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EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS & LINKAGES

KEY DIRECTIONS IN SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION



Themes & Summaries from the 2016 PreventConnect
Web Conference Series

A California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
(CALCASA) / PreventConnect Summary Report

Produced by Prevention Institute

This publication was produced by Prevention Institute with support from CALCASA/PreventConnect. Many thanks to all of the guests from the 2016 PreventConnect web conference series who took the time to share how they are creating positive change through their efforts to prevent sexual and domestic violence (see Guest Bios on page 47) and to the PreventConnect Advisory Council for their continued leadership and support.

[Prevention Institute \(PI\)](#) was founded in 1997 as the national center for developing and advancing the practice of primary prevention. PI synthesizes research and practice; develops prevention tools and frameworks; designs and guides inter-sectoral partnerships; and provides training, technical assistance, and strategy development to promote innovative community-oriented solutions, better government and business practices, and policy change. We work across multiple focus areas and our core mission is to promote health equity—the commitment to ensuring that every person has an equal opportunity to be healthy and safe. PI has provided training and consultation on sexual and domestic violence prevention for coalitions, health departments, and communities of practice. PI publications on sexual and domestic violence prevention include: *A Health Equity and Multisector Approach to Preventing Domestic Violence* (2016); *Changing Community Environments to Prevent Sexual Violence* (2010); *Transforming Communities to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation* (2009); *Poised for Prevention: Advancing Promising Approaches to Intimate Partner Violence Prevention* (2007); and *Sexual Violence and the Spectrum of Prevention* (2006).

The mission of the [California Coalition Against Sexual Assault \(CALCASA\)](#) is to provide leadership, vision, and resources to rape crisis centers, individuals, and other entities committed to ending sexual violence. CALCASA supports prevention both within California and nationally. The agency's national project [PreventConnect](#) hosts the leading online community dedicated to advancing prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. PreventConnect/CALCASA is one of the three national partners in Raliance, a national partnership dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation.

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INTRODUCTION

Since 2005, the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA)/PreventConnect has partnered with Prevention Institute to bring together a community of practice on the leading edge of preventing sexual and domestic violence. Highly interactive PreventConnect web conferences have strengthened practitioners' and advocates' knowledge and bolstered the capacity of local, state, territorial, national, and tribal agencies and organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate effective prevention initiatives. Each year, drawing on participant input via survey and guidance from a national panel of advisors, a series of web conferences is organized around a theme that captures critical areas of growth and opportunity in the field.

The 2016 PreventConnect web conference series, titled *Beyond Partnerships: Shared Linkages for Prevention*, was organized around expanding partnerships and linkages between sexual and domestic violence prevention¹ and related health and safety issues, sectors, and social justice movements. From strategies to address multiple forms of violence and community trauma to exploring alliance-building with social justice movements such as economic justice and immigration reform, the series highlighted real-world examples of quality prevention and innovative ideas for action.

This publication is based on the rich expertise and

experience shared in the PreventConnect community of practice through the 2016 web conference series. It describes overarching themes from the field that were highlighted in the series and summarizes key findings, examples of innovative work, and resources from each of the nine web conferences. For context, especially for practitioners and advocates working primarily outside of sexual and domestic violence prevention, the report includes a brief description of the evolving field. The purpose of this publication is to inspire and seed further innovation and collaboration within the sexual and domestic violence prevention field and across related health and safety issues, sectors, and social justice movements. Given that many working in related focus areas may not be familiar with PreventConnect, this publication also serves to lift up this long-standing national community of practice as a valuable vehicle for fueling innovation in prevention.

"The topics are always engaging. I always learn something new, not only about the field I work in, but the connection to other forms of violence."

**PreventConnect
Survey Respondent**

¹Sexual and domestic violence prevention, as it is used here, refers to a public health approach that also draws on feminist theory and practice.

²PreventConnect. 2015, March 17. PreventConnect: 10 Years Strong - Part 1. <http://www.preventconnect.org/2015/03/preventconnect10-years-strong-part-1/>

BACKGROUND: A TRANSFORMING FIELD

Sexual and domestic violence are increasingly visible problems in public discourse – from risk factors to impacts on victims and communities, and the connections between these and other forms of violence. The stories about sexual and domestic violence that enter the public sphere powerfully illustrate the ways these forms of violence harm individuals, families, and communities, and intersect with other issues. For example, domestic violence is at the center of many mass shootings (shootings in which four or more people are killed), and where violence against intimate partners too often stands as an unheeded warning sign for further violence against others. The factors that produce sexual and domestic violence and the consequences that stem from them rebound across our society, affecting our schools and workplaces, our families and neighborhoods, our public spaces, the media and entertainment we consume, and much more.

Tireless efforts of practitioners, researchers, and advocates have brought greater visibility to the issues of sexual and domestic violence, and a broader understanding of prevention. For more than 15 years, countless organizations have worked to define, implement, and evaluate a public health approach to sexual and domestic violence that also draws on feminist theory and practice and the fields' roots in social justice. Over these years, the field as a whole has grown and transformed. For example, prevention efforts have expanded beyond awareness-building and implementing one-time activities toward programs and

strategies that aim to change community environments.²

Since 2005, over 200 PreventConnect web conferences have shaped the sexual and domestic violence prevention field through critical dialogues on a range of themes and topics. To facilitate these web conferences, PreventConnect and Prevention Institute keep a pulse on areas of growth and opportunity, identify and lift up innovative local and state efforts, and support discussion and learning with a range of tools and frameworks. Web conferences continue to reach new audiences each year, and the total number of participants has grown dramatically. In 2016, between 25 and 34 percent of web conference participants (who responded to polls) reported that they were attending a PreventConnect web conference for the first time. Also, on average, web conferences in the 2016 series had a 30 percent increase in participants compared to 2015 with participation across all U.S. states and territories and beyond.

"I convinced our Executive Director and Training Coordinator to allow me to encourage local programs to participate in PreventConnect webinars and eLearning courses rather than have me reiterate the material on a webinar for our network. This now saves me time to spend on providing in person training, presenting training topics not addressed by PreventConnect, and providing more individualized technical assistance."

THE 2016 WEB CONFERENCE SERIES

The 2016 web conference series included nine web conferences, which explored linkages between sexual and domestic violence prevention and related health and safety issues, sectors, and social justice movements:

1. From foundations to the future: A prevention approach to sexual and domestic violence
2. Harmful gender norms: How can alliances be built between with queer (LGBTQ+) movements to help prevent sexual and domestic violence more effectively?
3. Harmful gender norms: Moving beyond binary and heteronormative approaches to prevent sexual and domestic violence.
4. Shared roots: Sexual and domestic violence prevention strategies in support of social justice
5. Engaging youth in shaping strategies and solutions to prevent sexual and domestic violence
6. What about power and patriarchy? Examining social cohesion strategies to prevent sexual and domestic violence
7. Authentically engaging communities to prevent sexual and domestic violence
8. Using shared risk and protective factors to prevent sexual and domestic violence: Research into practice and policy
9. Equity, trauma, and sexual and domestic violence prevention

After facilitating nine web conferences, Prevention Institute reviewed and summarized key findings, examples of innovative work, and resources from each of the web conferences, and classified findings across the series as a whole into overarching themes. The following five themes lift up both the progression of the field and highlights from the 2016 PreventConnect web conference series.

FIVE KEY THEMES FROM THE 2016 SERIES

- 1. A growing number of practitioners are focusing on inequities in sexual and domestic violence.** While the field recognizes that sexual and domestic violence affects everyone, enhanced data collection and access (for example, through CDC's [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#)) enable practitioners to better understand and address inequities in sexual and domestic violence. Prevent-Connect web conferences helped delineate how structural inequities from historic and present-day policies, practices, and norms have produced disparate rates of sexual and domestic violence by age, sex, race, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other factors. By discussing how power and larger structures affect sexual and domestic violence, many in the field are ever more committed to centering prevention efforts on individuals and communities that experience significant inequities, including communities of color, people with trans-identities, and individuals with disabilities. For findings, examples, and resources related to this theme, see web conference summaries numbered 2, 3, 5, 4, 6, and 9.

- 2. Sexual and domestic violence prevention practitioners are increasingly working across multiple forms of violence and trauma.** The seminal resource, [Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence](#) and the [CDC's strategic vision for Connecting the Dots](#) have supported practitioners in understanding and addressing shared risk and protective factors that shape multiple forms of violence. Communities are increasingly adopting this approach and addressing shared underlying factors that cross multiple forms of violence, such as community connectedness and harmful gender norms. There is also a shift away from an overreliance on criminal justice systems towards an understanding of how criminal justice approaches and mass incarceration may contribute to or exacerbate many types of violence and community trauma. In Delaware, practitioners are framing trauma not as "what's wrong with this community?" but rather "what happened to this community?" They operate in ways that acknowledge community trauma and seek to improve the physical and social environment with the goal of healing and preventing multiple forms of violence. For findings, examples, and resources related to this theme, see web conference summaries numbered 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9.

