

The impact of violence on society
Systems for intervention

Examples from the US
Military

Judy Beals

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Critical Issues

1. Risk Factors
2. Institutional Barriers
3. Opportunities for Effective Intervention

Risk Factors

1. Prior histories of DV before enlistment
2. Age - 50% under 25, 80% under 35
3. Gender – 85% active duty personnel male, wives work and earn less than counterparts
4. Culture – service members expected to “control” family member behavior
5. Constant relocation, isolation
6. Constant deployments and reunifications
7. Access to weapons

Institutional barriers within Military

1. Lack of confidentiality
2. Mandatory reporting – Commander’s “need to know”

Primary disincentive for reporting DV: fear of negative career consequences

Additional barriers upon return

1. Physical injuries
2. Invisible wounds – depression, PTSD, mild traumatic brain injury
3. Changed family dynamics
4. Inadequate, underfunded, veterans services
5. Unemployment

The result . . .

1. High, undocumented interpersonal violence within military
2. Violence of war comes home:
 - Drugging, drinking
 - Gun violence
 - Homicide
 - DV, rape, sexual assault
 - Suicide

Opportunities

1. Systems change
1. Working within the System

Systems Change: DTFDV Recommendations

1. Victim safety – trained victim advocates
2. Improving reporting – confidentiality
3. Treating DV/SA as a crime - prosecution
4. Undoing attitudes - intensive prevention and intervention
5. Building Coordinated Military/Civilian Community Response systems
6. Holding the system accountable

Systems Change: Progress

1. Confidentiality – availability of “restricted” reports
2. More, better trained Military Victim Advocates; stronger coordination with Civilian Victim Advocates
3. Public awareness/ prevention marketing

Working within the system: what you can do

1. Take time to understand the “other”; build relationships
2. Build a coordinated community response systems

Resources

www.bwjp.org

www.ncdsv.org

www.janedoe.org

A final quote . . .

"Soldiers who fail to intervene and protect another from harassment or risk of sexual assault have forsaken the warrior ethos to never leave a fallen comrade. . . "

Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention Program, U.S. Army