

Violence

Goal

Reduce injuries and deaths due to violence and abuse.

Objectives

1. (Developmental) By 2010, reduce the rate of violence by current or former intimate partner.
2. (Developmental) By 2010, increase the proportion of schools (pre-K through 12) that implement an evidence-based, culturally competent, age-appropriate violence prevention program, including information on anger management, conflict resolution, hate-based violence, family violence, and sexual assault to 100%. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objective 15-38]
3. (Developmental) By 2010, increase the number of large businesses with policies and internal resources and community referrals in place to decrease the risk of workplace violence. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objectives 20-5, 20-9]
4. By 2010, eliminate the incidence of children and adolescents in possession of weapons in school from 6.2% to 0%. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objective 15-39]
5. By 2010, reduce the incidence of child abuse by 10%. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objective 15-33]
6. By 2010, develop a data system that allows for tracking reported sexual assaults.
7. By 2010, establish a baseline for sexual assault incidence that includes unreported cases of sexual assault.

Notes:

The numeral assignment of each objective does not indicate priority, simply enumeration.

“Developmental” objectives are those that currently do not have state baseline data and, therefore, have no operational definitions. The purpose of developmental objectives is to identify areas of emerging importance and to drive the developmental of data systems to measure them.

Important roles for each sector*

Business

- Provide violence prevention education and referral services, mentor youth, and (for large businesses) create trained response teams and safe physical environments.

Community

- Create culturally competent violence prevention programs, partnerships, and resources; offer services for parents; and promote recognition and referral of victims.

Health Care

- Effect training and policies to improve recognition, intervention, and reporting data for victims and perpetrators of violence, and use the Domestic Violence Resource Manual.

Education

- Implement effective prevention curricula, provide referral services, and provide education on violence recognition and intervention.

Government

- Assure, coordinate, and fund an array of violence prevention and intervention programs, monitor population violence, and lead efforts to develop model standards and protocols.



Healthy Delaware Hero



Dr. Gordon Reed

Since 1998, Dr. Gordon Reed, a Christiana Care emergency room doctor, and the Medical Subcommittee of the State of Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council have worked tirelessly to develop, produce, and implement the Domestic Violence Resource Manual.

The comprehensive resource guide provides screening tips and phone numbers to help health care providers and front-line caregivers recognize and handle domestic violence issues in a caring, informed and professional manner. It has assessment tools for a variety of practice settings and is specific to Delaware laws and procedures.

Dr. Reed got involved with the domestic violence issue because he felt he could make a difference. “It felt good inside to do something so simple and yet something that has such a positive impact on someone’s life,” Reed said.

Resources (General)

- Children’s Trust Fund, (302) 836-8550, fax (302) 836-8827, www.childrenstrustfund.org - information, grants, other resources for Delaware child abuse prevention programs
- CONTACT Delaware, (302) 761-9800, fax (302) 761-4280, www.contactdelaware.org - prevention/education programs, referrals, training
- Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, (302) 658-2958, fax (302) 658-5049 - materials, training, advocacy
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, (302) 577-2684, fax (302) 577-6944 - information and guidelines, policy writing, resources on services
- Domestic Violence Resource Council - general information, programs on family violence prevention
- Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, (302) 254-4611, fax (302) 254-4616, <http://members.aol.com/dupca/> - training, volunteer programs and ideas, facts and statistics

The mentioning of specific programs does not connote endorsement and was not meant to be exclusionary. We apologize for any unintentional omissions; please bring these to our attention.

Closing the Gap

African American men in Delaware are almost six times more likely to die of homicide than their white counterparts. Incidents of student violence vary by ethnicity and age. During the 1996-97 school year, 43% of students ages 13-15 were involved in violent incidents—twice that of students aged 10-12 or 16-21 years. Males are more likely to bring a weapon to school than females, as are Hispanic students compared to other ethnic groups.

Poverty, discrimination, lack of education, and lack of employment opportunities are important risk factors for violence and must be addressed as part of any comprehensive solution to the epidemic of violence.

Many potentially effective strategies exist for violence prevention. They need to be culturally and linguistically appropriate, and made available to groups at greatest risk. These strategies should begin early in life, before violent beliefs and behavioral patterns can be adopted.