FIVE KEY THEMES FROM THE 2016 SERIES

- 3. Practitioners are addressing underlying factors that can reduce levels of sexual and domestic violence, bringing together feminism and public health.** The 2016 PreventConnect web conference series continued the conversation of sexual and domestic violence prevention at the intersection of public health and feminist theory. Practitioners connected public health's social determinants of health to the feminist concept of intersectionality that describes the ways in which oppressive systems interrelate. For example, both public health and feminist intersectionality identify the need to promote healthy gender norms, economic opportunity, and social inclusion to prevent sexual and domestic violence. Learning from feminist power analysis, the web conference series examined how social inclusion can address power imbalances that stem from broader structural drivers of inequity. The community of practice considered how to promote social inclusion through strategies and language that encompass intersecting identities, for example, among people with disabilities, immigrants, and people who identify as lesbian, gay, and trans. For economic opportunity, PreventConnect participants examined how high unemployment and lack of opportunity relate to sexual and domestic violence and considered opportunities to link with economic justice movements. For findings, examples, and resources related to this theme, see web conference summaries numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8.

- 4. The field's enduring commitment to community partnerships and empowerment is foundational to preventing sexual and domestic violence.** Practitioners and advocates continue to value the voices of community members, whether providing opportunities for youth to organize and drive solutions, working with faith communities, or using participatory research methods. Guests on the web conferences shared how they engage community from the start to guide the work and promote community agency. This can be healing and help communities build resilience while paving a pathway to influence community conditions. In addition, practitioners are finding ways to conduct evaluations that emphasize empowerment and strengths that align with goals around being trauma-informed and engaging community. For example, in efforts to work across multiple forms of violence in Winfield, Kansas, the research team and state health department looked to residents to identify community needs through a participatory assessment. For findings, examples, and resources related to this theme, see web conference summaries numbered 5, 7, 8, and 9.

5. **The field is recognizing that alignment with social justice movements and other sectors is critical to bring together diverse perspectives, mobilize new approaches, and achieve shared goals.** To better address the underlying factors associated with sexual and domestic violence, there are budding opportunities to form new partnerships. Guests from the 2016 series shared how they are connecting to all sorts of movements: Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) movements, economic justice, immigration reform, and many more. For instance, Restaurant Opportunities Centers United is raising the connection between tipped wages and sexual harassment and assault as a social justice issue. Practitioners are also working with youth, schools and universities, people with disabilities, faith communities, and other sectors. To address disparities in health and safety across communities, partnerships between SDV prevention and social justice movements can lead to greater capacity for change. For example, public health can contribute its ability to track and analyze data, and social justice movements can engage and educate broad segments of communities. With more deliberate connections being made between social justice issues and sexual and domestic violence prevention, there is a need to learn the language and approaches of different partners (e.g., language around power and equity, language around gender when working with LGBTQ+ allies, etc.) and to find shared outcomes, particularly at the community level. For findings, examples, and resources related to this theme, see web conference summaries numbered 2, 3, 4, and 6.

FIVE KEY THEMES FROM THE 2016 SERIES (CONT.)

Through enduring commitments to community partnerships, a growing focus on addressing inequities, and expanded efforts across issues, sectors, and movements, practitioners are extending the reach of sexual and domestic violence prevention. This aligns with the public health field more generally where practitioners are focusing on identifying the problems and populations most affected, and connecting across health issues to intervene on underlying determinants of health.³ These determinants include structural drivers (e.g., the inequitable distribution of power, money, opportunity, and resources) and conditions of daily life (e.g., the environments in which people are born, live, work, play, worship, and age).⁴ In addition, as the field increasingly aims to address the structural drivers of inequity through broad action, it is recognizing the value of partnering with social justice movements that are working toward similar goals.⁵ The depth and breadth of topics, examples, and themes from the 2016 web conference series demonstrate that the sexual and domestic violence prevention field is truly accelerating its work to prevent sexual and domestic violence in the first place.

³Davis, R, Rivera, D & Fujie Parks, L. Moving from understanding to action on health equity: Social determinants of health frameworks and THRIVE. Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute.

⁴CSDH (2008). Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Geneva, World Health Organization.

⁵Lee, D. (2016, January). Social Justice as the Center of Preventing Sexual and Domestic Violence. PreventConnect. Retrieved from <http://www.preventconnect.org/2016/01/social-justice-as-the-center-of-preventing-sexual-and-domestic-violence/>

“We look to PreventConnect for new and innovative strategies and prevention efforts that we can implement within the community.”

**PreventConnect
Survey Respondent**

WEB CONFERENCE SUMMARY

By exploring and understanding the underlying factors of sexual and domestic violence, practitioners can begin to move upstream towards preventing sexual and domestic violence before it occurs. This topic reviews the fundamentals of a public health approach to preventing violence and highlights promising strategies and innovative prevention practices using the [Spectrum of Prevention](#).

PRACTITIONERS & ADVOCATES FEATURED

- **Jeffrey Tangonan Acido, PhD**, Community Education/Civic Engagement, [Kokua Kalihi Valley](#)
- **Kelli McCannell, MS**, President of [Hardy Girls Healthy Women](#)

KEY FINDINGS

A. There are community-level factors, such as social norms, that contribute to domestic and sexual violence. While individuals have a role to play in ending sexual and domestic violence, a public health approach recognizes that individuals are directly impacted by their environments and that changing factors in the community environment can help prevent sexual and domestic violence. Sexual and domestic violence are, in part, products of societal and community-level factors that coexist and together contribute to rates of sexual and domestic violence. Social norms contribute in many ways to

multiple forms of violence. Norms around violence, masculinity, power and control, limited opportunities for women, as well as privacy and silence all contribute to the likelihood of sexual and domestic

“If you have a packet of seeds, it will give you the hardiness zone for that plant. If you ignore those directions and put a plant that needs a lot of sun and space in a dark corner, it won’t grow. Young girls are being planted in toxic environments and then we are shocked when they don’t flourish and grow.”

Kelli McCannell

Hardy Girls Healthy Women

violence. Norms play out in various aspects of daily life including through media marketing practices,

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workplace environments, neighborhoods, and more. It is also important to note that while these norms are framed within the gender binary, they impact LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) communities as well. In fact sexual and domestic violence disproportionately affects LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, and individuals facing poverty.

- B. Sexual and domestic violence is preventable by addressing underlying factors.** A public health approach to preventing violence begins with the recognition that all forms of violence are preventable. By addressing risk and protective factors for sexual and domestic violence, such as the physical environment or economic and educational opportunities, we can change the community context in which violence occurs and reduce the likelihood of sexual and domestic violence.
- C. A comprehensive approach is necessary to prevent sexual and domestic violence.**

Education or policy change alone are insufficient to prevent sexual and domestic violence. Addressing the underlying factors through a diverse and interlocking set of strategies can effectively prevent violence. The Spectrum of Prevention outlines six key levels of activities for prevention that, when applied together, have a greater effect than would be possible from a single activity or initiative.

