

COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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September 10, 2010

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Dear Colleague:

Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., MPH
Chief Operating Officer

October 13, 2010 is Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day, an annual event organized by the Family Violence Prevention Fund. The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) is sending this packet to you as one of thousands of health care providers or domestic violence advocates to assist in organizing events to strengthen the health care response to domestic violence.

“Nearly one third of American women (31 percent) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives” (Family Violence Prevention Fund). The health consequences of injuries sustained due to domestic violence include (but are not limited to): chronic neck and back pain, arthritis, migraine or other type of headache, irritable bowel syndrome, hypertension, sexually transmitted diseases and diabetes. Health care professionals are an essential element to identifying the causes of these symptoms and to making resources available for victims of domestic violence.

To this end, the CCDPH invites you to take part in the recognition of Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day in one or more of the following ways:

1. Publish the enclosed educational article (or similar) in your organizational newsletter.
2. Introduce a domestic violence screening tool to staff; an example can be found at www.endabuse.org.
3. Contact CCDPH via the enclosed participant form to:
 - a. obtain domestic violence posters and/or safety cards and other prevention messaging items (i.e., clip-on hand sanitizer, stethoscope ID clips, key chains and buttons).
 - b. schedule an in person training (i.e. Physician Grand Rounds) with the Cook County Illinois Health Cares Network.
 - c. learn more about the Cook County Illinois Health Cares Network's focus on improving the health care response to domestic violence.
 - d. participate in the development of a toolkit with steps and resources to creating policy.

Enclosed is a summary of additional awareness opportunities in recognition of Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day that will be taking place. Please check our calendar of events at www.cookcountypublichealth.org for updated awareness and training opportunities. Together we can increase awareness about the importance of addressing domestic violence comprehensively. Your participation in Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day activities highlights your organization's willingness be involved in this critical issue.

For more information about Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day or the Cook County Illinois Health Cares Network on Domestic Violence please contact 708-492-2193.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin, Jr., PhD, MPH

SAM:mb



Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day October 13, 2010

Domestic violence is a criminal justice issue and public health issue.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Domestic Violence (DV) occurs between people in a close relationship, including a current or former spouse or dating partner.¹ DV causes immediate and long-term health effects. Physical injuries range from cuts, scratches to more serious injuries like broken bones, internal bleeding and head trauma. There is also an increased risk of high cholesterol, heart disease and disability.² Mental health effects include low self-esteem, depression, and suicidality.³ Health care providers are in a unique position to routinely inquire about domestic violence for the purposes of providing education, treatment and access to services to help survivors change their situation. Battered women deserve a strengthened health care response to domestic violence.

Women experience domestic violence frequently; however health professionals sometimes fail to perceive that domestic violence could be part of a patient's life.

- Each year in the United States, women experience about 4.8 million domestic violence related physical assaults and rapes
- Each year, women experience an average of 1600-1700 occurrence of domestic violence homicides⁴
- 1 in 9 female emergency room patients are being seen for domestic violence related injuries⁵

Everyone has a responsibility in responding to violence against women, particularly in a health care setting. Healthcare professionals can make important contributions to tackling domestic violence and impacting health outcomes.

- Have open dialogues with co-workers and help to dispel myths about domestic violence issues
- Ask women directly and with respect about whether they have experienced abuse
- Form partnerships with local DV coalitions and become informed about local DV resources
- Become familiar with your organization's domestic violence policy and mandates

Healthcare is an important part of a community wide response to domestic violence. The Cook County Department of Public Health is building bridges between the health care system and the domestic violence community by:

- Providing training opportunities for health care professionals to increase the capacity of identifying domestic violence survivors and services
- Linking local hospitals with local domestic violence advocates
- Strengthening hospital domestic violence policy by evaluating the health care system and implementing policy and practice improvements
- Convening a domestic violence coalition for the purposes of developing a framework for moving towards a comprehensive health care response to domestic violence

For more information about Health Cares about Domestic Violence Day or the Cook County Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention Coordination please call 708.492.2193 or visit our website at: www.cookcountypublichealth.org.

