

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)! Each business day in October, we send out a “DVAM: Did You Know?” highlighting interesting research findings and statistics or best practices in preventing and responding to domestic violence.

The following is a compilation of our 2013 *Did You Know?* emails.

October 1, 2013: Coordinating a Community Response to DV in Fairfax County

October 2, 2013: Domestic Violence & the Military

October 3, 2013: Bystander Intervention

October 4, 2013: Domestic Violence in the Workplace

October 7, 2013: Child Witness to Domestic Violence

October 8, 2013: Teen Dating Violence – Cyber Abuse

October 9, 2013: Health Cares about Domestic Violence Day

October 10, 2013: Emergency Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence

October 11, 2013: Serving Victims who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT)

October 15, 2013: Animal Abuse & Domestic Violence

October 16, 2013: Reproductive Coercion in Domestic Violence

October 17, 2013: The Connection between Youth Bullying & Domestic and Dating Violence

October 18, 2013: The Connection between Substance Abuse & Domestic Violence

October 21, 2013: Domestic Violence & Spirituality

October 22, 2013: Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC)

October 23, 2013: Lethality of Domestic Violence

October 24, 2013: The Impact of Domestic Violence on Friends & Family

October 25, 2013: United Nations Orange Day

October 28, 2013: The Intersection between Human Trafficking and Domestic and Sexual Violence

October 29, 2013: Purple Out Northern Virginia

October 30, 2013: New Termination of Lease Law for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence and Stalking

October 31, 2013: Vicarious Resiliency & Gratitude

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that there are over 70 member agencies involved in the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Network (DV Network)?

The DV Network is a multi-disciplinary group of service providers and justice professionals who meet monthly to coordinate a community-wide system of prevention and intervention that is responsive to the needs of families impacted by violence.

The DV Network is just one of the four formal groups that the county facilitates in order to organize a comprehensive and coordinated response to domestic violence. The other three groups are:

- ***Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy, and Coordinating Council (DVPPCC)*** - the mission of the DVPPCC is to *unite* senior-level public officials and community leaders; to *advise* the Board of Supervisors on a range of domestic violence policy, legislative, and program issues; and to *guide* the development of a coordinated and collaborative community response to domestic violence in Fairfax County.
- ***Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT)*** - the mission of the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) is *identify* the circumstances leading up to intimate partner homicides and homicide-suicides; *determine* indicators that prompt early identification, intervention, education, and prevention efforts in similar cases; and

improve communication in all systems that serve persons involved in domestic violence in an effort to diminish the likelihood of future intimate partner homicides.

- ***Domestic Violence Prevention Committee of the Faith Communities in Action (FCIA) Task Force*** – The committee is composed of members from diverse religious and secular backgrounds who believe that violence and abuse in intimate and familial relationships are deeply antithetical to the values of faith communities in Fairfax County. The countywide task force seeks to: *Raise awareness* about the prevalence and impact of family abuse; *Educate* about domestic abuse and the various roles in a coordinated community response; and *Inspire and empower* communities and their leadership to support survivors of abuse and eliminate domestic violence

What can we do?

- ✓ **Join the DV Network today!** The Network's meetings are open to all and are drop-in style (no RSVP's necessary). We meet the third Tuesday of the month from 10am to 12pm, typically at the Government Center. Please contact Sandy Bromley (sandy.bromley@fairfaxcounty.gov) to be added to an email list to receive notices of upcoming DV Network meetings and events.
- ✓ **Join, and ask members of your faith community to join, the FCIA DV Prevention Committee!** Please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic/dv.htm> for more information and contact Sandy Chisholm (Sandra.chisholm@fairfaxcounty.gov) to receive notices about upcoming FCIA events.
- ✓ **Stay updated!** Even if you can't attend DV Network meetings, you can sign up to receive the DV Community's eNews, a bi-weekly newsletter highlighting updates, events, and resources. To sign up, please email Sandy Bromley (sandy.bromley@fairfaxcounty.gov) or visit: <http://fairfaxdvcommunity.org>.

DVAM:

Did You Know?

Did you know that between 2006 and 2011, military-related calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline more than tripled?