RESOURCES:

- [Web Conference Link](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\) Prevention Assessment: Year 2 Report Innovations in Prevention](#)
- [Transforming Communities to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse, Prevention Institute](#)
- [Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Assault Violence Against Women, World Health Organization](#)

FROM FOUNDATIONS TO THE FUTURE: A PREVENTION APPROACH TO SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Spectrum of Prevention: The table below shows the six layers of strategy that comprise the Spectrum of Prevention, with examples to illustrate each level:

<p>Influencing Policy & Legislation</p>	<p>ReThinkers – A group of elementary schoolers in New Orleans studied restorative justice practices and made recommendations to their school district officials to adopt restorative justice practices and policies. Restorative justice offers non-punitive approaches to resolve conflicts through mediation and can promote social cohesion, positive norms, and community sanctions, all factors that are associated with sexual and domestic violence prevention.</p>
<p>Changing Organizational Practices</p>	<p>Ramsey County Health Department: The health department’s Wakenza project looked at harsh parental interactions in three public spaces: a public library, a domestic violence shelter, and a children’s art museum, and considered whether changes to the physical space and staff response to these incidents could prevent future incidents from occurring. By providing staff with a new lens and creating family-friendly spaces (e.g. play spaces for children and coffee stations for visitors), the health department has taken steps toward reducing harsh parenting, a factor associated with domestic violence.</p>
<p>Fostering Coalitions & Networks</p>	<p>Hardy Girls Healthy Women: Hardy Girls Healthy Women is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting health and safety for young women through a variety of projects that not only empower individuals, but help build healthy, safe, and strong communities. More specifically, the organization creates opportunities for coalition-building through their Girls Coalition Groups and their Girls Advisory Board, which brings together older and younger participants and fosters lasting social connections within the groups.</p>

<p>Educating Providers</p>	<p>Peaceful Paths: This domestic violence services organization worked with faith leaders in Gainesville, Florida, to integrate themes related to sexual and domestic violence into church materials. This included infusing messages about safe relationships into sermons, Sunday school lessons, and a handbook that was created specifically around the subject. By training faith leaders so they can spread knowledge and information to their congregants, Peaceful Paths promoted safe and healthy relationships among more people.</p>
<p>Promoting Community Education</p>	<p>Kokua Kalihi Valley: This community center works with working-class youth of color who have been exposed to violence and trauma. Kokua Halihi Valley uses “culture circles” to bring young people together to discuss and address the violence that they have experienced in a culturally-sensitive and competent way. Using the traditional Nakem Methodology (Nakem means soul consciousness in the Ilokano language), the program allows participants to name their own experiences and decide on the correct “prescriptions” for addressing the different forms of oppression they face and their own healing. This process allows community-based knowledge and expertise to serve as the main guide for community and individual healing and prevention.</p>
<p>Strengthening Individual Knowledge & Skills</p>	<p>Boston Public Health Commission – Sound Relationships: This scorecard allows young people to analyze the lyrics of their favorite songs in order to find examples of either healthy or unhealthy relationships. By defining aspects of unhealthy relationships and contextualizing them within the lyrics of popular songs, this tool educates young people about safe relationships in an innovative and engaging way, and helps young people recognize unhealthy norms in popular culture and their media environment.</p>

Tip: Use the Spectrum of Prevention to implement strategies across various levels. Changing organizational practices and influencing policy and legislation can be particularly impactful, and fostering coalitions and networks is necessary to bring the full range of partners to work together.

HARMFUL GENDER NORMS: HOW CAN ALLIANCES BE BUILT BETWEEN WITH QUEER (LGBTQ+) MOVEMENTS TO HELP PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MORE EFFECTIVELY?

WEB CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Ensuring that prevention efforts reflect the diversity of each community is a fundamental part of a commitment to health equity. This topic highlights the need to engage directly with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQI+) community members in the decision-making process to advance prevention outcomes. Alignment with LGBTQ+ movements and identities can help counter the harmful aspects of gender norms that lead to sexual and domestic violence.

PRACTITIONERS & ADVOCATES FEATURED

- **Lolan Buhain Sevilla**, Community Organizer
- **Liat Wexler**, Training Specialist, [Center for Community Solutions](#)

KEY FINDINGS

A. Narrow assumptions about gender and sexuality are reflected in how terms like sex, gender expression and roles, gender identity, and sexual orientation are often conflated and misused. Use of appropriate terminology can help practitioners be more inclusive. Sex refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that make someone

female, intersex⁶, or male (e.g., genitalia, internal reproductive organs, chromosomes, and hormones). The sex binary is socially constructed and tends to ignore or force-fit intersex people. Gender is also a social construct, a set of expected attributes, behaviors, roles, and appearances that traditionally only recognizes two categories: women and men. People are typically assigned a gender based on visible sex at birth, however gender identity is an internal and personal sense of self and where one fits on this map of gender, if at all. A person's gender may or may not align with sex assigned at birth.

Two terms that are based on self-identification and often get conflated are gender identity and sexual

⁶Intersex is a term used for a variety of conditions where a person is born with sexual or reproductive anatomy that doesn't fit the typical definitions of female or male. (Source: [Intersex Society of North America](#))

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orientation. For instance, sometimes transgender-identified people are labeled as “gay,” but a transgender person might identify as straight, queer, lesbian, etc. Gender identity is unique to every individual and reflects a person’s internal and lived understanding of their gender. Sexual orientation refers to romantic, sexual and/or spiritual attraction. Acknowledging these distinctions can help in preventing high levels of violence and discrimination, such as homophobic and transphobic attitudes, which stem from assumptions around sex and gender.

Tip: Remember that identities and language for these communities is constantly evolving, which can be both exciting and frustrating for people new to learning about it.

B. Harmful and narrow gender norms contribute to sexual and domestic violence against and within LGBTQ+ communities. For example, gender specific bathrooms contribute to violence against people who are transgender and gender non-conforming. As the image here shows, narrow gender norms can leave transgender and gender

non-conforming people in uncomfortable and unsafe situations, as they often experience harassment and violence regardless of which bathroom they use. Harmful norms around masculinity or femininity can also increase the marginalization LGBTQ+ communities face. Harmful gender norms contribute to other myths and stereotypes about LGBTQ+ people, which can lead to violence against LGBTQ+ people and create barriers for survivors seeking help. Assumptions that sexual and domestic violence only occur between masculine perpetrators and feminine victims can leave people feeling dismissed, left out, or even



Gender-specific bathrooms can leave transgender individuals in difficult and unsafe situations. [Image of person with short hair facing two bathroom doors, one with woman figure and sign that says “get arrested” and the other with man figure that says “get assaulted.”]

HARMFUL GENDER NORMS: HOW CAN ALLIANCES BE BUILT BETWEEN WITH QUEER (LGBTQ+) MOVEMENTS TO HELP PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MORE EFFECTIVELY?

accused of being aggressors before being given the space to seek safety. For instance, these norms can result in transgender women being treated as presumed offenders of sexual assault, based on both the constructed idea that women are not violent and that trans women are not “real women.”

- C. Engaging directly with LGBTQ+ community members at the decision-making table can protect against harmful aspects of gender norms that lead to sexual and domestic violence.** Ways to do this include ensuring appropriate representation of identities when building networks and writing policies and outreach materials, using community-based participatory research methods, supporting community representation in coalition-building and hiring, and creating inclusive

physical spaces, such as restrooms. It critical to incorporate LGBTQ+ movements and identities from the initial planning stages of efforts and to show up for the communities when support is needed (e.g., to oppose discriminatory policies or pass progressive ones). By building meaningful relationships with LGBTQ+ organizations and communities, practitioners and advocates can develop collaborations that simultaneously address homo/bi/transphobia and sexual and domestic violence.

Tip: Put those most marginalized at the center of prevention efforts, both understanding their experiences and advancing their agency.

RESOURCES

- [Web Conference Link](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [Universe Model of Gender](#)
- [Action Steps for Being a Trans Ally](#)
- [2015 Transgender Survey](#)
- [PreventConnect Podcast on Queering the Curriculum LGBTQ Inclusivity in Sexual Assault Prevention](#)
- [A Cis-Privilege Checklist](#)
- [Intersex Roadshow](#)

WEB CONFERENCE SUMMARY

We know that harmful gender norms are a risk factor for sexual and domestic violence. Yet, conversations typically center around the effects those norms have on cisgender and heterosexual men and women. As more inclusive language evolves to encompass the existence of diverse identities, how do we ensure that we're not working against our own prevention efforts by perpetuating narrow definitions of gender? This topic explores the ways that we, as practitioners and advocates, can transform our own thinking to ensure our organizational practices accurately reflect our communities and prime us for partnership and inclusive approaches for prevention practice.

PRACTITIONERS & ADVOCATES FEATURED

- **Lolan Buhain Sevilla**, Community Organizer
- **Wesley Thomas, MPH**, Program Coordinator, [Advocates for Youth](#)

KEY FINDINGS

A. Binary⁷ and heteronormative⁸ understandings of gender and sexuality are pervasive in society. These can have harmful outcomes, excluding certain identities from communities. Often societal expectations around appearance, behavior, and character traits are subject to a social system that requires individuals to identify as either a "woman" or "man," depending on sex assigned at birth (with intersex individuals often enduring non-consensual surgeries as children to make them fit into one side of the binary). People

are not only restricted by a strict gender binary, but also a heteronormative system that normalizes behaviors and societal expectations tied to the presumption of heterosexuality and this gender binary.

These understandings of gender create rigid gender roles that limit expression and can contribute to violence. Bipolarization of gender excludes many, leaving no room for gender non-conforming, intersex and trans* identities. For example, most surveys and forms that ask about gender only list male or female as options. Bipolarization also stifles nuances to what it means to be a "man" or "woman" and reverts to limited ideas of sex and gender. In sexual and domestic violence prevention work, it is important not to default to heteronormative language (e.g. referring to survivors as 'she' and perpetrators as 'he'), make assumptions around

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non-traditional romantic partnerships or mis-gender clients, colleagues and community members.

