



Tip Sheet on The Social Ecology

Family, domestic, and teen dating violence do not occur in a vacuum. Factors at each level of the social ecology – individual, relationship/family, community, and society – contribute to the perpetuation of domestic violence. Because factors at each level of the social ecology interact and reinforce each other, integrated changes are required at each level of the social ecology. These changes create social change. However, focusing on changing factors in only one level of the social ecology will not lead to a significant reduction in the prevalence of domestic violence.

The model below and Figure 1 note some factors that contribute to domestic violence at each level of the social ecology and different strategies that can be used to support the type of social change that will lead to a reduction in domestic violence. This model indicates that prevention of domestic violence and the social change associated with it requires more than a project at one level of the social ecology in one community. This model reinforces the public health approach that indicates a comprehensive approach at all levels of the community.

The Socio-Ecological Model

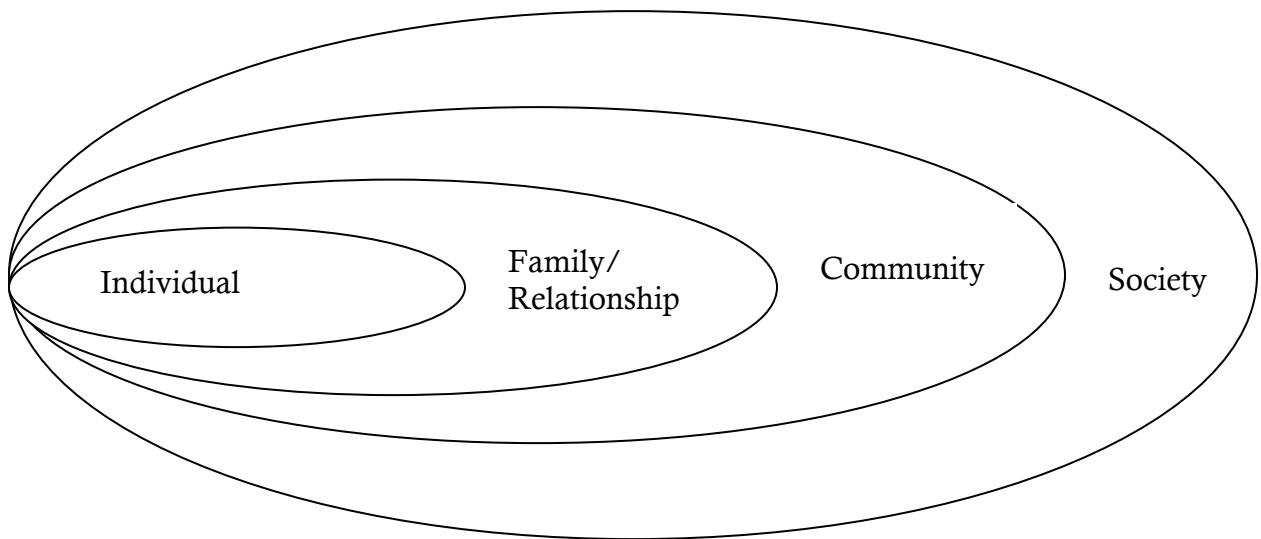


Figure 1. The Socio-Ecological Model: Contributing Factors and Strategies for Prevention

Individual	Family/Relationship	Community	Society
Contributing Factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudes about gender roles • Use of power and control • Violence in family of origin 	Contributing Factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association with peers who support dating violence • Power and control conflicts • Violent patterns of interpersonal communication 	Contributing Factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General tolerance of domestic violence • Denial that domestic violence is a problem • Attitudes and gender norms that support domestic violence 	Contributing Factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional tolerance of domestic violence • Historical patterns that glorify violence against women • Gender inequity • Religious and cultural beliefs • Economic and social policies
Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention curriculums • Mentoring • Counseling and therapeutic interventions • Coaching boys into men programs 	Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring programs • Educational/support programs for family/friends • Parent training 	Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community forums • Professional training • Social norms projects • Community education • Policy changes 	Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media campaigns • Public education campaigns • Social marketing campaigns • Policy changes that support gender equity • Legislation