In 2011 alone, the hotline military-related calls increased by over 25%.* Veterans returning from serving in Iraq and Afghanistan (during that same time frame) have reported high rates of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), major depressive disorder and depressive symptoms, and traumatic brain injury.

Though we know that PTSD or other mental illness are not a root cause of domestic violence, veterans with PTSD have been found to have a higher incidence of intimate partner violence perpetration than veterans without PTSD.**

**Military Calls: 2006 – 2011 -*

www.bwjp.org/files/bwjp/files/NDVH_Military_Calls_2006_through_2011.pdf

***Documentation of Screening for Intimate Partner Violence in Veterans with PTSD –*

www.ncdsv.org/images/AJN_OrigResearchDocScreeningPerpIPVinMaleVetswithPTSD_11-11.pdf

What can we do?

✓ **Learn more about the effects of war and its relationship with domestic violence:**

- *Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Combat Experience: An Advocates Guide – www.bwjp.org/files/bwjp/articles/Victim_Advocate_Guide.pdf.*

- *Safety at Home – Intimate Partner Violence, Military Personnel, and Veterans* eLearning course available at – www.bwjp.org/elearning_course.aspx.

✓ **Explore ways our community organizations and agencies can better collaborate with the military.**

- Check out *Collaborating for Safety: Coordinating the Military and Civilian Response to Domestic Violence – Elements and Tools* - www.bwjp.org/files/bwjp/articles/Collaborating_for_Safety.pdf.
- Coordinate victim and offender services with the Ft. Belvoir Victim Advocacy Program:
 - 24-hour Hotline: (703) 919-0986
 - Office: (703) 805-2561 or (703) 805-1832
 - <http://www.belvoirmwr.com/Facilities/ACS/#fap>

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that despite the fact that 54 million Americans report being a victim of domestic violence, over 67% of Americans say they have not talked about domestic violence with their friends?

According to the recently released “NO MORE Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survey of Attitudes and Experiences of Teens and Adults,”* the overwhelming majority of Americans know victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, but they do not talk about the issues with their children or friends, or take steps to help victims.

- 60% of Americans know a victim of either or both domestic violence or sexual assault
- Three out of four (73%) parents with children under the age of 18 said that they have not had a conversation about domestic violence or sexual assault with their children.
- 67% of Americans say they have not talked about domestic violence with their friends; even more, 73% have not discussed sexual assault.
- Even though 75% of Americans say that they would step in and help a stranger being abused, the reality is most people do not help.
- For example, among the women who experienced domestic violence and then told someone about it, more than half (58%) said that no one helped them.
- But 64% of Americans say if we talk more about domestic violence and sexual assault, it would make it easier to help someone.
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*<http://www.avonfoundation.org/press-room/avon-foundation-for-women-funded-no-more-survey-uncovers-staggering-silence-and-inaction-around-domestic-violence-and-sexual-assault.html>

What can we do?

The findings of the NO MORE study underscore the need for increased awareness, conversation and education around domestic violence and sexual assault, with an emphasis on what bystanders can do to prevent violence and help victims before it is too late.

✓ **Speak Out to End Domestic Violence**

- **Follow the lead of the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department:** http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/news/2013archive/2013_102.htm **and create a campaign to educate your colleagues, staff, community groups and neighborhoods about domestic violence.** To help you get started, here's a list of information on bystander intervention programs and research: http://www.ncdsv.org/publications_bystander.html.
- **Join with the rest of Northern Virginia on Wednesday, October 30th to Purple Out NoVa!** *Purple Out NoVa!* is a campaign that encourages all employees and community members to wear purple on this last day of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in order to remind us all to continue promoting awareness of domestic violence all year round. Flyers and social media tips coming soon!
- **Write a letter to the editor of one of the local papers.** Here's an example: http://www.eveningsun.com/letters/ci_24212892/your-letters-community-is-solution-abuse.

✓ **Intervene Safely**

- If you think that someone may be a victim of domestic or sexual violence, sometimes a simple phrase, such as "I'm concerned for your safety," may be all it takes for the victim to reach out for help.
- Memorize the Fairfax County 24-hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline number—703-360-7273 (or 703-360-RAPE).