- B. There is language we can use that encompasses real intersecting identities, such as “UndocuQueer.”** It is important to be aware of the limits of language and address the realities behind the language we use when talking about gender. At the same time, we must deepen our understanding of intersectional identities to better understand how systems of oppression impact people’s multiple identities (e.g., race, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity). “I am UndocuQueer” is an art project with the Undocumented Queer Youth Collective and the Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project (QUIP) that acknowledges intersectionality and recognizes the complex livelihoods of those who are queer and undocumented in the migrant rights movement.

Here are some helpful terms:

- **Ally:** An individual or organization that actively helps another with a specific issue by acting in opposition to oppression. Here, ally refers to one who openly supports and affirms the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ people.
- **Cisgender:** Used to identify someone who is not transgender, and typically refers to someone whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

- **Gender expression:** Any way in which an individual chooses to present or explain their gender. It can include one’s sense of self and the image that one presents to the world.
- **Gender identity:** The inner sense of one’s own gender.
- **Queer:** Used to identify someone who aligns



“I am UndocuQueer” art project is an example of acknowledging intersectional identities. [Image of “I am UndocuQueer” poster with a person wearing stickers that read “undocumented and unafraid” and “Queer and unashamed.”]

HARMFUL GENDER NORMS: MOVING BEYOND BINARY AND HETERONORMATIVE APPROACHES TO PREVENTING SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

themselves with the trans, bisexual, lesbian, and gay community. A term which is often taken back in a positive way for self-identification, in contrast to its negative historical use to ridicule and label anyone not conforming to heterosexual norms and societal gender expectations. This has both personal identity and political connotations.

- Transgender: Used to identify people whose gender identity differs from the sex or gender they were assigned at birth, and whose gender expression differs from what is culturally expected of them.
- C. Through individual and organizational change, such as expanding language and curricula, practitioners can reflect gender and sexual diversity and include non-binary and non-heteronormative identities.** Rather than examining gender as on a continuum with men and women on opposite ends and everyone else in between – the [Universe Model of Gender](#) sees each person’s gender as a star in the universe. Each person’s gender is unique and distinct, but clustered into galaxies that honor the expansive range of iden-

ties that exist. Advocates and practitioners should engage people with a variety of gender identities in their work and be more inclusive in examples they use in curriculums they implement – for example, by expanding language around gender and opting not to gender everyone around the binary. There are also action steps individuals can take to be a [Trans Ally](#), such as being an active bystander, using the correct pronouns, and listening to trans voices.

To build organizational capacity, advocates can call for things like all-gender restrooms and more inclusive forms and surveys that ask, “what is your gender identity?” rather than asking people to choose male or female. Organizations can also engage in trainings on gender inclusivity, identity, and expression to better meet the needs of the communities they serve. For example, [Gender Spectrum](#) highlights strategies for building capacity around basic identity conversations, physical development, and language.

RESOURCES

- [Web Conference Link](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [National Sexuality Education Standards](#)
- [Say What? How to Talk about Trans and Gender Non Conforming People, Youth and People in the Sex Trade Respectfully](#)
- [LGBTQIA Resource Center Glossary](#)
- [Universe Model of Gender](#)
- <http://www.culturestrike.org/>
- <http://www.micahbazant.com/>
- <http://www.rommytorrico.com/>
- www.justseeds.org

⁷Gender binary: A social system that requires everyone be raised as a boy or girl (dependent on what sex you are assigned at birth), which in turn forms the basis for how you are educated, what jobs you can do (or are expected to do), how you are expected to behave, what you are expected to wear, what your gender and gender presentation should be, and who you should be attracted to/love/marry, etc. (Source: [GSA Network, Beyond the Binary](#))

⁸Heteronormative: A system that works to normalize behaviors and societal expectations that are tied to the presumption of heterosexuality and an adherence to a strict gender binary. (Source: [Everyday Feminism](#))

WEB CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Sexual and domestic violence do not occur in a vacuum. Poverty, racism, exposure to other forms of violence, and high density of alcohol retailers are just a few factors that put some individuals at a greater risk for teen dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual assault than others. These very factors are also at the root of social justice movements like living-wage advocacy, efforts to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, and Black Lives Matter. This topic looks at how sexual and domestic violence prevention can align with today's social justice movements, including real-world opportunities, as well as potential barriers to working across sectors and movements.

PRACTITIONERS & ADVOCATES FEATURED

- **Kelly Miller, JD**, Executive Director, [Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence](#)
- **Saru Jayaraman, JD, MPP**, Co-Founder & Co-Director, [Restaurant Opportunities Centers United](#)

Fight for 15) and potential for social movements and prevention efforts to work together. Another area of overlap is with regard to social cohesion. This is something sexual and domestic violence prevention practitioners aim to improve in communities and also involves organizing, an important component of movement building.

KEY FINDINGS

- A. Improving economic opportunity and social cohesion are shared desired outcomes for key social justice movements and sexual and domestic violence prevention.** High unemployment and the lack of economic opportunity are community-level risk factors for sexual and domestic violence, as shown in the [Connecting the Dots](#) research. At the same time, there are social justice movements working on economic justice (e.g.,

"Some of the social justice movements I'm connected to address workers' rights, economic equality, and racial justice, addressing racial segregation within employment."

Saru Jayaman

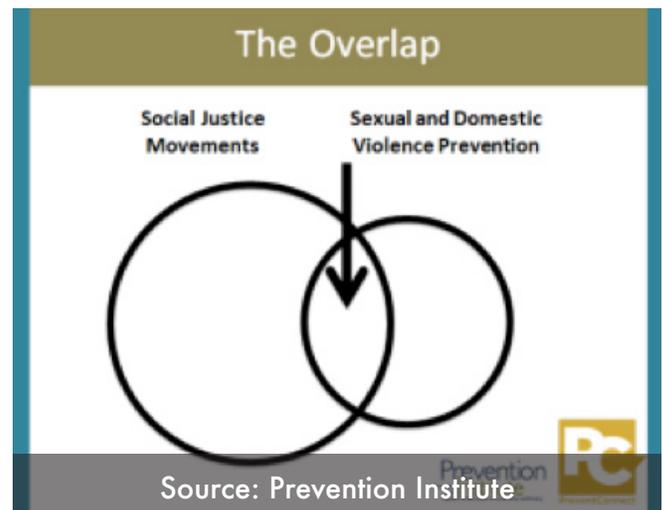
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS & LINKAGES

There are also areas of distinction between social movements and sexual and domestic violence prevention. Social justice movements tend to delve deeper into root causes, colonization and slavery, while sexual and domestic violence prevention, as defined here, adopts a public health approach and focuses on risk and protective factors.

Tip: Connect with partners who are working across different forms of violence and issue areas.

Lives Matter, immigration reform, and working in more gender-inclusive ways. Restaurant Opportunities Centers United is raising the connection between tipped wages and sexual harassment and assault as social justice issues. Reframing the issue of tipped wages as a sexual violence issue, rather than only using an economic angle, has significantly helped advance their work to develop better policies within the restaurant industry.



- B. There are opportunities for both sexual and domestic violence prevention and social justice movements to apply each other's lenses in their work. For example, sexual and domestic violence prevention can focus on solutions in communities most marginalized and social justice movements can frame issues from a health and safety perspective.**

The Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence applies a social justice lens by centering their work on solutions for preventing violence in communities that are marginalized. To better influence social change and address root factors, they are shifting from youth engagement strategies to youth organizing and getting involved with Black

Public health sexual and domestic violence prevention and social justice movements have areas of overlap where joint efforts can enhance outcomes. [Image of a Venn diagram showing how there is overlap between social justice movements and sexual and domestic violence prevention.]

SHARED ROOTS: SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

- C. **There are opportunities to align sexual and domestic violence prevention with calls for criminal justice reform, ending mass incarceration, and ending violence by law enforcement.** Public health and social justice movement approaches both seek solutions that go beyond over-reliance on the criminal justice system. For example, prevention and restorative justice approaches both seek to build individual and community accountability for safety without contributing to mass incarceration and its significant harms. One small example is support for “[Ban the Box](#)” – a policy of removing the check box on hiring applications that asks if applicants have a criminal record – so that those with criminal records can better access employment.



Source: Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence is getting involved with social justice movements like Black Lives Matter. [Image of Black Lives Matter activists.]

