

Preventing domestic violence

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Map of presentation

- Domestic violence (IPA) in Australia
 - Prevalence & nature
 - Consequences
 - Causal factors



Map of presentation

- Implications for domestic violence prevention
- Application of various crime prevention approaches
- Brief analysis of current approaches to prevention
- Integrating primary, secondary and tertiary prevention approaches.

Domestic violence in Australia

- 47% of all male violence against women

- Affects almost one in five women

(WSS 1996)

- Women 75% of victims of some form intimate partner abuse

(PSS 2006)

Domestic violence in Australia

- Gender differences in:
 - motivation
 - frequency
 - severity
 - Outcomes

(Dobash, Dobash, Wilson and Daly, 1992; James ,1999)

Consequences

- Fatal and non-fatal outcomes
 - Death (femicide / suicide / familicide)
 - physical injuries
 - poor mental health
 - poor reproductive health
 - substance abuse
 - homelessness
 - Poverty
 - costs to economy > \$12 billion p.a.

Causes

- Various early theories —————> ecological theory:
 - complex interaction between factors:
 - Individual / family /community / societal

(Q'ld Govt 1988, WHO 2002, Vichealth 2007, NCRVAWC 2009)



Causes

Individual and family factors

- Woman's -
 - level of education
 - financial autonomy
 - previous victimization
 - level of empowerment and social support
 - a history of violence in family of origin

Causes

Individual and family factors

- male partner's –
 - use of alcohol and drugs,
 - employment status,
 - Witnessing dv as a child,
 - having suffered child abuse
 - physical aggression towards other men



Causes

Community / societal factors

- degree of economic inequality /dependence
- extent to which the extended family / community intervene
- levels of male aggression and crime
- access to social capital

Implications for prevention

- Prevention strategies at all levels
 - Individual → societal
 - Tertiary, secondary, primary

Prevention strategies

- 4 crime prevention approaches
 - Criminal justice
 - Situational
 - Community / social
 - Developmental

Predominant approaches

Approach	Examples	Level
Criminal justice	Assault laws / dv laws / pro-arrest policies / mandated perpetrator programs	Individual / societal
Situational	Women's refuges / safety planning / ouster orders	Individual
Community / social	Social marketing campaigns / local community initiatives	Individual / community
Developmental	Ad-hoc school-based initiatives	Community

Opportunities

Approach	Examples	Target level
Criminal justice	Innovation to respond to diversity	Individual / community / societal
Situational	Increased community surveillance / intervention	Individual /community / societal
Community / social	Social marketing towards cultural / behavioural change	Individual / community / societal
Developmental	Education – birth to adulthood / counselling for children exposed to dv	Individual / community /societal

Opportunities

- Time for Action - focus on
 - primary prevention
 - enhanced secondary and tertiary prevention initiatives
 - Systems' co-ordination – consistency of effort towards cultural change
 - Responsiveness to diversity

Primary prevention strategies

- Focus on prevention
- Strengthen community leadership
- Promote positive role models
- Enhance women's economic independence



Strategies

- Build the capacity for prevention education
- Ensure all children participate in RR education
- Support effective parenting



Secondary / tertiary prevention

- Strengthen workforce capacity
- Increase access to safe accommodation
- Ensure equitable access to services and justice
- Ensure just civil and criminal remedies operate in parallel

Secondary / tertiary prevention

- Ensure excellence in legal responses
- Ensure judicial officers...others with legal system have appropriate knowledge and expertise
- Change perpetrator behaviour through appropriate programs
- Increase access to early intervention initiatives
- Sustain behaviour change



For all levels of prevention

- Ensure governments deliver what communities need
- Co-ordinate responses
- Build the evidence

Government's initial response

- The Australian Government will (from 2009)
 - Fund a \$42 million package for urgent priorities
 - Take *Time for Action* to COAG
 - Work with States/Territories to develop National Plan by 2010

Initial \$42 Million

- **\$12.5 M:** National phone /on-line crisis service
- **\$26M:** primary prevention
 - **\$9M** - respectful relationships education for young people
 - **\$17M** – social marketing to change attitudes and behaviours
- **\$3M:** research on perpetrator programs
and harmonised laws.

Improve justice responses

- Work through SCAG to:
 - establish scheme for national registration of DVPOs
 - Improve uptake of coronial recommendations
 - Identify most effective methods to investigate and prosecute sexual assault

Improve justice responses

- Develop multi-disciplinary training package for lawyers, judicial officers and others in family law system
- Ask ALRC to work with State and Territory LRCs to examine inter-relationship of Federal, State and Territory Laws re safety for women and children



Further commitments

- Establish a *Violence Against Women Advisory Group*
- Work with States and Territories to establish a National Centre of Excellence for the Prevention of Violence against Women
- Consider the place of violence in the National Research Priorities



Conclusion

- We've made good progress
 - Increased awareness
 - Govt programs, policy, legislation to support victims
 - Mainstream attitudes that reject violence
- Still a long way to go

Conclusion

- Need to
 - Support marginalised and emerging communities to develop attitudes that reject violence
 - convert positive attitudes to active opposition / intervention
 - Create culture that values men and women equally , and reinforces non-violent masculinities

What can we do?

- Actively oppose attitudes and behaviours that denigrate women
- Provide support for victims of violence to establish independence
- Support children to develop values to support RR
- Lobby relevant politicians to support COAG process on Time for Action.

Thank you

Any questions or comments?