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that nearly one in four large private industry establishments (with more than 1,000 employees) reported at least one incidence of domestic violence, including threats and assaults, in the past year?*

Domestic violence can follow victims to work, spilling over into the workplace when a victim is harassed, receives threatening phone calls, is absent because of injuries or is less productive due to extreme stress. Domestic violence is a serious, recognizable and preventable problem, similar to other workplace health and safety issues that affect businesses and their bottom lines.** The following are examples of the toll domestic violence can take on workplace productivity:

- A 2005 study using data from a national telephone survey of 8,000 women about their experiences with violence found that women experiencing physical intimate partner violence victimization reported an average of 7.2 days of work-related lost productivity and 33.9 days in productivity losses associated with household chores, child care, school, volunteer activities, and social/recreational activities.
- About 130,000 victims of stalking in a 12- month period, from 2005 to 2006, reported that they were fired or asked to leave their jobs because of stalking. About one in eight employed stalking victims lost time from work because of fear for their safety or because they needed to get a restraining order or testify in court. More than half these victims lost five days or more of work.

- A 2005 study of female employees in Maine who experienced domestic violence found that: 98 percent had difficulty concentrating on work tasks; 96 percent reported that domestic abuse affected their ability to perform their job duties; 87 percent received harassing phone calls at work; 78 percent reported being late to work because of abuse; and 60 percent lost their jobs due to domestic abuse.
- In a 2005 telephone survey from the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, 64 percent of the respondents who identified themselves as victims of domestic violence indicated that their ability to work was affected by the violence. More than half of domestic violence victims (57 percent) said they were distracted, almost half (45 percent) feared getting discovered, and two in five were afraid of their intimate partner's unexpected visit (either by phone or in person).

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the annual cost of lost productivity due to domestic violence is \$727.8 million (in 1995 dollars), with more than 7.9 million paid workdays - the equivalent of more than 32,000 full time jobs - lost each year.¹³

* U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2006. *Survey of Workplace Violence Prevention, 2005*. Washington, DC. Available at: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osnr0026.pdf>,

** All statistics found at: <http://www.workplacesrespond.org/>

What can we do?

- ✓ **Increase collaborations among the domestic violence community and local businesses.**
 - Work to enhance our business community's response to domestic and sexual violence by offering awareness education for their staff and unions and providing them with resource materials.
 - Educate employers about the importance of victim privacy and safety and what kinds of employment protections may be provided to victims.

- Develop relationships with employers to encourage them to hire victims who are rebuilding their lives after escaping violence.

- ✓ **Encourage your workplace to adopt a policy on domestic violence.**
 - Workplace policies can provide clear guidelines on how employers will prevent and address these dangerous and damaging forms of violence in the workplace, yet more than 70 percent of United States workplaces do not have a formal program or policy that addresses workplace violence.

 - Creating a workplace policy doesn't have to be hard. Check out <http://www.workplacesrespond.org/learn/model-policy> for a model policy and an interactive tool that helps organizations develop a policy that fits their agency size and location.

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that children witnessed 25% of our domestic violence-related homicides in Fairfax County in 2009?*

During the last 6 months of 2012, 76% of victims served at the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) had minor children. 60% of those victims reported that their children had witnessed violence in the home. The majority of those children were under the age of 8. Additionally, in FY12, the Department of Family Services Domestic Violence Unit reported serving families with 346 children who were impacted by domestic violence. Finally, in FY13, the 24-hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline (703-360-7273) callers reported that 914 children were witnesses to violence in the home.

The effects of witnessing violence are numerous, including suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder and depression as well as an increase in health effects, such as eating, sleeping and pain problems. Children who witness violence are also more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, and become victims of dating violence and sexual assault.**

*Fairfax County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team 2012 Annual Report. Located at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/domesticviolence.

**Futures without Violence: <http://promising.futureswithoutviolence.org/what-do-kids-need/get-the-facts>.

What can we do?

- ✓ **Get Educated.**
 - Learn about best practices for serving children, youth, and parents experiencing domestic violence at Promising Futures (<http://promising.futureswithoutviolence.org>).

