messages in the provision of support services.
 - Incorporate appropriate and definite responses to general and specific occurrences of domestic violence.



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Talking with women and survivors: What we heard

- Strong support to provide social services for men.
- Services for men must:
 - NOT take away from women or children.
 - Be mindful of and promote women's safety.
- Women would like to see additional services for everyone in their communities and services that are more holistic.
 - Services for men were viewed as beneficial for the whole community.
 - Women expressed that we can simultaneously provide services to men and attend to the safety of women.
 - Women thought services and support for men might decrease levels of violence.



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How to respond

- Fatherhood programs must figure out how to respond to and address:
 - Domestic violence, in general.
 - Specific disclosures.
- When victims ask where their partner can go for social welfare services, advocates can:
 - Provide referral information.
 - Safety plan with victims around having that conversation.



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Key to Working Together

Mutual Understanding of ...

- The community
 - Who comes to domestic violence shelters?
 - Who participates in fatherhood programs?
- The issues
 - Poverty.
 - Opportunity.
 - Discrimination.
 - Domestic violence, community violence, safety.



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Keys to Working Together Readiness

- **Fatherhood programs**— be prepared to more directly incorporate accountability of men in families.
- **DV Advocates**—be prepared to support “compassionate accountability” of men in families.
- Fatherhood programs will need support (and education) from women’s advocates and anti-violence advocates who:
 - Recognize the issues facing families in low-income communities of color.
 - Have talked with women about their hopes and fears for themselves, their previous or current partners, and their children.



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Challenges to incorporating the issue of domestic violence in fatherhood programs

- How-to of collaboration, support, and assistance from battered women's advocates.
- Trepidation on the part of both fatherhood programs and women's advocates.
- Practical questions of:
 - How and whether fatherhood programs can (or should) respond to evidence of violence.
 - Understanding that fatherhood programs are not intervention programs for abusers.



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Further resources:

***Collaboration and Partnership: A Guidebook
Fatherhood Practitioners and Advocates
Against Domestic Violence Working Together
to Serve Women, Men, and Families.***

***Safety and Services: Women of color speak
about their communities.***
(useful resource to share with DV partners)

Center for Family Policy and Practice

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Addressing Domestic Violence: The Role of Fatherhood Programs



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April 16, 2014



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Men Stopping Violence

who we are what we do ...

- 30 years of:
 - Helping men end male violence (their own, and others in their community).
 - Engaging men through the classroom, trainings, workshops (online/in person), internships, and volunteering.
- Stories from two programs:
 - Men's Education Program
 - For all men - links prevention and intervention.
 - Because We Have Daughters
 - For dads and father figures.
 - To make the community safer for all women and girls.



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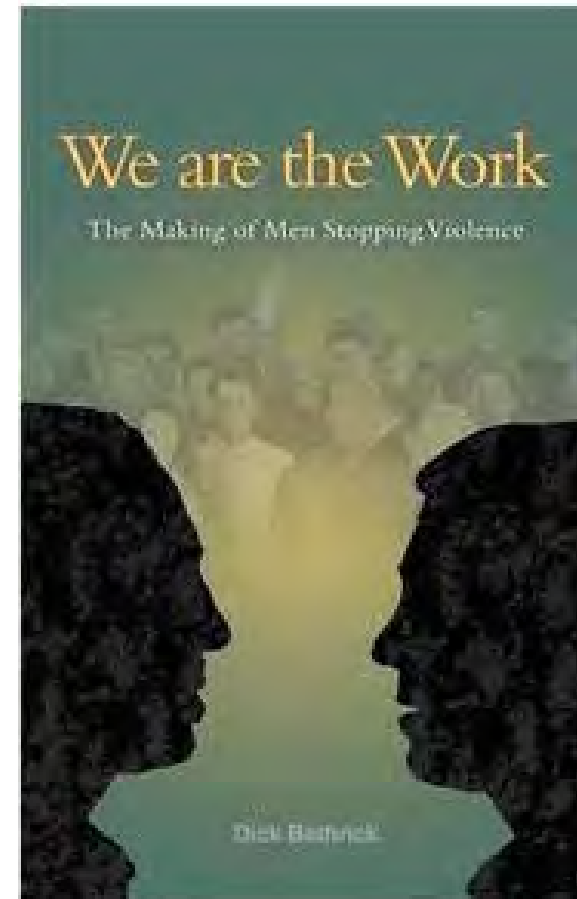
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Lessons Learned

Lessons learned over 30 years led to 7 core operating principles:

1. Women's voices and experiences must be central to our work with men.
2. Race matters.
3. Intersectionality matters.
4. Community accountability is key in ending violence against women (VAW).
5. Organizing men takes precedence over intervening.
6. ***We are the work.***
7. Patriarchal violence must be addressed.





