

A PLAN FOR MONTANA



# Preventing

Intimate Partner  
**and** Sexual Violence



# Montana's Plan for Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence (IPSV)

- Communities as a whole suffer from the consequences of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. These crimes destroy relationships and families; indeed, they destroy the very fabric of our communities. They also have emotional and economic costs for the survivors.
- In 2006, there were a reported 3,952 incidents of “domestic abuse” in the state of Montana. In 2005, there were 512 incidents of unduplicated adult sexual assaults.<sup>1</sup> Both of these numbers are likely much higher due to the vastly underreported nature of these crimes.
- Many people may be unaware that they know someone who has been affected by these types of violence. Nationally, one in four women experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime and one in three to one in five will experience some form of sexual violence.<sup>2</sup>
- In response to this public health issue a Statewide Steering Committee (SSC), comprised of representatives from statewide agencies and organizations, created the Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Prevention Plan.

## What is the Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Prevention Plan?

The Plan is a road map for creating healthy communities in Montana. It focuses on training, funding, initiatives, policy development, data collection and legislation. It complements prevention work that is being done in several communities across Montana. With these eight goals we hope to stem the tide of IPSV perpetration against all Montanans.

Following the assessment and analysis of conditions that allow and promote IPSV crimes, the SSC identified needs and created goals for meeting those needs. The result is a plan spanning five to eight years.



# 8 GOALS:

With these eight goals we hope to stem the tide of Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence (IPSV) perpetration against all Montanans.

**GOAL 1:** Montanans will better understand gender stereotypes and biases, the components of healthy relationships and the role of gender norms in healthy relationships.

- Create and disseminate a statewide social norms campaign focused on defining gender respect and healthy relationships.

Statistically, 90% of violence against women is perpetrated by men; however, only a very small percentage of men treat women violently. Most men want to know how to prevent violence against women and how to provide leadership to create a culture where violence against women is unacceptable.<sup>3</sup>



**GOAL 2:** Montana middle school and high school students will understand and have skills for building healthy dating relationships.

- Create/select at least one comprehensive healthy relationship program based on primary prevention principles.

In 2007, over 10% of Montana teens reported that during the past year they had experienced IPV and over 9% had been physically forced to have sex.<sup>4</sup>

**GOAL 3:** Montana students in postsecondary institutions will understand and have skills for building healthy dating relationships.

- Create/select at least one comprehensive healthy relationship program option based on primary prevention principles for use in Montana's postsecondary institutions.
- Educate the Montana Board of Regents on the importance of incorporating information about building healthy relationship skills into postsecondary students' experiences.

Media often targets college-aged men and women with messages of violent treatment of women. Programs that counter negative messages can promote healthy, equitable and safe relationships.

**GOAL 4:** Parents/families who are expecting will have the knowledge and skills to cope with changing roles and demands on their relationships throughout the preconception, pregnancy and postpartum periods.

- Create and/or make available materials, programs and trainings based on primary prevention of IPSV to expecting parents/families via health care venues.

Nationally, homicide during pregnancy and postpartum is the second leading cause of death for women.<sup>5</sup>

**GOAL 5:** Leaders in the faith community will teach and model healthy relationships to congregants and others in their community.

- Provide trainings to faith leaders on how to incorporate healthy relationship programs and strategies into youth group and adult activities.
- Create a "resource bank" to provide information, materials and training for members of the various religious denominations.

In rural Montana, our faith communities are often the social, cultural and spiritual center. Frequently, faith leaders are the first to learn about the impact of IPSV on their parishioners.

**GOAL 6:** Montanans will have a better understanding of the impact of intimate partner and sexual violence and the need for greater equity and respect among and between all ethnic and racial groups in Montana.

- Create partnerships between Native American groups and agencies and other statewide groups and agencies that are concerned with primary prevention and violence.
- Complete a needs and resource assessment regarding programs emphasizing equity and respect among and between all ethnic and racial groups in Montana.

Nationally, the rate of sexual violence against Native American women is higher than all other racial groups. Native Americans are the only racial group in which the perpetrator of the sexual violence is more likely to be of a different racial background.<sup>6</sup>

- Identify needs and gaps that Montana must address in order to promote gender and racial equity and to reduce IPSV.
- Create strategies for promoting standards of equity and respect in relationships among and between all racial groups in Montana.
- Implement identified strategies for promoting standards of equity and respect in relationships.

**PREVENTION VISION:** Montana is a community that supports the respectful, empowering and safe treatment of all people. Systems, structures, laws and standards promote and facilitate healthy partner, family and community relationships.

**GOAL 7:** Montanans will have more accurate data collection systems and reports, as well as a better understanding of how often IPSV happens.

- Dedicate state resources to regularly review data on perpetration and victimization.
  - Support the implementation of the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Surveillance System.
  - Train local IPV and SV advocates, victim witnesses and law enforcement personnel to more accurately report perpetration and victimization in domestic and sexual violence incidents.
  - Create a bi-annual comprehensive report on perpetration and victimization of IPSV in Montana through inter-agency collaboration.
- There is a need for better surveillance and monitoring of IPSV crimes, as well as more accurate information about victimization and perpetration.

**GOAL 8:** Sufficient state funds will be allocated and distributed for IPSV intervention and prevention services, programs and technical assistance in Montana.

- Compile and provide, to state level entities, a report on current funding streams for IPSV prevention programs for Montana.
  - Decide whether to combine state-level oversight for IPV and SV prevention and intervention resources.
  - Teach stakeholders how to educate legislators about the importance of establishing state-level funding for IPSV intervention and prevention.
  - Educate Montana legislators on the importance of a state-level IPSV funding entity.
- Montana has limited resources dedicated to primary prevention of intimate partner and sexual violence. Currently, nearly all funding for this comes from federal sources.



## We need you!

We are currently forming groups to implement these specific goals. Bring your knowledge and commitment to your community to help us make each of these goals a reality for Montana.

For additional information or  
to become involved contact:

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*Reference sources:*

1. *Crime in Montana* (2006). Montana Board of Crime Control, Statistical Analysis Center, Helena MT.
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4. Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Montana Office of Public Instruction (2005)
5. U.S. Census (2001). Montana U.S. Census Quickfacts, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/30000.html>
6. *Maze of Injustice: The Failure to Protect Indigenous women from sexual violence in the USA*. Amnesty International, Washington D.C. Report released April 24, 2007



**On the enclosed disc:**  
Montana's 5 to 8-year Plan to Prevent  
Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence. Full report PDF  
Fact Sheets PDF



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