- ✓ **Brainstorm ways you and your agency can implement recommendations from our county's forthcoming Child Witness to Domestic Violence Plan, which is based on the US Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence (www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood).** The following are the five categories of the plan, which will be released later this year:
 - Coordinating a Community Response
 - Community Outreach & Education
 - Professional Education: Identifying, Screening & Referrals
 - Direct Services: Intervention, Treatment, and Healing of Exposure to Violence
 - Primary Prevention & Social Change

DVAM:

Did You Know?

Did you know that more than a quarter (26%) of youth *in a relationship* said they experienced some form of cyber dating abuse victimization in the prior year?

- Nearly a fifth (18 percent) of *all* youth experienced cyber dating abuse.
- Youth experienced cyber dating abuse at a rate that was comparable to that of physical dating violence, about half that of psychological dating abuse, and twice that of sexual coercion.
- Females were twice as likely as males to report being a victim of sexual cyber dating abuse and/or sexual coercion in the prior year.
- Male youth, on the other hand, reported significantly higher rates of all forms of physical dating violence victimization.
- LGBTQ youth are particularly vulnerable to all types of teen dating violence/abuse and bullying, including cyber dating abuse and cyber bullying.
- Few victims of any teen dating violence or abuse sought help after such experiences. Less than one out of ten victims reported seeking help, with half as many male victims as female victims seeking help.

* ***Technology, Teen Dating Violence and Abuse, and Bullying:***

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/243296.pdf>

What can we do?

The following suggestions were given by the researchers:

✓ Community Awareness

- **Raise awareness** in the community & the schools about the harmfulness of perpetrating such acts and educate victims about the importance of reporting and seeking help. These activities should include all members of the school and community, including principals, teachers, and peer leaders.
 - Schools can refer youth to programs and online resources, such as online forums for safely airing grievances and resolving disputes (see <http://www.thatsnotcool.com/CalloutCards.aspx>).
- Because victims of teen dating violence and abuse and bullying victims are more likely to go to friends for help or advice, schools might consider creating **peer-led groups** to build awareness around the issues and create a comfort-level for victims to report.
- In addition, since this research found that many help-seeking victims also reach out to their parents, it may be valuable for schools to **help parents form support networks** for each other, so that parents of victimized or vulnerable youth can share advice and resources regarding preventative measures. Likewise, schools could hold seminars and **workshops for parents** on how to identify and report when their child is being bullied or being abused via technology, and on how to help them cope with and address the issue.

✓ Targeted Outreach

- Given the finding that so few youth victims of teen dating violence and abuse and bullying seek help, schools might create **more formalized reporting mechanisms** to ensure that such violence and abuse is being addressed effectively and promptly for both males and females. In particular, since less than half of male victims seek help, specific outreach efforts to male victims might be appropriate so that they can receive any needed assistance.

✓ **Professional Education**

- Because so much of teens' dating violence and abuse and bullying experiences occur at school, **faculty and staff should be trained** on how to identify signs of both types of acts and how to handle such incidences (e.g., when to report, to whom to report, how to report).

October 9, 2013: Health Cares about Domestic Violence Day

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that the yearly cost of direct medical and mental health care services related to intimate partner violence is 4.1 billion dollars?*

Emerging research indicates that hospital-based domestic violence interventions will reduce health care costs by at least 20 percent.*

Today is Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day, a nationally recognized awareness-raising day that takes place annually on the second Wednesday of October—this year on **October 9, 2013**.

HCADV Day aims to reach members of the healthcare community and educate them about the critical importance of assessing for domestic violence, as well as the long term health implications of domestic violence and lifetime exposure to abuse. While doctors and nurses routinely screen for high blood pressure and high cholesterol, too few screen for domestic violence. This puts health care providers in a unique position to help victims of abuse if they know how to detect domestic violence and provide victims with referrals and support.

- All statistics found: <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/HealthCare/HealthCare.pdf>.

What can we do?

✓ Get Educated.

- Visit the National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence, a project of the Futures without Violence:
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/section/our_work/health.