How we talk about why DV happens

- Typical Dialogue:
 - Because some men are .. “bad guys/monsters/unable to control themselves.”
 - Because women/the victim ...
- Assumptions:
 - It’s a problem of individuals.
 - It’s enough to intervene with individuals.
 - I’m not responsible for other men’s behavior.
 - It’s not that big a deal.
- MSV’s Perspective: DV is not a problem of individual pathology/criminology - it’s a problem of community accountability.



Change!

- Change the Question:
 - From: “Why does she stay/what did she do?” → “Why does that guy abuse?”
 - From: “that guy” → “Why do I choose abusive behavior?”
 - From: “individuals” → “Why do men as a group abuse and disrespect women?”
- MSV’s perspective on why men abuse:
 - Individual men: because he chooses to, he can (community doesn’t stop him), and it works (gets him what he wants).
 - Men as a group:
 - Male socialization about manhood, women and sex.
 - Happens at all levels of society - and very strongly in our peer groups and from adult men.
- Change the notion of fatherhood:
 - From domineering patriarch → connected and concerned ally.
 - Revisit our training on gender roles, masculinity, and women through the lens of being a dad.



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Stories

- In the class room:
 - Effects on kids can be strong motivator for change.
 - Revisiting the lessons from our male elders.
 - Connecting as fathers can be a powerful positive motivator in giving/receiving feedback.
- Because We Have Daughters:
 - Increases awareness of girls and women's lives + skills to ally (with respect to sexual/relationship violence).
 - Can build a culture of fatherhood/masculinity that builds empathy for women's realities and allies for women's safety and equality.



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Parenting is an opportunity

to organize men to help end male violence against women

- For men - fatherhood or being an uncle/granddad can **deepen empathy** for girls and women.
- Fatherhood can **strengthen self-reflection** and awareness.
- Fatherhood is a chance for men to get genuinely **connected to other men** in their community.
- Fatherhood can **bring men together** for a cause.



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Fathers as Allies

- Origins of Mother's Day (post civil war).
- Fatherhood:
 - Will it define who must stand behind you? (obedience)
 - Or will it define who you stand with? (alliance)
- As fathers/uncles/granddads:
 - Will we stand in front of the mirror honestly?
 - Will we stand with women and girls?
 - Will we stand with each other?
- After all..
 - **WE ARE THE WORK**



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Contact:

Men at Work Trainings

<http://www.menstoppingviolence.org/training/men-at-work>

Because We Have Daughters Trainings

<http://www.menstoppingviolence.org/training/because-we-have-daughters-2>

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Men Stopping Violence

Working together for a change.

Like us on



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Addressing Domestic Violence: The Role of Fatherhood Programs



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April 16, 2014



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Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action (KISRA)

How do we screen?

We receive referrals from:

- Family Court
- Day Report Centers
- Mental Health agencies
- Family members
- Self referrals
- Other partnering agencies



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How do we screen?

REALITY CHECK

How do you know if you are in an abusive relationship?

The best way to tell whether someone may be abusing you is to look at the way you are treated. Think of your relationship and ask yourself the following questions:

- YES - NO Does my partner ever hit, slap, shove, kick, or restrain me (or anyone else)?
- YES - NO Does my partner ever threaten to hurt me (or anyone else)?
- YES - NO Does my partner call me names or insult me?
- YES - NO Does my partner become jealous if I talk to or go to places with other people?
- YES - NO Does my partner blame alcohol or drugs as the reason for becoming angry and losing control?
- YES - NO Does my partner ever touch me without my permission or force me to have sex against my will?
- YES - NO Does my partner threaten to commit suicide if I try to leave the relationship?
- YES - NO Am I afraid to disagree with my partner?
- YES - NO When I spend time with other people does my partner become angry and accuse me of cheating?
- YES - NO Do I avoid seeing friends or doing things because I'm afraid that my partner will get angry?
- YES - NO Does my partner treat me differently when other people are around than when we are alone?