RESOURCES:

- [Web Conference Link](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence \(CDC\)](#)
- [Reciprocal Advancement - Building Linkages Between Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault \(CALCASA\)](#)
- [STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence \(CDC\)](#)
- [The Glass Floor: Sexual Harassment in the Restaurant Industry \(ROC\)](#)
- [Our Gender Revolution \(IDVSA\)](#)
- [INCITE! Critical Resistance Statement](#)
- [Showing Up for Racial Justice](#)
- [Movement Strategy Center](#)

ENGAGING YOUTH IN SHAPING STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WEB CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Young people are driving prevention practice in innovative ways. We have moved from an era of youth leadership defined by token decisions (what color should those t-shirts be?) to efforts where youth are defining the problem, their vision for the future, and policy and practice solutions to prevent sexual and domestic violence. This topic hones in on how practitioners are engaging young people and creating infrastructure to support youth decision-making.

PRACTITIONERS & ADVOCATES FEATURED

- **Eleanor Davis**, Program Assistant Public Education Campaigns & Programs, Futures Without Violence
- **Claudia Plesa**, Project Coordinator at Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

KEY FINDINGS

- A. As programs and organizations shift from a “youth as consultants” model to a “youth as partners” model, young people can play an increasing role in defining the problems and crafting the solutions for sexual and domestic violence prevention.** The That’s Not Cool campaign, a teen dating violence prevention initiative, is an example of how youth are increasingly playing influential roles in the work. A youth advisory council help guide the campaign and



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are involved in the creation of materials and train-the-trainer models every step of the way. That's Not Cool hosted a summit for youth leaders and adults provide technical advice and other resources to support ongoing engagement efforts.

Another example of youth-engaged violence prevention is an initiative in Alaska titled Lead On! Lead On! hosts an annual youth leadership conference to empower youth to make change, with a focus on building skills and confidence. The project then provides mini-grants and technical assistance to young people and supports them in creating plans to change their own communities and ultimately promote peace, respect, and equality. Instead of being given project topics, youth select what they are passionate about, and often decide on projects that link addressing violence to other issues in their community. Lead On! links youth with adult mentors in their communities that can support these youth-led projects.

- B. Supporting youth leadership facilitates more intentional connections to intersecting social justice movements and culture change.** Too often “youth” are clumped into a very broad category that doesn't adequately acknowledge the intersectionality of young people's lives. Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

has found connecting young people to their elders and culture builds pride and encourages community engagement. Many young people are interested in activism and want to work on sexual and domestic violence as it relates to intersecting movements

“The movement has to be more intentional in not silo-ing the work from other social justice movements.”

Eleanor Davis

Futures Without Violence

for racial justice, environmental justice, and immigration reform, often using social media and other technology to organize national networks for social change. Supporting youth leadership builds a stronger, multigenerational community of practice. Youth as a whole demonstrate care for where they live and the people around them, and seek and need healthy relationships across generations, including siblings, parents, elders, and other community members. To build a stronger community of practice, there is a true need for adults and communities to make space for and value the voices and leadership of young people. This can include

ENGAGING YOUTH IN SHAPING STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

training adults on how to be allies, compensating young people for their work, and supporting work that crosses issues and movements.

- C. Supporting youth leadership builds a stronger, multigenerational community of practice.** Youth as a whole demonstrate care for where they live and the people around them, and seek and need healthy relationships across generations, including siblings, parents, elders, and other community members. To build a stronger community of practice, there is a true need for adults and communities to make space for and value the voices and leadership of young people. This can include training adults on how to be allies, compensating young people for their work, and supporting work that crosses issues and movements.

“When I am an elder I want to know the cycle of salmon, not the cycle of violence.”

Tia Kanuk
Bethel, Alaska

RESOURCES

- [Web Conference Link](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [That's Not Cool](#)
- [Stand Up Speak Up Alaska](#)
- [Talk Now Talk Often Alaska](#)
- [Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault](#)

WEB CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Sexual and domestic violence prevention practitioners and advocates are learning more about social cohesion and social inclusion strategies to increase mutual trust in a community or neighborhood and improve the processes and terms for individuals and groups to participate in society. This topic explores recent research on social cohesion, social inclusion, and sexual and domestic violence, and how a feminist power analysis can coexist with and strengthen social cohesion and social inclusion strategies to prevent sexual and domestic violence. Strategies that bolster cohesion and inclusion in conjunction with efforts to address other factors in the community environment can together prevent sexual and domestic violence.

PRACTITIONERS & ADVOCATES FEATURED

- **Emily F. Rothman, ScD**, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, [Boston University](#)
- **Cierra Olivia Thomas-Williams**, Prevention Specialist, [Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(ICADV\)](#)

KEY FINDINGS

- A. Social cohesion, especially when focused on positive norms, can strengthen collective efficacy and protect against sexual and domestic violence.** Existing research tends to discuss social cohesion within the context of collective efficacy, which combines social cohesion and informal social control. Collective efficacy

has been shown to be protective against domestic violence and other forms of violence.^{9 10 11} Social cohesion helps to foster strong social networks that promote social support, including the ability to leverage action on one's behalf. Evidence suggests that people who live in neighborhoods with high levels of social cohesion are more likely to be connected to a positive social network and less likely to experience social isolation.^{12 13 14} However, it is important to note that social cohesion does not always act as a protective factor. For instance, a study found that adolescent and young adult men in dense peer networks that are tolerant of domestic violence have higher rates of domestic violence perpetration.¹⁵ This shows how peer groups can be cohesive, yet enforce negative norms around violence.

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS & LINKAGES

Social inclusion is named as a structural determinant of health for CDC’s DELTA Focus project and appears to be a dimension of social cohesion, as inclusion is a necessary condition for mutual trust and solidarity in a community or neighborhood.¹⁶ The World Bank defines social inclusion as “the process of improving the terms for individuals and groups to take part in society.”

B. Feminist power analysis and a public health approach are complementary frameworks to address social inclusion and community conditions for sexual and domestic violence prevention. In its demand for social justice, feminism exposes systemic gender inequality, often referred to as patriarchy. A public health approach focuses at a population level and provides a methodology for working toward solutions: defining the problem, identifying risk and protective factors, testing effectiveness of strategies, and lifting up what works. The Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence uses the lenses of feminism and public health to identify who is most impacted by violence and address multiple risk factors, including power imbalances, which play out in the community as social exclusion of certain groups. To truly change conditions that contribute to sexual and domestic violence, there is a need for systemic social inclusion, not just cohesion.

C. From addressing transportation barriers to participating in decision-making processes, social inclusion strategies can modify power imbalances, reduce isolation, and ensure that all people have support and are part of the community, thereby reducing the risk for sexual violence. Bloomington Inclusion Initiative is a sexual violence prevention initiative that collaborates with people with disabilities to address the risk factor of isolation. The initiative identifies



Source: Indiana Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

Bloomington Inclusion Initiative is advocating to decrease structural barriers to social inclusion that people with disabilities face. [Image of an illustration by “J” of people in wheelchairs not able to enter the mall.]

WHAT ABOUT POWER AND PATRIARCHY? EXAMINING SOCIAL COHESION STRATEGIES TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

how community environments have differential impacts for people with disabilities by using participatory social mapping such as PhotoVoice or the development of a geographic information system (GIS). Participants use Google Maps to show barriers like the lack of roadway and sidewalk connectivity or access into the local mall for a person who cannot open the door.

Roadway and sideway connectivity emerged as one of the most prevalent barriers in accessing community spaces and social, financial, and medical resources for people with disabilities. Connectivity is a protective factor against violence because it broadens social networks – more social connections mean more people checking in with each other and calling out when things do not seem right – thereby addressing social norms around privacy and silence that allow sexual violence to continue. By bringing together emergent leaders with disabilities and established local and state level leaders, the initiative fosters community belongingness and civic engagement. It gives a voice to people who have been historically

left out of city planning conversations to identify how exclusion is built into structures and advocate for systems change.

Tip: Go to the people who are the most vulnerable and ask them how to help make communities more inclusive.

RESOURCES

- [Web Conference Link](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [ICADV Prevention Toybox](#) - Available free to agencies wishing to collaborate to prevent violence and increase equity within their communities. Incorporates the public health approach to address social conditions for change.
- [Stop SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence](#)
- [Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence \(CDC\)](#)
- [CDC Connecting the Dots Strategic Vision](#)
- "Sidewalks to Sexual Violence Prevention:

the Journey Toward Inclusion with and for Adults with Developmental Disabilities” project replication guide is under the final revision process as of May 10, 2017. This contains resources and mapping tools to measure inclusion and gather community specific data with and from people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, tips to recruit cross-sector partners, and examples of how to use GIS to make a case and advocate for changes in local communities and within agencies. The guide is also full of art work and creative writing from the project stakeholders who envision a safe, stable and nurturing world. Please call 917-317-3685 to request a copy or email Cierra at cwilliams@icadvinc.org to obtain your free copy.

