

INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE



“There is no single, simple key to violence prevention; rather genuine prevention must be the product of many parties, the sum of many acts, and the concerted efforts of all.”

Mercy, James A.; Forjuoh, Samuel N.. "Violence prevention in an interconnected world" International Journal of Injury Control and Safety Promotion 15.4 (2008). 17 Dec. 2009

FIRST: APPRECIATE THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF THE EXAMPLES OF VIOLENCE PRESENTED BELOW:

Child Maltreatment includes all types of abuse and neglect that occur among children under the age of 18.

Elder Maltreatment includes several types of violence that occur among those ages 60 and older.

Homicide and Assault includes injuries or death occurring from intentional actions.

Intimate Partner Violence occurs between two people in a relationship including current and former spouses and dating partners.

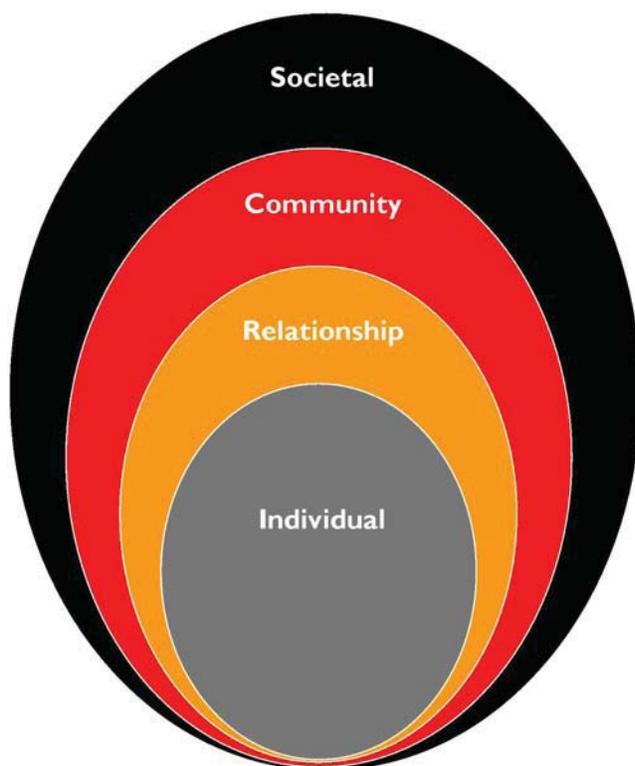
Sexual Violence refers to sexual activity where consent is not obtained or freely given.

Workplace Violence is violence or the threat of violence against workers.

SECOND: BELIEVE THAT VIOLENCE IS NOT “NORMAL.”

As seen in the news on a regular basis, interpersonal violence affects Marylanders in a number of ways. Although violent incidents may seem random in nature, many of them can be “predicted” on a macro level and, therefore, can be prevented by implementing evidence-based programs and policies. When considering the prevention of violence, it is important to understand the many different levels of influence and potential intervention points. Below is a visual representation of those levels and color-coded examples of corresponding strategies:

FRAMEWORK FOR PREVENTION



Broad social and cultural norms can inhibit or encourage violence.

Economic or social inequalities can create climates that encourage violence.

Some characteristics of community settings (schools, workplaces, etc.) are associated with victim or perpetrator development. Social norm and social marketing campaigns can be used to foster community climates that promote healthy relationships.

The closest social circle (peers, partners, and family members) can influence behavior. Mentoring and peer programs designed to reduce conflict, foster problem solving skills, and promote healthy relationships would target this level of influence.

Biological and personal history risk factors also influence the likelihood of being a victim or perpetrator of violence.

Approaches like education and life skills training promote attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors protective against violence victimization and perpetration.

Dahlberg LL, Krug EG. Violence-a global public health problem. In: Krug E, Dahlberg LL, Mercy JA, Zwi AB, Lozano R, eds. World Report on Violence and Health. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2002:1–56.

THIRD: CREATE COMMUNITIES WHERE VIOLENCE HAS NO HOME.

Over the years, several prevention strategies have been developed to target one or more of the levels listed above. Many of these ideas have been studied and shown effective at preventing interpersonal violence. The most successful path to creating a community where violence has no home will be to embrace a variety of these evidence-based programs and policies, which will work together in addressing all four of the levels of influence listed above.

Learn more about specific violence prevention initiatives at www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention.