Violence Prevention

Phone: 515-281-5032
www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/sv_prevention.asp

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health

A local community implemented the "Coaching Boys into Men" program with one of their high school sports team. They found the head coach to be an important ally who continues to support their efforts to expand the program into other athletic programs. A student athlete, who was the team co-captain, shared that during his past three years on the team the coaching staff has always talked to the players about respecting women and girls, but in the past year he could see that the coaches were more likely to bring up issues regarding sexual harassment, disrespectful language, and consent rather than only addressing problem areas if they occurred.

Coaching Boys into Men is just one of several prevention initiatives that IDPH promotes to reduce the rate of injury and death from intentional violence, such as interpersonal abuse, domestic, or sexual violence. By supporting prevention programs and conducting professional training, communities are better able to recognize, appropriately intervene, and prevent further violence.

Did you know?

Sexual violence in Iowa cost an estimated $5.8 billion in fiscal year 2009, or $1,875 per resident.

Prevention is a wise investment, as it can reduce the likelihood those exposed to interpersonal violence will experience depression, substance abuse, or other health problems later in life.

Why is Violence Prevention important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- An average of 19 Iowans die each year due to domestic violence homicides or suicides.
- One in five Iowa women will experience physical violence by an intimate partner and one in 10 will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes. Men also experience this, but at much lower rates.
- Children who see violence often suffer the consequences later in life, such as increased substance use, mental health problems, and other chronic health conditions.
- Research has shown that preventing the first act of sexual or domestic violence can stop the cycle of violence that often occurs in families and high-risk populations like women and low-income Iowans.
- Public health methods are effective in preventing violence through community involvement, education, and changing social norms that support violence.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Prevent injuries

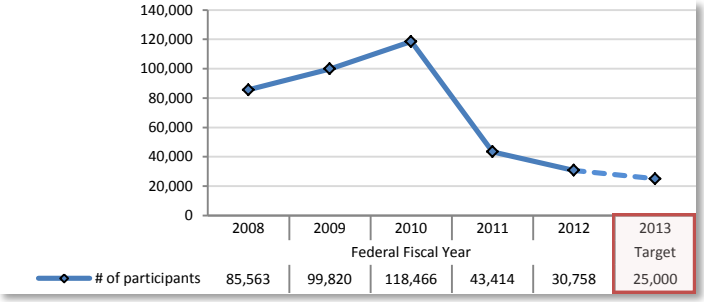
Promote healthy behaviors

What do we do?

- Analyze violence data (including domestic abuse homicides and suicides) and release reports on violence prevention issues.
- Provide training and technical assistance to identify, assess, intervene, report, and document domestic violence and sexual assault for healthcare providers and other community professionals.
- Coordinate public information campaigns to change social beliefs that contribute to violence.
- Provide funding, training, and technical assistance for targeted prevention strategies aimed at community professionals, organizations, and communities.
- Make recommendations to state officials, agencies, and community leaders on how to prevent violence.

How do we measure our progress?

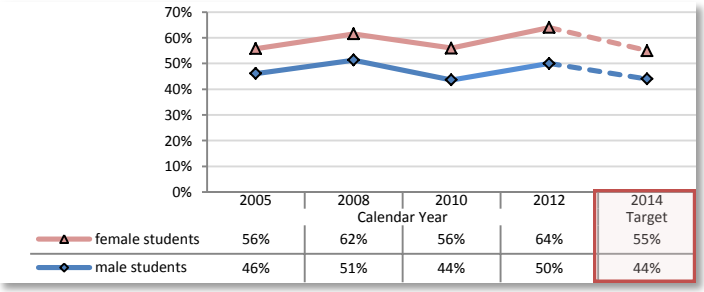
❶ Number of students and professionals participating in sexual and domestic violence prevention programs.



Data Source: Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Data are available annually. 2013 data not yet available.

How are we doing? Decreases in state and federal sources of funds have decreased the number of communities conducting prevention programming and those they serve. Newer strategies are aimed to increase depth of information to fewer youth.

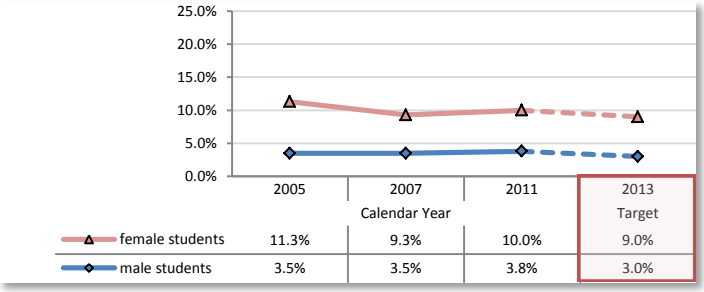
❷ Percent of Iowa students (grades 6, 8, & 11) who report experience with being bullied.



Data Source: Iowa Youth Survey. Data are available every two years. 2013 data not yet available.

How are we doing? Rates of bullying have increased since 2010; with female students more likely than male students to report being bullied.

❸ Percent of Iowa 9-12 grade students who report they were ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.



Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Data are available every two years. 2013 data not yet available.

How are we doing? There was a slight decrease in 2007 but an increase again in 2011. Iowa's rates are less than the national average.

What can Iowans do to help?

1. Be an active bystander when you see someone bullying, harassing, or hurting another person. Support the person who is the target of the violence, and take a stand against violence.
2. Healthcare professionals can routinely screen for violence during patient visits, properly document findings, and refer patients for help when abuse is found. The Violence Prevention program offers training for healthcare professionals. For more information, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/violence_against_women.asp.
3. Community professionals can take steps to reduce risk factors for violence and promote strategies to reduce it. To learn more, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/sv_prevention.asp.
4. Contact the Iowa Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-942-0333 or the Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline at 1-800-284-7821 if you or someone you care about is in need of support and referral.

Expenditures

General fund, federal funds, & intra state receipts*: K19-1965; 0153-1752/1756/1758.

	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2014 Estimate
State funds	$209,819	$203,032	$203,032
Federal funds	$395,552	$360,697	$427,995
Other funds*	$55,441	$58,553	$67,335
Total funds	**$660,812**	**$622,282**	**$698,362**
FTEs	1.05	1.05	1.05

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

Iowa Department of Public Health ◆ Division of Behavioral Health ◆ Violence Prevention

Phone: 515-281-5032 ◆ Fax: 515-281-4535 ◆ www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/injury_violence.asp

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