⁹Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013). Healthy Places - Social Capital. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/social.htm>

¹⁰Harvey, A., Garcia-Moreno, C., & Butchart, A. (2007). Primary prevention of intimate-partner violence and sexual violence: Background paper for WHO expert meeting May 2–3, 2007 (Rep.). Geneva: World Health Organization. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/violence/IPV-SV.pdf

¹¹World Health Organization & London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. (2010). Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence. Geneva: World Health Organization.

¹²Heise, L. (1998). Violence Against Women: An Integrated Ecological Framework. *Violence Against Women*, 4(262). Retrieved from <http://gbvaor.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2012/10/Violence-Against-Women-An-Integrated-Ecological-Framework-Heise-1998.pdf>

¹³Beyer, K., Wallis, A. B., & Hamberger, L. K. (2015). Neighborhood environment and intimate partner violence: A systematic review. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 16(1), 16-47.

¹⁴Wilkins, N., Tsao, B., Hertz, M., Davis, R., Klevens, J. (2014). *Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute.

¹⁵Casey, E. A., & Beadnell, B. (2010). The structure of male adolescent peer networks and risk for intimate partner violence perpetration: Findings from a national sample. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 39(6), 620-633.

¹⁶Vanderende, K. E., Yount, K. M., Dynes, M. M., & Sibley, L. M. (2012). Community-level correlates of intimate partner violence against women globally: A systematic review. *Social Science & Medicine*, 75(7), 1143-1155.

AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WEB CONFERENCE SUMMARY

From participatory mapping to surveys and town hall meetings, community engagement is a big piece of prevention work for organizations working at the local level. What is the real value of community engagement for sexual and domestic violence prevention? And what does genuine engagement look like? This topic focuses on strategies to prevent sexual and domestic violence that are deeply community driven and that authentically support community voices, such as resident-led assessment and planning, and culturally-rooted social change through partnerships with faith leaders.

PRACTITIONERS & ADVOCATES FEATURED

- **Layla Elabed**, Program Coordinator, [ACCESS](#) (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services)
- **Olivia Kachingwe, MPH**, Project Coordinator for the Newport Health Equity Zone, [Women's Resource Center](#)

KEY FINDINGS

- A. **Prioritizing community voices from the planning stages through implementation is essential to empowering residents and cultivating the sustained buy-in that is necessary for community-wide change.** Prior to starting a needs assessment for the Newport Health Equity Zone, a place-based response to

health disparities, the Women's Resource Center brought residents to the table to truly understand the needs in Newport, Rhode Island, and to work



Source: Women's Resource Center

Newport Healthy Equity Zone prioritizes community voice through an "empowerment model." [Image of Newport Health Equity Zone and residents posing outdoors for a photograph]

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS & LINKAGES

together to fill current gaps in the community. According to staff, the Women’s Resource Center follows an “empowerment model” of supporting survivors and applies this model at the community level by requiring that all project decision-making and community change be led by those who live in the community. Residents, including 12 paid resident consultants, were involved in the design of the assessment and data collection, and worked together to respond to findings and propose solutions. By involving the community in the assessment, the Health Equity Zone learned what residents really want while also garnering authentic and sustainable community buy-in for the effort. To sustain community engagement, genuine relationships and involvement in the community and transparency are needed, as well as creative advocacy with funders to request flexibility and responsiveness to community priorities.

Tip: Authentically engaging the community means letting the community tell you how they want to be engaged, and being open to their responses.

- B. Even when sexual and domestic violence are not prioritized as issues by residents, building safe and inclusive communities in ways residents deem important can contribute to sexual and domestic violence prevention and build collective efficacy for long-term community change.** Conditions that contribute to sexual and domestic violence do not exist in a silo. While domestic and sexual violence did not come up directly as priorities in the Newport Health Equity Zone needs assessment, working on the issues that were prioritized (social cohesion, financial freedom, self-efficacy, and improved transportation) can help reduce the risk of sexual and domestic violence. Change in these factors alone will not prevent sexual and domestic violence, though these kinds of changes can affect the risk factors for sexual and domestic violence. This work enables people to feel more connected and safe, and creates a space for conversations about sexual and domestic violence prevention to come up in an organic way.
- C. Diverse community stakeholders can find common ground in the desire for healthy relationships, safe families, and peaceful communities. Working for these outcomes**

AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

and showing how gender equity is an important component of achieving these goals can be more effective than talking directly about sexual and domestic violence.

ACCESS is a nonprofit organization in Dearborn, Michigan, that works specifically with Arab-American communities. They have a Coordinated Community Response Team – comprised of school staff, administrators, city council members, and religious leaders, as well as community leaders from marginalized groups, such as youth and new immigrants – that promotes gender equity. Rather than sharing a lot of statistics about sexual and domestic violence, they focus on the positive outcomes of healthy relationships, safe families, and peaceful communities, and communicate about the positive association, for example, between education for girls and these outcomes.

D. Working with faith leaders is one way to engage community and overcome cultural stigmas and taboos. Many faith communities look to religious leaders for advice and guidance. ACCESS works with faith leaders to embed messages about gender equity into their sermons and counseling, and even push back against messages that make divorce difficult for women experiencing domestic violence. Religion and culture often get muddled, so the team engages partners in the community to highlight the differences between religiously-rooted practices versus cultural practices. In this way, authentic community engagement through collaboration with faith leaders contributes to deep and sustainable culturally-rooted change.

RESOURCES

- [Web Conference Link](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [The Role of Community Culture in Efforts to Create Healthier, Safer, and More Equitable Places](#)
- [Making Connections for Mental Health and Wellbeing Among Men and Boys in the U.S.](#)
- [Karamah](#)
- [Faith Trust Institute](#)
- [Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence](#)

SHARED RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: FROM RESEARCH TO POLICY AND PRACTICE

WEB CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Good research does not always make its way outside of academic journals to drive smart policy and strong practice. Using a seminal resource, [Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Link Among Multiple Forms of Violence](#) and the [CDC's Preventing Multiple Forms of Violence: A Strategic Vision for Connecting the Dots](#), this topic highlights how research has been translated into practice, provides examples of partnerships and multi-sector efforts, and explores implications for local, state, and national practice.

PRACTITIONERS & ADVOCATES FEATURED

- **Linda Dahlberg, PhD**, Senior Advisor, [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- **Elizabeth Ablah, PhD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Prevention Medicine and Public Health, [Kansas University School of Medicine – Wichita](#)

KEY FINDINGS

A. Connecting the Dots and CDC's Strategic Vision break down silo-ed approaches to preventing violence and open up new opportunities for collaboration. Research from *Connecting the Dots* shows how different forms of violence are experienced together, share underlying factors, and produce common outcomes. Risk factors – such as norms that support aggression, lack of

economic opportunities, and low neighborhood cohesion – increase the likelihood for multiple forms of violence to occur. At the same time, protective factors like coordination of services and community connectedness decrease many forms of violence. CDC's strategic vision makes the case for cross-cutting approaches to better address and prevent multiple forms of violence concurrently.

B. A participatory assessment process can help build understanding and investment in addressing shared risk and protective factors and spur think beyond programmatic interventions. Winfield, a rural Kansas community wanted to understand and address the underlying factors for violence so a local coalition joined together with the state health department and Kansas University. Residents brought a deep

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understanding of community needs and how the community would respond to potential interventions, while the state health department helped residents design evidence-informed, community-based assessments of risk and protective factors. Through this partnership, Winfield was able to move beyond



Source: Elizabeth Ablah

In Kansas, partners used a shared risk and protective factor approach and involved residents from the start. [Image of coalition members and residents.]

education alone to change systems, environments, and policies. Drawing from *Connecting the Dots*, state and local partners recognized that community violence is a risk factor for sexual violence, and used hot-spot mapping to identify key areas to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental

Design (CEPTD). CPTED principles can be used to promote positive interpersonal interactions and the safe use of spaces through enhanced visibility, access management, and proper maintenance and design features (e.g., cleaning and greening, fixing up abandoned buildings and vacant lots, etc.). In this case, the involved parties were interested in preventing sexual violence and were open to trying new ways to accomplish their shared goal.