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, you may be in an abusive relationship.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

WV Licensed Domestic Violence Programs

Beckley Area
304-255-2559*

Charleston Area
800-681-8663*

Elkins Area
800-339-1185*

Fairmont Area
304-367-1100*

Huntington Area
888-538-9838*

Keyser Area
800-698-1240 V
304-788-6556 T

Lewisburg Area
304-635-6334*

Martinsburg Area
304-263-8292*

Morgantown Area
304-292-5100 V
304-292-5112 T

Parkersburg Area
800-794-2335*

Welch Area
304-436-8117*

Wheeling Area
800-698-1247*

Weirton Area
304-797-7233*

Williamson Area
304-235-6121*

Note: Numbers marked * are both voice and TTY enabled, V is voice-only, T is TTY only.

KISRA

www.kisra.org

Championing Positive Community Change

131 Perkins Avenue
Dunbar, WV 25064
304-768-8924



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Addressing Domestic Violence

DV-101

A curriculum developed by KISRA staff and
the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- Curriculum goals
 - Awareness and education on the dynamics of domestic violence.
 - Provide resources for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Curriculum topics
 - What is Domestic Violence?
 - What is coercive control?
 - What is the impact of Domestic Violence?
 - What are equal and respectful relationships?



Addressing the issue of Domestic Violence

- **Domestic violence**, also known as **domestic abuse**, is a pattern of behavior which involves the abuse by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, cohabitation, dating or within the family.
- Domestic violence and abuse is not limited to obvious physical violence. It also includes:
 - Threats of physical aggression or assault.
 - Passive or covert abuse (e.g. neglect).
 - Controlling or domineering behavior.
 - Intimidation.
 - Endangerment, criminal coercion, kidnapping, harassment, trespassing, stalking, and unlawful imprisonment.



Addressing Domestic Violence

The key elements of Domestic Violence



- Intimidation
 - Humiliating the other person
 - Physical injury
-
- Domestic abuse is not a result of losing control; domestic abuse is intentionally trying to control another person. The abuser is purposefully using verbal, nonverbal, or physical means to gain control over the other person.



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Addressing domestic violence

What are the types?

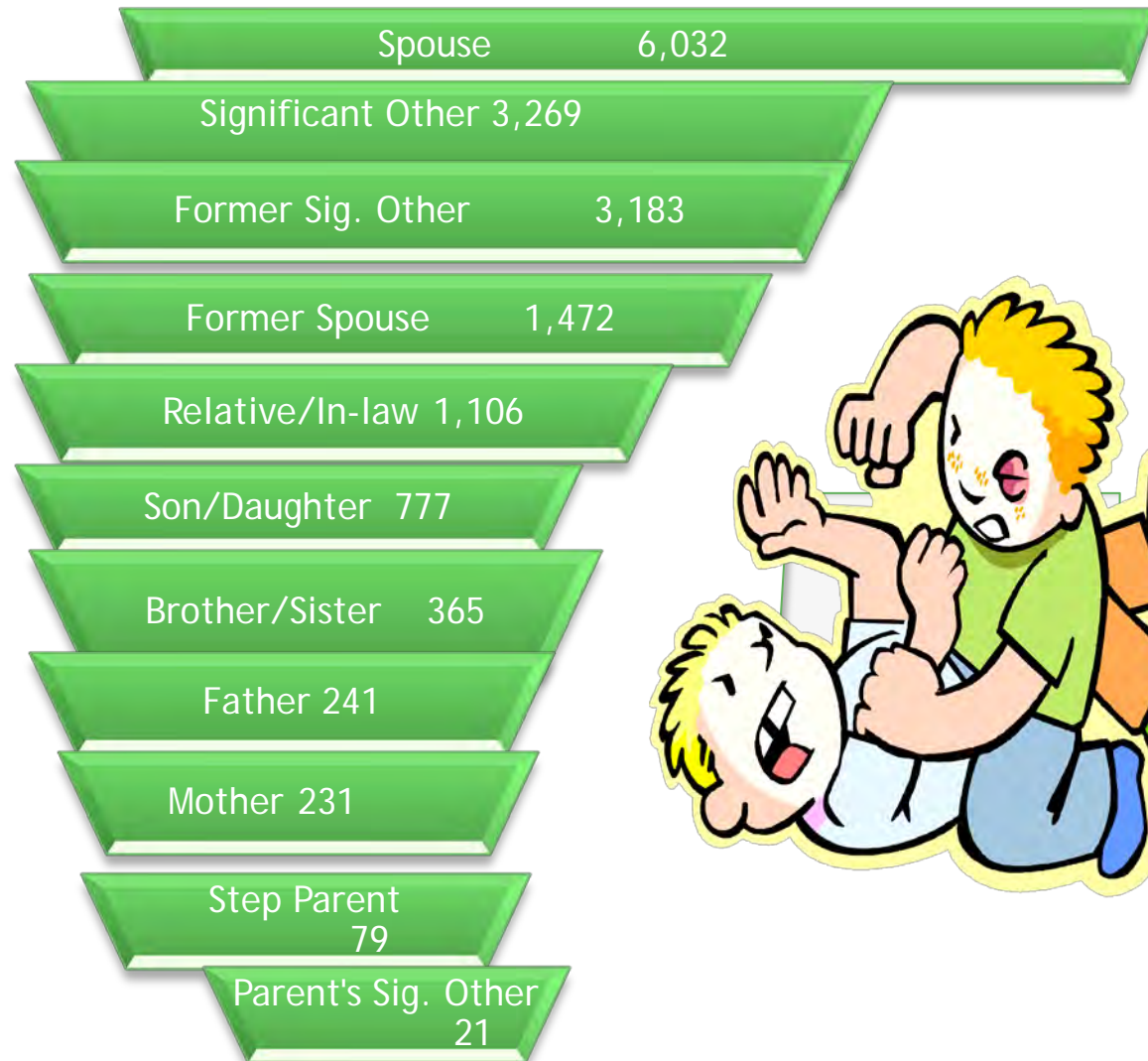
- Physical abuse.
- Verbal or nonverbal abuse (psychological abuse, mental abuse, emotional abuse).
- Sexual abuse.
- Economic abuse or financial abuse.
- Spiritual abuse.
- Stalking or cyber-stalking.