- Learn about Virginia Department of Health’s Project RADAR, which seeks to enable Virginia’s health care providers to recognize and respond to intimate partner

violence: <http://www.vahealth.org/Injury/projectradarva/index.htm>

- Routinely inquire about current and past violence
 - Ask direct questions
 - Document findings
 - Assess safety
 - Review options and referrals

✓ **Talk to your health care providers about domestic violence.**

- Teach them about the available domestic violence resources in the county (<http://fairfaxdvcommunity.org>) and offer to provide training for their staff.
- Share with them the **Fairfax County 2013-2018 Community Health Improvement Plan** (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/livehealthy/pdfs/community-health-improvement-plan.pdf>). Page 33 of the plan includes a goal to improve access to services that promote social and emotional wellness. One action to achieve that goal involves the implementation of evidence-based intimate partner violence screenings and resultant referrals in health care provider offices, schools, and other settings.
 - Over the next year, the Fairfax DV Community will be working on developing training, outreach materials, and screening tools to enable local providers to fulfill that action.

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that 283 eligible households were turned away from Artemis House in FY13?

Additionally, 128 households were turned away from Bethany House in FY13. While all victims who are determined to be in imminent danger will be housed in some way, our shortage of bed space in the county continues to limit the amount of victims who can access emergency shelter.

Emergency shelter is an important option for victims who are escaping violent relationships. Shelter provides victims with the space and time to stabilize their lives, including receiving trauma-informed crisis intervention and support services as well as addressing basic needs, including legal and advocacy needs. Shelter also helps keep victims safer during the potentially lethal separation period (statistically, victims are at most risk of lethality for the first three months following the separation and the risk remains high for up to a year following separation, when it then levels out.).

What can we do?

- ✓ **Support Artemis House and Bethany House financially or in-kind, through donations or volunteering.**
 - For Artemis House, visit www.shelterhouse.org for more information on how to donate or volunteer.
 - For Bethany House, visit www.bhmv.org for more information.

- ✓ **Speak out about our need to increase the capacity of emergency shelter in the county.** Spread the word in our community.

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that, for the first time in any federal funding statute, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2013 Reauthorization recognizes the civil rights of LGBT victims by explicitly prohibiting VAWA grantees from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity?

This groundbreaking provision will ensure that LGBT victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and dating violence and stalking are not denied, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, access to the critical services that VAWA grants support (including many of our services here in Fairfax County).

What can we do?

✓ Get Educated.

- Explore the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) National Training & Technical Assistance Center on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Cultural Competency:
 - Website: <http://avp.org/resources/training-center>
 - Toll-free warmline: 1-855-AVP-LGBT (1-855-287-5428) Mon – Fri 10am to 6pm
 - Deaf/Hard of Hearing Accessible Instant Messaging AIM: AVPlgbt
 - Email: info@ncavp.org

- ✓ **Examine how your organization can better learn to serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender victims of violence.**
 - Check out this guide from the Virginia Anti-Violence Project (http://avp.org/storage/documents/Training%20and%20TA%20Center/VAVP_LGBTQ-Inclusive_Model_Policies.pdf) and learn how to implement model policies and best practices.
 - For help with specific cases, call the **Virginia LGBTQ Partner Abuse and Sexual Assault Helpline**: 1-866-356-6998 (M-F 8am to 8pm).

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that 71% of pet-owning women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed, or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims?*

Between 25% and 40% of battered women are unable to escape abusive situations because they worry about what will happen to their pets or livestock should they leave.

*Statistics found at: www.americanhumane.org/interaction/support-the-bond/fact-sheets/understanding-the-link.html.

What can we do?

✓ Get Educated.

- Explore the American Humane Association's website and fact sheet about the link between animal abuse and family violence: www.americanhumane.org/interaction/support-the-bond/fact-sheets/understanding-the-link.html.

✓ Raise awareness about the connection of animal abuse and domestic violence – Attend this weekend's K-9 Krawl!

- For more information, download the flyer: <http://fairfaxdvcommunity.org/files/documents/K->

[9Krawlflyer2013final.pdf](#) or visit
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/k9krawl.htm to register.

- ✓ **Include discussions of animal safety when working with victims of domestic violence and stalking.**
 - Include questions about the presence of pets and their welfare to shelter intake questionnaires, risk/lethality assessments and safety planning.
 - Help your clients to prove ownership of their animals (e.g., ensure the victim's name is listed on any registrations or licenses).
 - Help victims to retrieve animals left behind.
 - Help victims find pet-friendly transitional and permanent housing.
 - When victims can no longer care for their pets, make referrals to animal adoption agencies.