¹ The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, IPV Fact Sheet 2009

² Breiding, Black and Ryan, CDC MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) 2008 a & b

³ Ibid

⁴ Smith and Rand., Bureau of Justice Statistics, September 2009

⁵ Abbott, G. JAMA; 1995



**2010 HEALTH CARES ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DAY
PARTICIPATION FORM**

October 13, 2010 is Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day (HCADV), an annual event organized by the Family Violence Prevention Fund. We are honored that your agency has chosen to help increase awareness among health care professionals and the community about the health effects of domestic violence.

There are many ways for your organization to participate. The Cook County Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention Coordination is committed to building capacity and coordinating efforts in the community. For your convenience and assistance, we have created a list of activities that we hope will meet your interests and needs. Please select from the list below and we will send you a "tool-kit" to get started!

My agency is committed to strengthening the healthcare system's response to domestic violence. We would like our "tool-kit" to include:

- Domestic Violence Awareness Materials (please circle): Posters, Safety Cards, or Buttons [In English or Spanish] /Key Chains /Hand Sanitizers /Stethoscope ID clips.
- Training and/or Presentation Request: We will host a training or presentation on domestic violence assessment and intervention.
- Information about local domestic violence agencies and resources: We will assist in identifying the local resources to link victims with services and/or provide you with a directory of providers in your area.
- Sample awareness correspondence: We will provide sample correspondence to send to staff via e-mail or in check stuffers; use correspondence in community papers and/or in your agency's newsletter or website, send letters to local political representatives encouraging them to support H.R. 1267 (Violence Against Women Act).
- How to join the Cook County Illinois Health Cares Network to help improve the health care response to domestic violence.
- Participate in the development of a toolkit with steps and resources to creating policy
- Other** (please describe): _____

Please complete the following information:

Name: _____

Name of Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Fax or mail this form no later than Friday, September 24th

Cook County Department of Public Health
Office of Violence Prevention Coordination
1010 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60301
Office: 708.492.2193 Fax: 708.492.2225



Recognizing Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day

Domestic Violence Facts

- 1 in every 9 female emergency room patients is being seen for domestic violence related injuries (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Intimate Partner Violence Fact Sheet 2009)
- The cost of domestic violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services. (CDC Costs of Intimate Partner Violence against women in the US 2003)
- In one 24-hour period 2,830n victims of domestic violence and their children across Illinois received life-saving services from local domestic violence service providers (Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence Statistics 2009)

What is Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a criminal justice issue and public health issue.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Domestic violence (DV) can occur between people in a close relationship, including a current or former spouse or dating partner. DV causes immediate and long-term health effects. Physical injuries range from cuts and scratches to more serious injuries like broken bones, internal bleeding and head

trauma. There is also an increased risk of high cholesterol, heart disease and disability among DV victims. Mental health effects include low self-esteem, depression, and suicidality. Health care providers are in a unique position to routinely inquire about domestic violence for the purposes of providing education, treatment and access to services to help survivors change their situation. Victims of DV deserve a strengthened health care response to domestic violence.



To review more information on domestic violence as a public health issue visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov>

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Health Care Professionals Can Help Prevent Domestic Violence

Everyone has a responsibility in preventing and responding to violence against women, particularly in a health care setting. Healthcare professionals can make important contributions

to tackling domestic violence and impacting health outcomes. Here are five things you can do:

1. Have open dialogues with co-workers and help to dispel myths about domestic violence issues

ence issues

- 2 Ask women directly and with respect about whether they have experienced abuse

