News and Updates from CDC’s Division of Violence Prevention (DVP)

Things are heating up here in Atlanta! We hope you all are experiencing a productive and pleasant spring.

Our division has been celebrating the release of our sexual violence and child abuse and neglect technical packages, while also ramping up our work developing our technical packages on suicide, youth violence and intimate partner violence.

Please check out our program updates section for reminders about the funding opportunity announcement currently open. We hope you will share this information throughout your networks.

In this issue, we’re highlighting our work on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Violence and risk factors for violence are the primary cause of ACEs. And we know that exposure to ACEs is associated with increases in the risks of physical injury, sexually transmitted infections (including HIV), mental health problems, reproductive health problems, and non-communicable diseases, including heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. The research on ACEs has convinced us that prevention of violence in children and youth is strategic for addressing a broad range of public health problems. Our ACEs web pages are the most visited of DVP’s pages on www.cdc.gov, showing us that this work is important to our partners and the public. Recently, we updated these pages and hope that they continue to prove to be a valuable resource. As always, we encourage feedback and are happy to hear your thoughts.

In partnership,

James Mercy, PhD
Director, Division of Violence Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DVP Spotlight on...ACES
Negative and positive childhood experiences have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** including child abuse and neglect, have been linked to many consequences, such as:

- risky health behaviors
- chronic health conditions
- high school non-completion, unemployment, poverty
- sexual violence, intimate partner violence, suicide
- early death

As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for negative health and life outcomes.

However, ACEs can be prevented! The wide-ranging health and social consequences of ACEs underscore the importance of preventing them before they happen. CDC promotes lifelong health and well-being through **Essentials for Childhood** - assuring safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children. **Essentials for Childhood** can have a positive impact on a broad range of health problems and on the development of skills that will help children reach their full potential.

Much of the foundational research in this area comes from the **CDC-Kaiser Permanente ACE Study**, one of the largest investigations of childhood abuse and neglect and health and well-being later in life. The original ACE Study was conducted at Kaiser Permanente from 1995 to 1997 with two waves of data collection. Over 17,000 Health Maintenance Organization members from Southern California receiving physical exams completed confidential surveys regarding their childhood experiences and current health status and behaviors. The ACE program of work continues through BRFSS. Analyses from the BRFSS ACE data show similar connections between early adversity and lifelong health and wellbeing as the original ACE Study.

Of all DVP web pages, the **Adverse Childhood Experiences homepage** has been the top viewed web page this year (Jan, Feb, March, and April). The same web page garners about 10% of the monthly overall DVP website traffic thus far in 2016. As a direct result of this heightened interest, the pages have been refreshed and new resources added. These tools are intended to assist providers and communities better understand ACEs, their health impact, and strategies for prevention.

**DVP Success Story…Oklahoma**

Healthy child development is essential for life-long health, and life-long health is essential for a prosperous America. Realizing the important role of data to highlight the association between early life experiences and adult health outcomes, Oklahoma has collected ACE data through the state’s BRFSS to help raise awareness and inform prevention efforts.

- Information about ACEs was used to inform the **Oklahoma State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect 2014-2018**, which establishes a vision to improve children’s environments and development in order to decrease child maltreatment. The Oklahoma State Plan is focused on creating a culture of change that emphasizes the health, safety, and well-being of Oklahoma’s children.

- Oklahoma also is focused on building capacity for the primary prevention of ACEs. As outlined in **Oklahoma statutes**, primary prevention involves the implementation of programs and services designed to promote the general welfare of children and families. In a partnership focused on such capacity building, Oklahoma’s State Department of Health plans to collaborate with the University of Kansas Center on Public Partnerships and Research to pilot the **Lemonade for Life** program. The program trains home visitors and other professionals how to use an ACE screening tool and provide trauma-informed prevention approaches.
Oklahoma is committed to assuring that all children reach their full health and life potential by assuring safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments, and other protective factors for all Oklahoma children.

You can learn more about what states are doing with their ACE data here.

**DVP Program Updates**

- On April 14, DVP released Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities. This technical package represents a select group of strategies based on the best available evidence to help prevent child abuse and neglect. The package supports CDC’s Essentials for Childhood framework.
- On April 26, DVP released STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence to help states and communities prioritize efforts to prevent sexual violence. This technical package is a summary of strategies and approaches with the best available evidence to prevent sexual violence.
- On April 27, DVP led a Thunderclap to Prevent Sexual Assault. This collective message blast amplified our voices, helping many more people understand that sexual violence is preventable.

**Funding Announcement**

- Applications are due June 6 for funding opportunity CDC-RFA-CE16-1605, Preventing Teen Dating and Youth Violence by Addressing Shared Risk and Protective Factors. The purpose of this funding announcement is to support local health departments with high-levels of capacity and readiness to prevent teen dating violence and youth violence to expand existing prevention efforts to address shared risk and protective factors.

**DVP Partnership Matters**

- On May 10, DVP led a virtual quarterly meeting of its policy network to share a variety of CDC updates related to the President’s Budget, new publications and funding opportunities. We also discuss the policy approaches outlined in CDC’s recently released child abuse and neglect and sexual violence technical packages.
- On April 1, DVP led a roundtable discussion on sexual assault prevention on college campuses with Under Secretary of Education Ted Mitchell, hosted at Morehouse College.
- From April 12-14, members of DVP attended the Safe States Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, NM and presented on several panels.
- From April 13-14, DVP staff attended the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention meeting in NYC to further common goals and to provide networking opportunities.

**DVP Resources and Tools**

- ACE Study Infographic: Visual, interactive representation of data from the 1995-1997 CDC-Kaiser Permanente study on ACEs prevalence and relationship to health outcomes.
- ACEs Snapshot: Interactive tool that provides insight into how ACEs can be prevented and how to minimize negative effects.
- ACEs Case Studies: State case studies provide detailed descriptions of how selected states have valued and used ACE data to inform their child abuse and neglect prevention efforts.
- Map of states collecting ACE data.
- ACEs presentation graphics for public health practitioners.
- Up to date list of ACE journal articles by health outcome.
• GAO Report released April 14: Workplace Safety and Health: Additional Efforts Needed to Help Protect Health Care Workers from Workplace Violence.

DVP Scientific Releases

Please note that whenever possible we have provided links to the full texts of the articles listed below. For more information on articles that do not include full texts, please email violenceprevention@cdc.gov.

Sexual Violence/Intimate Partner Violence/Teen Dating Violence

• The Role of Structural Barriers in Risky Sexual Behavior, Victimization and Readiness to Change HIV/STI-Related Risk Behavior Among Transgender Women AIDS and Behavior May 11, 2016
• Intimate Partner Violence Between Male Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans and Their Female Partners Who Seek Couples Therapy Journal of Interpersonal Violence March 31, 2016

Youth Violence

• Creating Communities Where Youth Are Safe From Violence: Comprehensive Evidence-Based Youth Violence Prevention in Communities The Journal of Primary Prevention April 2016
• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Youth Violence Prevention Centers: Paving the Way to Prevention Journal of Primary Prevention April 2016
• Characteristics of Youth With Combined Histories of Violent Behavior, Suicidal Ideation or Behavior, and Gun-Carrying Crisis June 1, 2016

Global

• Sexual Violence Against Female and Male Children in the United Republic of Tanzania Violence Against Women March 14, 2016
• Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS): Towards a Global Surveillance System Injury Prevention April 22, 2016
• Childhood Sexual Violence Against Boys: A Study in 3 Countries Pediatrics April 2016

Contact Us

For more information about DVP or to speak with one of our staff, please email violenceprevention@cdc.gov.