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that 1 in 4 callers to the National Domestic Violence Hotline report birth control sabotage or reproductive coercion? *

Reproductive coercion is defined as threats or acts of violence against a partner's reproductive health or reproductive decision-making. It includes:

- Forced sex
- Pressuring a woman to become pregnant against her will
- Interference with the use of birth control or other forms of birth control sabotage (poking holes in condoms, or destroying birth control pills), which can lead to unintended pregnancy
 - 40% of abused women reported that their pregnancy was unintended compared to 8% on non-abused women.
 - Women whose pregnancies are unplanned are at 2-4 times greater risk of being abused than women whose pregnancies are planned.

According to the Family Violence Prevention Fund, approximately 324,000 pregnant women are abused by their partners each year. A recent study* found that:

- 45.3% of pregnant homicide victims were murdered by a current or former intimate partner.
- 54.3% of pregnant suicide victims experienced problems (including but not limited to IPV) with a current or former intimate partner that contributed to the suicide.
- Homicide and suicide account for more deaths among pregnant women than common obstetric causes

* Retrieved from

[http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/content/news/detail/1673\[7/31/2012%2010:16:09%20AM\]](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/content/news/detail/1673[7/31/2012%2010:16:09%20AM])

** Palladino, Singh, Campbell, Flynn, & Gold. (2011). Homicide and suicide during the perinatal period. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 118(5), 1056-1063.

What can we do?

✓ Get Educated.

- Explore the ***Know More, Say More*** website: <http://www.knowmoresaymore.org/>.
- Download and share this fact sheet: <http://www.knowmoresaymore.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/07/The-Facts-on-Reproductive-Health-and-Partner-Abuse.pdf>.

✓ Include discussions of reproductive safety and physical health when working with victims of domestic and dating violence.

- Share this patient safety card with clients: <http://www.knowmoresaymore.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/07/Patient-Safety-Card-for-Women-English.pdf>.

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that men who reported being bullies while younger were four times more likely to abuse their intimate partners as an adult? *

Research continues to highlight the connections among various forms of witnessing, experiencing or perpetrating violence as youth and also experiencing or perpetrating violence as an adult. Specifically, exposure to community violence, witnessing parental domestic violence, delinquent behavior, and childhood physical or sexual abuse have all been found to be relevant to both domestic violence perpetration and bullying perpetration in separate studies.

* <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/06/110606171405.htm>

** All cites found in: *School Bullying Perpetration and Other Childhood Risk Factors as Predictors of Adult Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration*
(<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1107602>)

What can we do?

✓ Get Educated.

- Check out the attached presentation for *Relation Between Bully & Teen Dating Violence Perpetration Across Early to Late Adolescence* (includes a great diagram called the Developmental Model of Bullying, Sexual Harassment and Dating Violence).

- Read this research study by the Harvard School of Public Health: *School Bullying Perpetration and Other Childhood Risk Factors as Predictors of Adult Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration*
(<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1107602>)

✓ **Join us at the Bullying and Violence Prevention Symposium 2013: Ending the Cycle of Violence and Trauma in our Community**

- Wednesday, November 13th, 8:30am to Noon, Fairfax Community Church (11451 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030)
- For more information and to register: <http://www.fairfaxyouth.org/1592.xml>

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that 36% of victims in domestic violence programs also report substance abuse problems? *

Additionally, women who have been abused are fifteen times more likely to abuse alcohol and nine times more likely to abuse drugs than women who have not been abused.

Children who have experienced family violence are at greater risk for alcohol and other drug problems later in life than children who do not experience family violence.

Though domestic violence and drug and alcohol addiction frequently occur together (one study found that 61% of domestic violence offenders also have substance abuse problems), no evidence suggests a causal relationship between substance abuse and domestic violence. Another study confirmed that point when researchers concluded that alcoholism treatment does not "cure" abusive behavior.

*all statistics and research cites can be located at: <http://www.ncadv.org/files/SubstanceAbuse.pdf>.

What can we do?

✓ Get Educated.