- C. In addition to tracking rates of violence, shared risk and protective factors can be used to assess progress in preventing sexual and domestic violence.** Measuring change can be difficult, especially because rates of violence vary from year to year, and it takes time to see the lasting impacts. Shared risk and protective factors not only provide another source of information to evaluate, but can also help identify community gaps and assets upfront to prioritize efforts. For example, the community in Kansas measured community connectedness – a protective factor – using voter participation and the ‘Sense of Belonging Scale’ from the Chicago Youth Development Survey. This scale evaluates different elements of connectedness, such as the likelihood of ‘asking people to watch my home’ or ‘go to neighbors for advice.’ Winfield was then able to divide up the community into zones to

SHARED RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: FROM RESEARCH TO POLICY AND PRACTICE

view Sense of Belonging Scores by neighborhoods. Based on this assessment, one potential strategy is to improve collective efficacy within zones and throughout the community to prevent violence.

D. By working together across multiple forms of violence, practitioners can demonstrate to policymakers and funders that investment

in violence prevention can have an impact across several issues. By connecting the dots between multiple forms of violence, practitioners can work together as a violence prevention community to advocate for program, practice, and policy change. There are opportunities to move deliberately in this direction at the local, state, and national levels.

RESOURCES

- [Web Conference Link](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence \(CDC\)](#)
- [CDC Connecting the Dots Strategic Vision](#)

WEB CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Sexual and domestic violence affect all communities. Yet structural inequities from historic and present-day policies, practices, and norms generate inequities in rates of sexual and domestic violence by age, sex, race, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other factors. Communities that face higher rates of sexual and domestic violence often also face inequities in other forms of violence and trauma. How can we ensure that sexual and domestic violence prevention practice address these realities? This topic explores how to infuse equity considerations and an understanding of individual and community trauma in prevention practice. It discusses the importance of an asset/strengths-based approach and the need to promote individual and community agency in community change efforts.

PRACTITIONERS & ADVOCATES FEATURED

- **Leslie Conway**, Youth Resilience Coordinator, [Virginia Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Action Alliance \(VSADVAA\)](#)
- **Adriana Myers**, Med, Sexual Assault Prevention Specialist and Victim Advocate, [Laurel Center](#)
- **Katie Moffitt, MSW**, Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator, [Laurel Center](#)
- **Lauren Camphausen**, Empowerment Evaluator, [Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(DCADV\)](#)
- **Noël Sincere Duckworth**, Director of Training & Prevention, [Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(DCADV\)](#)

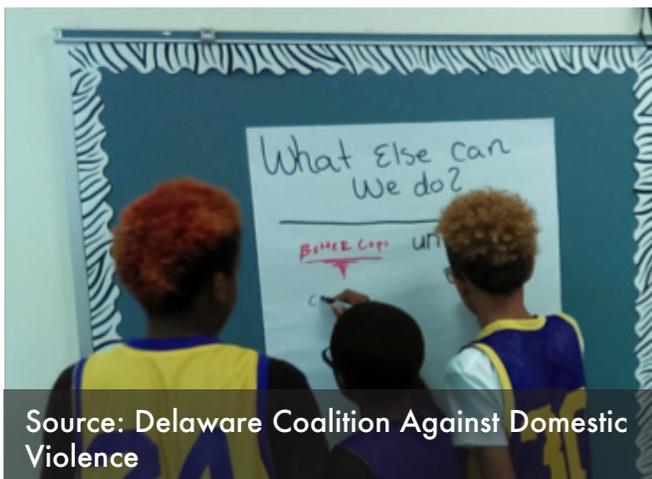
The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) shared how they frame trauma not as “what’s wrong with this community,” but rather “what’s happened to this community.”

KEY FINDINGS

- A. Community trauma is relevant for sexual and domestic violence prevention because communities that face higher rates of sexual and domestic violence often also face inequities in other forms of violence and trauma. Multiple forms of violence and systemic inequities contribute to high levels of community trauma.** Community trauma is

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS & LINKAGES

more than just the aggregate of individuals who have experienced trauma from exposure to violence.



Source: Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

DCADV uses participant-involved data collection that is also beneficial to the community. [Image of youth writing on flip chart paper about “what else can we do?”]

There are manifestations or symptoms that are experienced at the community level, such as long-term unemployment, deteriorated environments or damaged social relations. Prevention Institute’s Adverse Community Experiences and Resilience report defines community trauma as the cumulative and synergistic impact of regular incidents of interpersonal violence, historical and intergenerational violence and continual exposure to structural violence.

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence frames trauma not as “what’s wrong with this community?” but rather “what’s happened to this community?” Project staff are aware of historical disinvestment in the community and ongoing re-victimization by systems and services. They acknowledge and anticipate challenges and proactively accommodate for these in designing their strategy. Staff are well-trained in a trauma-informed approach, and the physical and social environment for the program provides a dedicated, welcoming, and safe space. The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence also follows trauma-informed evaluation methods by emphasizing qualitative methods, such as participant-involved data collection (e.g., PhotoVoice), and utilizing data sources that are beneficial community activities and processes that generate usable evaluation data.

Tip: Recognize and validate trauma, and prioritize opportunities for community healing, resistance, and resilience.

- B. Focusing on communities that face multiple inequities will help to reduce sexual and domestic violence and related inequities.**

EQUITY, TRAUMA, AND SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Communities that face higher rates of sexual and domestic violence often also face inequities in other forms of violence and trauma due to structural inequities from historical and present-day policies, practices, and norms. The Virginia Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Action Alliance understands the impacts of intergenerational trauma and the harms of racism, and focuses efforts on specific populations that have been disproportionately affected by violence. For instance, Black women in Virginia have sexual and domestic violence victimization rates three times higher than white women, so the Action Alliance is working on prevention in more focused ways with Black communities.

C. Strengths-based approaches and supporting individual and community agency are integral to countering community trauma, and therefore critical to sexual and domestic violence prevention work. The team in Virginia applied an asset-based lens based on Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents. Their Do You Campaign to prevent youth violence (dating and sexual violence, sexual harassment, and bullying) focuses on four specific assets they want to build:

- Interpersonal competence - Young person has

empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.

- Personal power - Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me."
- Community values youth - Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
- Positive peer influence - Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.

In partnership with the community and with care not to push an agenda that can further exacerbate community trauma, the Laurel Center has facilitated activities with youth to strengthen individual and community agency. Students participate in a



Source: Virginia Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Virginia uses an assets-based approach through their Do You Campaign. [Image of student drawing of "My Root/My Values" activity that shows how things like good jobs, healthy relationships and having the freedom to make their own decisions are valued.]

variety of Do You activities to get them thinking about identity, culture, gender socialization, values, and more. For instance, in the activity called My Roots/My Values, students stage a mock auction to determine which values are most important.

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence builds on community strengths and promotes agency through Safe + Respectful, a neighborhood-based program for middle school-aged youth. The goal of the program is to improve the physical assets within the neighborhood in order to increase community-wide support and connectedness and decrease the potential for community and domestic violence. The coalition has adopted an evidence-based curriculum on youth empowerment and leadership and adapted it based on the acknowledgement and understanding that community trauma is persistent and pervasive. Program adaptations include building on the original culturally-specific modules to integrate a more intersectional approach. This involves sharing stories and examples of women's leadership and women-led social change movements and building on truth-telling by talking about oppression, racism,

sexism, power dynamics, abuse, love, and healing as mechanisms to build community resilience. At one community event, a storyteller performed a mix of African and African-American folklore and original works as a means of supporting community members in engaging in safe and healthy strategies for resistance and resilience.

RESOURCES

- [Web Conference Link](#)
- [Web Conference Slides](#)
- [Prevention Institute's Adverse Community Experiences and Resilience report](#)
- [Prevention Institute's Countering the Production of Health Inequities through Systems and Sectors](#)
- [Laurel Center's website](#)
- [Virginia Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Action Alliance \(CSADVAA\) website](#)
- [The People's Report: The link between structural violence and crime in Wilmington, Delaware](#)
- [Healing the hurt: Trauma-informed approaches to the health of boys and young men of color](#)
- [Trauma-informed community building: A model for strengthening community in trauma-affected neighborhoods.](#)

GUEST BIOGRAPHIES

1. **FROM FOUNDATIONS TO THE FUTURE:** A PREVENTION APPROACH TO SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Jeffrey Tangonan Acido** was born in the Philippines and grew up in Kalihi, Hawaii. He was raised by working-class parents (housekeeper and janitor) who valued speaking the Ilokano language and living out the indigenous values of their ancestors. Jeffrey attended all public schools in the working-class neighborhood of Kalihi. He has taught Philippine and education-related courses at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and has engaged in popular/liberatory education among (im)migrant, indigenous, and diasporic peoples in Kalihi, particularly among young people. He hopes to establish a center for liberatory education and ancestral wisdom.
- **Kelli McCannell** joined Hardy Girls Healthy Women with over a decade of experience in nonprofit outreach, programs, marketing, fundraising, and leadership. Kelli earned her Master's in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University, along with a certificate in Servant Leadership and a BA in art. She has an enthusiasm and passion for girls' activism.

2. **HARMFUL GENDER NORMS:** HOW CAN ALLIANCES BE BUILT BETWEEN WITH QUEER (LGBTQ+) MOVEMENTS TO HELP PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MORE EFFECTIVELY?

- **Liat Wexler** is the training specialist at Center for Community Solutions with more than 17 years of experience in partner abuse and sexual assault intervention and prevention. They got their start staffing hotlines, facilitating support and psycho-educational groups, providing crisis intervention, and serving on the board of directors for The Network/La Red. At CCS, they provide professional development to staff and volunteers, as well as employees at other agencies. Liat specializes in the neurobiology of trauma, resilience skills, trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, assessment of partner abuse, and violence within the LGBTIQ communities. Outside of the office, they work on social justice for the transgender and non-binary communities, including co-founding GenderQueer San Diego and establishing the first SD Trans Pride.
- **Lolan Buhain Sevilla** is a Queer Butch community organizer and cultural worker with over a decade of cross-sectoral nonprofit administrative, development, event coordination, and programmatic experience. They have worked on a range of issues including social and economic justice for LGBTQ communities of color, gender justice, child sexual abuse, and intimate partner violence. Currently, Lolan works as the

Training Coordinator for the New York City Anti-Violence Project where they are responsible for researching, writing, and producing training curricula. Prior to that, Lolan had the privilege of serving organizations like the Audre Lorde Project, CLAGS: Center for LGBTQ Studies, the Astraea Foundation, Generation Five, Bay Area INCITE!, Asian Health Services, GABRIELA USA, Asian Women’s Shelter, and the SPIN Project. In addition, Lolan is a published author and member of the National Writers Union, Local 1981, and serves as board co-chair for CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities.

3. **HARMFUL GENDER NORMS: MOVING BEYOND BINARY AND HETERONORMATIVE APPROACHES TO PREVENTING SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- **Lolan Buhain Sevilla.** Refer to bio listed on previous page.
- **Wesley Thomas** is the program coordinator for LGBTQ Health and Rights. He assists the Health and Social Equity department to increase the capacity of targeted local education agencies and community-based partners to improve their programs, policies, and environments to meet the needs of young men of color who have sex with men. He supports and coordinates the Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project, as well as overseeing mobilization and training for YouthResource, Advocates’ youth leadership program for LGBTQ youth.

4. **SHARED ROOTS: SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- **Kelly Miller** is the executive director of the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence and an alumni cohort member of Move to End Violence, a 10-year nationally recognized initiative of the NoVo Foundation designed to strengthen collective capacity to end violence against girls and women. Over the last two years, the Idaho Coalition has transformed by centering solutions on marginalized communities and embracing a liberation framework.
- **Saru Jayaraman** is the co-founder and co-director of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United) and director of the Food Labor Research Center at University of California, Berkeley. After 9/11, together with displaced World Trade Center workers, she co-founded ROC, which now has more than

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18,000 worker members, 200 employer partners, and several thousand consumer members in 15 states.

Saru authored *Behind the Kitchen Door*, a national bestseller, and *Forked: A New Standard for American Dining*, which was released in February 2016.

5. ENGAGING YOUTH IN SHAPING STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Eleanor Davis** is a pop-culture nerd, social media junkie, and passionate youth advocate. At Futures Without Violence, Eleanor develops initiatives and tools that engage teens to talk about abuse, online safety, and healthy relationships. She is a strong believer in the power of youth to create social change.
- **Claudia Plesa** is a prevention coordinator with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Claudia is a graduate Eastern Oregon University with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and a minor in Gender Studies. She also has her Master's in Sociology from Portland State University. After receiving her master's, Claudia spent a year teaching undergraduate level sociology classes at Eastern Oregon University. Although she enjoyed teaching, Claudia wanted to work in a field where she could feel that she was making a real difference. This is when she joined the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault as a prevention coordinator mainly focused on working with youth programming and engagement.

6. WHAT ABOUT POWER AND PATRIARCHY? EXAMINING SOCIAL COHESION STRATEGIES TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Emily Rothman** is an associate professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Boston University School of Public Health, with a secondary appointments at the BU School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Emergency Medicine. She has authored more than 54 peer-reviewed publications and several book chapters, and in 2012 was awarded the Linda Saltzman award from Futures Without Violence and the CDC Foundation. Her current research interests include violence perpetration and adolescent health.
- **Cierra Olivia Thomas-Williams** is a prevention specialist at Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

(ICADV), whose work focuses on priority populations, which includes people who have developmental disabilities and youth. After 17 years as a victim's advocate who also coordinated prevention efforts for local shelters in Oregon and Indiana, Cierra joined the ICADV prevention team in 2015. Cierra was honored as the 2013 Indiana Preventionist of the year for her work in the fields of domestic and sexual violence prevention. ARC of Indiana (a disability advocacy agency) awarded Ms. Thomas-Williams the 2013 Innovation award for her collaborations with

7. AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Olivia Kachingwe** is the Newport Health Equity Zone (HEZ) project coordinator. Having lived in Lilongwe, Chicago, Philadelphia and now Newport, Olivia truly loves to travel and experience new places. She is interested in understanding how one's social environment influences their health. When she's not working, Olivia loves to experience the culinary adventures that Newport and neighboring cities have to offer. She's a true foodie.
- **Layla Elabed** is a program coordinator at ACCESS, a nonprofit organization located in Dearborn, Michigan. She has served in her role to prevent intimate partner violence and sexual assault against women and girls since 2013. She is currently studying at Central Michigan University toward a public health degree in community development. She is a member of the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Women of Color Network. She also serves on the League of Women Voters board in her area. She is an avid community activist, involved in many community initiatives and serves to create a social change movement around social and cultural gender norms within the Arab and Muslim community in Michigan.

8. SHARED RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: FROM RESEARCH TO POLICY AND PRACTICE

- **Dr. Linda Dahlberg** is the senior advisor to the director in the Division of Violence Prevention within the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. In her current position, she provides senior executive leadership in the design, conceptualization, and implementation of initiatives aimed at preventing violence and in the application of scientific findings into practice to improve the nation's health. She has spent much of

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the past 25 years working in the area of violence prevention, addressing youth violence, child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and suicidal behavior. She has also assisted countries in Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

- **Dr. Elizabeth Ablah** is an associate professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Her research interests include community-based participatory research, physical activity and healthy foods, the built environment, health impact assessments, and worksite wellness. In particular, Dr. Ablah's research focuses on how policies, systems, and environments can foster cultures of health.

9. Equity, trauma and sexual and domestic violence prevention

- **Leslie Conway** began working at the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance in August, 2012 as their prevention community of practice coordinator. She travels across the state to provide ongoing technical assistance and support to local sexual and domestic violence agencies on current prevention trends and initiatives. She also works with a team of prevention professionals to develop resources that build on current prevention trends. She is one of the creators of Do You, a teen campaign that addresses youth violence by building resilience through creative expression and Ask. Listen. Respect, an initiative to support parents and educators who work with middle-school youth to have conversations about consent.
- **Katie Moffitt** joined The Laurel Center as the sexual assault prevention coordinator in April 2015. She earned her Master's of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010. Katie has worked as a clinician, adjunct professor for West Virginia University, and in teen violence prevention. She is passionate about social justice, racial equity, and violence prevention.
- **Adriana Myers** joined The Laurel Center in May 2015 as the sexual assault prevention specialist. She completed her Bachelor's of Science in Psychology at Longwood University and holds her Masters of Science in Education from Shenandoah University. She offers parenting classes and teen groups in Warren County and Clarke County as well as psycho-educational counseling, crisis intervention, and hotline response.
- **Lauren Camphausen** is the empowerment evaluator at the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV). As DCADV's empowerment evaluator, Lauren provides training, technical assistance, and

coaching using an empowerment evaluation framework to support evaluation activities and build sustainable evaluation infrastructure. Lauren provides support statewide and within local communities in order to guide, improve, and sustain intimate partner violence primary prevention efforts within Delaware and nationally.

- **Noël Sincere Duckworth** is the director of training and prevention for the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV). In this capacity, Noël provides oversight for DCADV's DELTA program for intimate partner violence prevention, RPE program for sexual violence prevention, DCADV's Domestic Violence Specialist Certification program, and DCADV's training programs and offerings. She is a Delaware native.