3. Form partnerships with

Continued on following page

Health Care Professionals Can Help Prevent Domestic Violence (continued from page 1)

local DV coalitions and become informed about local DV resources

4. Become familiar with your organization's domestic violence policy and mandates

5. Become familiar with strategies to interrupt the patient's cycle of violence

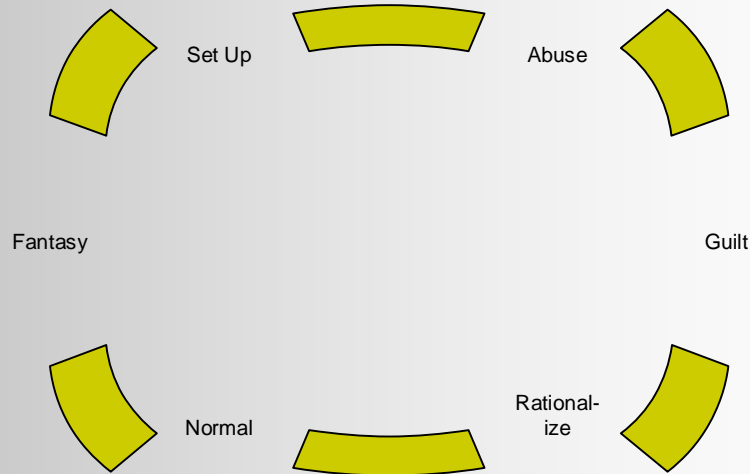


Figure 1: Cycle of Violence: In many abusive relationships, violence is not a one time incident. The abuse usually happens again and again. While every relationship is different, many abusive relationships follow a repeated pattern of violence.

Partnering with Cook County Department of Public Health

Healthcare is an important part of a community wide response to domestic violence. The Cook County Department of Public Health is building bridges between the health care system and the domestic violence community by:

- Providing training opportunities for health care professionals to increase the capacity of identifying domestic violence survivors and services
- Linking local hospitals with local domestic violence advocates
- Strengthening hospital domestic violence policy by evaluating the health care system and implementing policy and practice improvements
- Convening a domestic violence coalition

to develop a framework for moving towards a comprehensive health care response to domestic violence.

Visit any of the following websites for more information on the health care response to domestic violence prevention:

Family Violence Prevention Fund: <http://www.endabuse.org>

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <http://www.ilcadv.org>

American medical Association and Public Health: <http://www.ama-assn.org/go/medicineandpublichealth>

Cook County Department of Public Health:

www.cookcountypublichealth.org

For more information on how your organization can improve the health care response to domestic violence, please call 708-492-2193.

Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day, October 13, 2010

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Activities and Events Calendar



Brought to you by: Cook County Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention Coordination

Date & Time	Event and Time	Location	Sponsored by	Contact & Registration
October (Various Dates and ongoing)	Intimate Partner Abuse Prevention Men's Group Men's group for DV offenders focusing on non-violent parenting. Individual therapy also available. <i>(call for times)</i>	675 Village Court Glencoe, IL	Family Service of Glencoe	Cynthia Brunson Office: 847.835.5111 Fax: 847.835.9433 Email: cynthiabrunson10@gmail.com
October 8	Domestic Violence Teleconference: "Effects on Children, Detection, Screening, and Referral in Primary Care" 8am-9am	Teleconference Register at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L72CFWJ	Illinois Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP)	*On Line registration is required: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L72CFWJ or contact Juanona Brewster at Jbrewster@illinoisap.com or Sandy Fracture at 312.733.1026 x201
October 8	"The Reel and the Real: The Influence of Media on Domestic Violence" 9:00am-1pm <i>(8:15am registration)</i>	The Chicago Bar Association 321 S. Plymouth Court Chicago, IL	Family Violence Coordinating Council Honorable Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge	Sonya Bratcher-Northern Cook County Administrator 312.603.1063 Email: sonya.northern@cookcountyil.gov
October 12	Teen Dating Violence Prevention Workshop 9:30am-1pm	834 S. Lake Street Oak Park, IL	Illinois Center For Violence Prevention Best Practices Institute and Cook County Department of Public Health	Office of Violence Prevention Coordination Fax 708.492.2223 Email: atolbert@ccdph.net
October 15	Not in My Neighborhood, Holding on to Hope: Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence and the Family 8am-4:30pm	Chandler's Banquets Grand Ballroom 401 N. Roselle Road Schaumburg, IL	Family Violence Coordinating Council Honorable Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge	Gracyce Gates 847.818.2528 Email: grayce.gates@cookcountyil.gov

Please Check the Cook County Department of Public Health website for additional training opportunities at www.cookcountypublichealth.org