Public Health Roles in Preventing Violence

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November 17, 2010
About Safe States

Non-profit, membership association dedicated to strengthening efforts of injury and violence prevention professionals;

Known previously as the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA)
Held in April 2010 in Ann Arbor, MI;

Purposes:

• to share perspectives;
• identify overlapping and unique roles in national, state, local and tribal efforts to prevent violence; and
• discuss critical next steps.
Roles Identified in Pre-Meeting Survey

- Coalition Building/Capacity Building
- Communication/Information Dissemination
- Funding
- Policy Development
- Program Design & Implementation
- Program Evaluation
- Research
- Surveillance/Data Collection & Analysis
- Training & Technical Assistance
Examples of Existing Initiatives & Programs

- CeaseFire
- Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act Programs
- Choose Respect
- National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)
Roundtable Discussions
Overarching Themes

Ensure a focus on the role of social determinants, including racism and poverty, in violence.

Reframe the issue of violence. Preventing violence is about strengthening families and empowerment. Violence is about “us”, not “them.”

Institutionalize visible, high-level leadership for violence prevention within governmental public health, with an emphasis on preventing violence before it occurs.
Recommendations to National Public Health Agencies & Organizations

1. Focus on strengthening public health systems
2. Serve as conveners
3. Improve surveillance
4. Maximize existing and advocate for new funding
5. Provide leadership for the inclusion of violence prevention policies and interventions
6. Develop and/or enhance the implementation and dissemination of evidence-informed
7. Identify and address the connections between different types of violence
8. Conduct needs assessments and strategic planning.
National Examples – Serve as Conveners

- Prevention Institute convened national experts and community representatives to build a framework for primary prevention and intimate partner violence.

- There are now 6 Federal Departments cooperative to address bullying.

- CDC’s new initiative – STRYVE is convening a national action council of organizations to promote evidence-based strategies to prevent youth violence.
# Recommendations to State Public Health Departments

1. Provide leadership for a coordinated, statewide agenda to prevent violence.
2. Develop and implement policy approaches to violence prevention.
3. Develop a state data collection, analysis and dissemination infrastructure.
4. Build local capacity and partnerships.
5. Serve as a conduit between national and local public health efforts.
6. Identify resources and coordinate state and federal investments.
7. Proactively provide input to national level agencies and organizations.
8. Conduct needs assessments and strategic planning.
9. Showcase community examples.
Colorado’s youth suicide prevention initiative - Project Safety Net - is building community capacity for youth suicide prevention and intervention efforts by training community members to become trainers of two gatekeeper training programs.

California’s Domestic Violence and Teen Dating Violence Primary Prevention Program (DVPPP), includes a statewide technical assistance and training (TAT) project to provide capacity building and funding for promising strategies for DV/TDV primary prevention programs.
Recommendations to Local Public Health Departments

1. Build coalitions and partnerships
2. Conduct needs assessments and strategic planning
3. Educate and advocate for organizational policies and legislative actions
4. Seek sustainable financial resources
5. Implement culturally appropriate, evidence-informed programs, policies and practices
6. Enhance public awareness
7. Develop an integrated approach to surveillance
8. Build capacity and skills
9. Provide a link to and support for the medical community’s clinical response role
Local Examples – Capacity Building

The Chicago Department of Public Health, Office of Violence Prevention produces and issues monthly violence prevention e-briefs to raise public awareness about risk and resiliency, protective factors, and asset based violence prevention approaches.

Washtenaw County Health Department (MI), with funding from the state health department, is conducting widespread gatekeeper training on evidence based suicide prevention programs such as ASIST and safeTalk for school and community-based youth serving organizations, foster care parents, and juvenile detention staff.
Next Steps

- Disseminate final report and recommendations through partners, national meetings and webinars (Winter 2011)

- Work with partners to identify and support critical next steps such as:
  - Advocating for resources to support national, state, local and tribal efforts;
  - Convening key organizations to develop strategic plans to support implementation of recommendations;
  - Developing of a tool-kit for public health departments with existing resources and examples