Relationship to the Victim

2011-12 statistics from West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence



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Addressing Domestic Violence

External Resources

Music Videos

- Kelly Clarkson “Because of you”
- Mary J. Blige “No more drama”
- Eminem “When I’m gone”
- John Legend “Ordinary people”

Documentaries

- “Coercive Control”
20/20 interview by Diane Sawyer
- “Anti-spousal abuse”
Within My Reach curriculum
- “The Burning Bed”
Within My Reach curriculum
- “Something my father would do”
Family Violence Prevention Fund
- Domestic Violence Stories
Within My Reach curriculum



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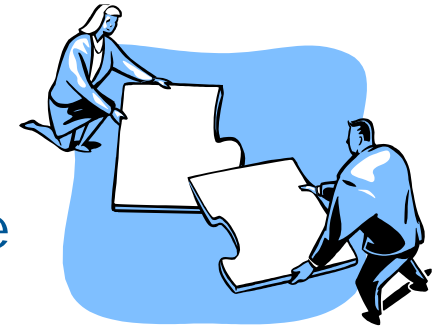
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KISRA'S PARTNERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- West Virginia Supreme Court
- Kanawha County Family Court
- Kanawha County Prosecutor's Office
- West Virginia Public Defender Services
- Kanawha County Public Defenders Office
- Kanawha Court Day Report Center
- Charleston Police Department
- West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- YWCA Resolve Program (Batterers Intervention Program)





Lessons Learned

- Approach DV as a human rights issue involving men and women of all ages and backgrounds.
 - Support men to be empowered bystanders.
 - Support a workplace environment safe from all forms of violence, with policies to support victims access to information, services, and legal remedies.
- Foster collaboration among community groups working on violence prevention.
 - Help make the connections between youth violence, bullying, child abuse, and domestic violence so that knowledge, resources, and strategies are shared.
- Talk to your faith leaders about domestic violence.
 - Discuss ways to promote healthy relationships, support victims and children, send clear messages that DV is not acceptable.



Ways to help stop Domestic Violence

- Have the courage to look inward. Question your own attitudes and make a positive change where necessary.
- Model nonviolent, respectful behavior in your family and community. Recognize that teaching peace begins at home.
 - Teach your children and grandchildren to reject violence, especially in the face of peer pressure or messages to the contrary in popular culture.
 - Encourage young boys to be nurturing and young girls to be strong.
 - Respect and promote respect for all people, regardless of race, gender, religious affiliation, or sexual orientation.
- Encourage training on how technology can aid victims and protect from on-line abuse.



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Final Thoughts

- If someone you know is disrespectful or abusive to girls and women in general -- **don't look the other way.**
 - If you feel comfortable doing so, try to talk to him about it.
 - Urge him to seek help.
 - If you don't know what to do, consult a domestic violence program.
 - Don't remain silent.
- If you suspect that someone close to you is being abused or has been sexually assaulted, gently ask if you can help.
 - **Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline for 24 hour assistance at 1-800-799-SAFE.**



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