

Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence E-Update

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Study: Workplace Supports Help Victims of Domestic Violence Stay Employed, Productive

Victims of domestic violence may be more likely to stay employed when the workplace offers some type of support, according to a study conducted by a research team at the University of Kentucky.

“Working Women Making it Work: Intimate Partner Violence, Employment, Disclosure and Workplace Supports” is one of the first studies to look at the role of workplace policies in helping victims of domestic violence maintain employment. The study was presented in March at the Work, Stress, and Health 2006 conference in Miami, and will be published in 2007 in a special issue of the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

“Maintaining employment is very important to the employed victim, and to the employer, since turnover is very costly on both sides,” said Jennifer Swanberg, Ph.D., who led the study with her colleagues TK Logan, Ph.D. and Caroline Macke, MSW. “In our study, among women who told someone at work about the partner victimization, the use of workplace support initiatives that include flexible working hours, supervisor-approved workload modifications, and implementation of safeguards such as the screening telephone calls, may have helped them to remain employed.” This research is part of National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism funded study on women’s health and partner victimization that has been awarded to Dr. Logan.

The Work, Stress and Health Conference was sponsored by the American Psychological Association, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the National Institute of Justice, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and the U.S. Department of Labor.

For more information on the study, contact Jennifer Swanberg, Ph.D., College of Social Work, University of Kentucky, at jswanberg@uky.edu.