- Visit the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health website at www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org.

- Participate in the upcoming substance abuse webinar series – www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/2013/10/register-for-upcoming-2013-substance-abuse-series-webinar-in-october/
- Read this fact sheet on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coercion: <http://nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Mental-Health-and-Substance-Abuse-Coercion.pdf>.

✓ **Discuss substance use when working with victims or offenders of domestic and dating violence.**

- Talk to clients openly about their use of alcohol or substances. Whether you work with victims or offenders, discussing substance abuse treatment options with your clients can be helpful in reducing recidivism rates for offenders and promoting safety and self-sufficiency for victims.
- Consider discussing the following questions with your clients:
 - Has your partner ever made you use alcohol or other drugs, made you use more than you wanted, or threatened to harm you if you didn't?
 - Do you ever use alcohol or other drugs to numb the effects of abuse?
 - Does your partner control your access to alcohol or other drugs?
 - Does your partner justify name-calling, criticizing, belittling, and undermining you based on your use of alcohol or other drugs?
 - Has your partner told you that you are to blame for abuse or sexual assault because of your use of alcohol or other drugs?
 - Has your partner ever forced or coerced you into engaging in illegal activities (e.g., dealing, stealing, trading sex for drugs) or other activities that you felt uncomfortable with in order to obtain alcohol or other drugs?
 - Have you ever been afraid to call the police for help because your partner said you would be arrested for being high or your partner

said you would lose custody of your children because of your alcohol or drug use?

- Has your partner ever tried to manipulate you by making you go into withdrawal?
- Has your partner ever stopped you from cutting down or quitting alcohol or other drugs when you wanted to?
- Has your partner ever prevented you from attending a recovery meeting, interfered with your substance abuse treatment, or sabotaged your recovery in other ways?

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that many victims of domestic violence also deal with some aspect of religious or spiritual beliefs or teachings that will serve as either a resource or a roadblock?*

The task for both religious and secular leadership is twofold:

1. Recognize that religious beliefs, texts, and teachings can serve both as roadblocks and as resources for victims of violence; and
2. Deepen our examination of religious texts and teachings and explore new interpretations so that we minimize the roadblocks and maximize the resources for victims of domestic violence.

No victim should ever be forced to choose between safety and her religious community or tradition. Victims should be able to access the resources of both community-based advocacy and shelter *and* faith-based support and counsel.

For them to do so, they need these two resources to work collaboratively so that they can provide consistent advocacy and support for victims and participate in the process of holding offenders accountable. *

* Fortune, M., & Enger, C. (2006, March). Violence against women and the role of religion, Harrisburg, PA: VAWnet, a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence/Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Retrieved from <http://www.vawnet.org/>

What can we do?

✓ Get Educated & Get Connected.

- Read *A Commentary on Religion and Domestic Violence*: <http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org/resources/articles/Commentary.pdf>.
- Check out Faith Trust Institute's website for more information: <http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org/>.
- Join the Faith Communities in Action Domestic Violence Prevention Committee (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic/dv.htm>). Here's a few of their faith-based member organizations:
 - FAITH Social Services (Foundation for Appropriate, Immediate, Temporary Help): www.faithus.org
 - JCADA (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Violence): www.jcada.org
 - Peaceful Families Project: www.peacefulfamilies.org
 - Time to Fly Foundation: www.timetofly.org
 - Bethany House of Northern Virginia: www.bhmv.org

✓ Educate your faith leader on domestic violence and how to safely intervene with victims or offenders in their faith community.

- Share this fact sheet on responding to domestic violence: http://www.nhcadv.org/uploads/Faith%20Trust%20DOs%20and%20DON_Ts.pdf.

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center's (DVAC's) on-site partners increased the number of victims served in one year by 107% (from 164 victims to 339 victims served in a 6-month period)?

The following data highlights DVAC's on-site advocacy services:

- From January through June 2012, DVAC partners provided on-site advocacy services to **164 victims**.
- From July through December 2012, DVAC partners provided on-site advocacy services to **255 victims**.
 - **A 55% increase over the prior 6-month reporting period**
- From January through June 2013, DVAC partners provided on-site advocacy services to **339 victims**.
 - **A 33% increase over the prior 6-month reporting period**
- Over a quarter (28%+) of victims served at DVAC report limited English proficiency.

