



# Violence and Abuse Prevention

**Hawai'i Injury Prevention Plan 2012-2017**

Injury Prevention Advisory Committee

Injury Prevention and Control Section

## **Background and Accomplishments**

The Hawai'i State Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Branch (MCHB) leads activities in the state to prevent intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and child maltreatment, with support from the Injury Prevention and Control Section (IPCS) and other partners in the community. IPCS has been specifically involved with bullying prevention and also leads activities in the state to prevent suicide prevention.

- ▶ Beginning in 2009, IPCS and community partners worked with MCHB to identify Title V bullying prevention and child abuse and neglect prevention performance measures. With technical support from the national Children's Safety Network, MCHB and IPCS collaborated to conduct the first statewide cross-program integration training in November 2009 for bullying and child abuse and neglect prevention. The training strengthened collaborative efforts between IPCS, MCHB, and community partners on program and policy initiatives related to violence prevention.
- ▶ The Safe Schools Community Advisory Committee developed 33 recommendations for policies and strategies to address bullying and harassment in public schools. Members are currently working to get these recommendations adopted by the Board of Education and Department of Education.
- ▶ The Maui County Ho'ōikaika Partnership is a group of agencies working together since 2008 to implement best practices and policies as they strengthen violence prevention services for children and their caregivers. This collaborative initiative serves as a model for similar partnerships across the state.
- ▶ The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center was established in 2000 as one of ten National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention funded by CDC. Since then, the Center has partnered with IPCS and other organizations to conduct research on youth violence and develop, implement and evaluate violence prevention programs.
- ▶ IPCS helped establish a non-profit coalition to promote primary prevention of violence, Prevent Violence Hawai'i. IPCS funded the University of Hawai'i Social Science Research Institute to produce, *Ending Violence: A 2004 Status Report on Violence Prevention in Hawai'i*. The report's recommendations were based on the World Health Organization's approach to addressing risk factors and solutions common to all areas of violence. Concerns about sustaining efforts in individual areas of violence hampered the organization's ability to take a unified approach to violence prevention, and the non-profit dissolved in 2010.

## **Recommendations**

In 2010, a statewide needs assessment was conducted that included an online survey of 149 people representing government agencies, law enforcement, schools and universities, medical centers, non-profit organizations, private businesses, and grassroots organizations; and qualitative interviews with 21 key informants from state agencies and universities. A cross-disciplinary stakeholder group was convened to review the results and recommendations, and assess whether they reflected the potential for measurable progress and impact over the next five years.

The resulting recommendations outlined here build on *Ending Violence: A 2004 Status Report on Violence Prevention in Hawai'i* and the *Hawai'i Injury Prevention Plan 2005-2010*. They reflect stakeholders' renewed readiness to collaborate. Effectively preventing violence will take the concerted efforts of individuals and organizations from all sectors working together across all areas of violence.

***Recommendation 1: Establish and promote forums for collaboration and information sharing to help integrate violence and abuse prevention efforts statewide***

While different types of violence share common risk factors and prevention strategies, prevention efforts are often independent. Forums that encourage organizations that serve different populations and address different types of violence to share information about effective strategies would facilitate collaboration and coordination of efforts (Saul, et al, 2008).

Efforts should be comprehensive and address the different types of violence, encourage the use of evidence-based program and policy practices, and account for primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention as appropriate.

**Recommended Next Steps**

- ▶ Facilitate opportunities for inter-agency collaboration and coordination among organizations serving different populations and addressing various sub-forms of violence.
- ▶ Expand the use of new and existing channels of communication such as newsletters, listservs, websites, clearinghouses, and other means of technology to facilitate the exchange of information and resources among partners at all levels and in all areas of violence.

***Recommendation 2: Collaborate with professionals and community workers to develop a public awareness campaign about violence and abuse prevention.***

Current partners represent all levels of prevention and include community and non-profit social service organizations, primary health care centers, law enforcement, and selected policymakers. But there are additional partners who may not be aware of their potential role in violence prevention or understand the value of their programs to violence prevention efforts.

Engaging partners in the development, implementation and evaluation of a communications campaign to raise public awareness will increase likelihood of success at all levels (e.g., developing messages, producing materials, identifying appropriate channels for dissemination).

**PARTNERS**

Child Death Review Council	Hawai'i State Department of Human Services
Domestic Violence Fatality Review	Hawai'i State Department of the Attorney General
Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund Advisory Council	Hawai'i State Judiciary, Children's Justice Center and First Circuit Court
Hawai'i Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Hōoikaika Partnership
Hawai'i Community Foundation	Injury Prevention Advisory Committee
Hawai'i Youth Services Network	Maui County Domestic Violence Task Force
Hawai'i State Department of Education, School Based Behavioral Health	University of Hawai'i, John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry
Hawai'i State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division, Maternal and Child Health Branch	University of Hawai'i, Social Science Research Institute

## Recommended Next Steps

- ▶ Identify and reach out to potential partners that may not perceive their work as being related to violence prevention.
- ▶ Work with existing and new partners to develop and implement a public education campaign using clear, consistent, tested messages.
- ▶ Partner with representatives from the media to enhance efforts and increase reach for messaging.

### ***Recommendation 3: Promote training that enhances knowledge and skills of community workers and professionals working in violence prevention and related fields***

There should be continued training among providers and organizations, and audiences should extend beyond those working directly in the violence and abuse prevention fields. For example, teachers and counselors could receive related information as part of their academic training. Organizations could adopt violence prevention modules as part of their new employee orientation protocols.

## Recommended Next Steps

- ▶ Identify training opportunities and resources available to community workers in the violence and abuse prevention fields to enhance their knowledge and skills in primary prevention.
- ▶ Identify training opportunities and resources for other professionals and community members to enhance their knowledge and skills in primary prevention.

### ***Recommendation 4: Enhance the use of data to understand common risk and protective factors for violence prevention***

Data are crucial to understanding the complex issue of violence. Data help programs develop priorities, guide interventions and policies, and mobilize support (World Health Organization, 2002). Barriers to collecting and sharing information across agencies need to be removed so that data are accessible to everyone. There also are additional data sources (i.e., on different types of violence) that would help illustrate trends and better guide research and intervention efforts.

## Recommended Next Steps

- ▶ Facilitate data and information sharing across state agencies.
- ▶ Identify and acquire new data sources to develop an annual report on child maltreatment that will enhance understanding of violence and abuse.