



Ohio Domestic Violence Network **Prevention Definition**

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network defines prevention of domestic violence and other forms of violence as processes that keep (prevent) individuals from becoming perpetrators or victims of domestic violence or other forms of violence in the first place. Prevention of domestic violence focuses on preventing first-time perpetration and first time victimization. The group most at risk for perpetration of domestic violence is men, while the group most at risk of domestic violence victimization is women.

Domestic Violence and other types of violence do not occur in a vacuum. Factors at each level of the social ecology - individual, relationship, community and societal – contribute to the perpetration of domestic and other forms of violence in our society. As factors at each level of the social ecology interact and reinforce each other. Focusing on changing factors at only one level of the social ecology will not lead to a significant reduction in the prevalence of violence (Heise & Garcia-Moreno, 2002; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000; and, Dahlberg & Krug, 2002). Comprehensive, integrated approaches are required at each level of the social ecology to positively impact domestic and other forms of violence. This is referred to as social change.

Thus, implementing domestic and other violence prevention activities, strategies, and initiatives at all levels of the social ecology requires a community-based process. Communities across the country have developed collaborative mechanisms to respond to domestic violence (and in some cases other forms of violence) commonly referred to as coordinated community response (CCR) teams. These multi-disciplinary teams have met to plan and implement a variety of activities geared toward domestic violence intervention. Expanding the capacity of CCRs across the State and nation to include domestic violence prevention principles, concepts and practices promises to create the social change necessary that will ultimately lead to a significant reduction of domestic violence.

Furthermore, ODVN is committed to creating a paradigm shift in the field of domestic violence that will challenge practitioners to incorporate prevention into the way we think about and plan programs, structure our agencies, and collaborate with communities.

References:

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Heise, L. & Garcia-Moreno, C. (2002). Violence by intimate partners. In E. G. Krug, L. L. Dahlberg, J. A. Mercy, A. B. Zwi, & R. Lozano (Eds.), World report on violence and health (pp. 89-121). Geneva: World Health Organization.

Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2000). Extent, nature, and consequences of intimate partner violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey (NCJ 181867). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.