“What Lessons Have We Learned and How Do We Proceed”

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Workshop on Preventing Violence against Women and Children
Institute of Medicine
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Perspective

- Raised in segregated U.S. South.
- Witnessed interpersonal, psychological and physical violence before the age of 16.
- Experienced health disparities.
- Expected to achieve despite these traumatic experiences.
Coping Strategies

• Parental socialization emphasizes multiple roles of being femininity, achievement, having a family, and building a successful career.
• Parents explain slavery experiences, historical trauma and how to cope with racial discrimination.
• Parents explain role of gender discrimination and experience of violence for women.
• Religious beliefs and spirituality.
Advocacy

• Nine U.S. Congressional Testimonies
  – Two hearings on laws for reporting abuse and rape of women.
  – Testimonies included those for Vice-President Biden when he served as Senator.

• State of California and Los Angeles County Commissions on Violence against Women.
## Faulty Assumptions that challenge efforts to prevent violence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faulty Assumptions</th>
<th>Reality</th>
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<tr>
<td>• People have equal value.</td>
<td>• Some people are perceived as more valuable than others due to gender, race, age, income, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Women and children are considered equal to men.</td>
<td>• Women and children are of lower status and need to be controlled.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Violence has no purpose in society.</td>
<td>• Violence has played an important role in society and power struggles in the world</td>
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Enduring Lessons Learned

• We need to study multiple types, levels and severity of violence.
  – Much of the literature focuses on the occurrence of violent incident, when they often occur multiple times.
  – The severity of incidents should incorporate the number of times that incidents occur, who else is involved, what happens and for how long.
• We need to understand the cumulative effects of different types of trauma.
• We need to included all types of families (i.e. same-sex couples, extended families)
• Integrate implementation science with evidence-based interventions in order to fully understand the impact of the intervention on developing countries.
Enhanced Methodological Approaches

• Standardization of Definitions
  - Variations in definitions of what is being studied, at what ages, and the type of behaviors or sequences of events limit comparable reports on prevalence and incidence rate and the physical and mental health effects.

• Standardization of Measurement
  - The manner in which incidents of abuse and violence vary by the method used to collect data.
  - Methods range from phone interviews, to self report and face to face interviews.

• Comprehensive theory framework
  - There is little consensus among investigators or a mandate about the theories and measures.

• Operationalize samples from diverse countries
  - Enhanced participant descriptions for comparison between global samples.
Multiple Levels of Analysis

• Ecological models are important for theory building.
• Multiple levels of analysis allow for variation across cultures.
  – Analysis at two more levels of analysis.
  – e.g. individual, couple, family, community, neighborhood, region, country, ethnic/racial community, society, etc.
Biobehavioral Approaches

• Biopsychosocial Model of Trauma
  – Behavioral
  – Biological
  – Socialization
  – Norms

• Assess subjective and objective effects of cumulative stress and trauma.

• Study effects of interpersonal trauma on brain and behavioral development.
Co-Occurring Problems

• Consider co-morbid
  – mental health
  – substance use and abuse
  – addiction

• Poverty and resources

• Co-occurring problems require multiple streams of funding and service systems.
Building a Strategic **Action Plan**

- Determine the primary priorities for research and services that we need to conduct first.

- Build global multisite data can support global advocacy efforts

- Studies of men are important.

- Determine the cultural and gender interpretations of why violence occurs.
  - Long established beliefs may contradict with health promotion attempts.
Policy Implications

• Laws and legislation are important to shape human behavior.
• Include health and justice in policy efforts.
• Train professionals (e.g. teachers, child care workers, police, health care providers, lawyers, etc.) at every level who interact with women, men and children to identify, report, prevent and treat violence.
• Provide basic needs for society (e.g. employment, food, housing, and well-being) to reduce levels of violence.
GLOBAL CONTROL OF VIOLENCE