The grant also funds two specialized prosecutors and one protective order compliance monitor:

- From January through June 2013, the specialized domestic violence prosecutors **prosecuted 313 cases**.
 - **An average of 52/month.**
- DVAC's Protective Order Compliance Monitor (JDRDC Court Services) has **supervised 46 total cases** under the grant.

What can we do?

✓ Learn more about DVAC.

- Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/domesticviolence/dvac for more information and to watch a video on DVAC's on-site services.
- Come to our **Open House** this Thursday from 2 – 4:30pm (*see attached flyer*).

✓ Support DVAC.

- Attend the **DVAM Party** on October 30th to help raise funds for future services at DVAC (*see attached flyer*).

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that, according to 2011 FBI data, 94% of female homicide victims were murdered by a male they knew?

- Of those victims who knew their offenders, 61 percent (926) of female homicide victims were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers.
- More female homicides were committed with firearms (51 percent) than with any other weapon.
- Black females were murdered at a rate more than two and a half times higher than white females.

* All statistics located in the Violence Policy Center's September 2013 "When Men Murder Women" report: <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2013.pdf>.

What can we do?

- ✓ **Learn more domestic violence-related homicides here in Fairfax County.**
 - Check out the 2012 Annual Report of the county's Domestic Violence Fatality Review
Team: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/domesticviolence/>.

✓ **Research domestic violence homicide prevention and consider implementing a lethality assessment tool in your agency.**

- Read through this VAWNet Special Collection: <http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/DVHomicide.php>.
- Stay tuned for more opportunities to receive training and information on lethality assessment in the county.

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that Fairfax County recently started a peer support group for families and friends affected by domestic violence?

The *Family and Friends Coming Together* group meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 7:00 – 8:30pm at DVAC (Room 2700 of the Fairfax Historic Courthouse). The group is a drop-in group so no RSVPs are necessary, but for more information, please contact Dani Colón at (703) 324-7817.

Group Objective: In support of victims/survivors of domestic and dating violence, *Family and Friends Coming Together* provides an open space for sharing experiences and challenges as well as exploring opportunities for resiliency and hope.

Group Guiding Principles

- Understanding the Experience of Family and Friends
 - o Acknowledging the impact, including feelings of frustration, anger, and fear
 - o Distinguishing the victim's struggle from those of friends and family members
 - o Developing personal resiliency

- Building Awareness of the Victim's Experience
 - o Understanding the dynamics of domestic and dating violence

- Avoiding & Reframing Victim Blaming
 - o Acknowledging potential frustration
 - o Being conscious of language & actions

- Balancing the Helping Role
 - o Helping safely
 - o Encouraging victim autonomy
 - o Developing compassion and empathy

What can we do?

- ✓ **Talk to victims and offenders of domestic violence about how the violence may be impacting their loved ones.**
 - Feel free to use the attached handbook that we provide to the peer support group attendees.

 - Encourage your clients to share information about the group with their friends and family members.

- ✓ **Talk with your friends, family members, and fellow community members about domestic violence and how friends and family members can support families impacted by violence.**
 - Here's a good "do's and don'ts" list regarding how to help someone in violent relationship: <http://abuseintervention.org/sandbox77/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/How-to-Help-a-Loved-One.pdf>

October 25, 2013: United Nations Orange Day

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that the United Nations has declared today, October 25th, as Orange Day highlighting the importance of Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls?

In 2008, the United Nations UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign was launched to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources to help prevent and end all forms of violence against women and girls all around the world.

In July 2012, the campaign proclaimed that the 25th of every month would be known as Orange Day, taking the color to be the symbol for the end of violence against women. This month focuses on the issue of 'Public Spaces for Women and Girls' because sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in the public sphere is an everyday occurrence for women and girls and is violation of human rights.

Women and girls experience various types of sexual violence in public spaces including sexual harassment, rape, and femicide. This violence may take place on the street, on public transport, in parks, in and around schools, places of employment, and other public spaces in urban and rural areas. Some cases are publicized and receive media and public attention, while most cases go unreported and unaddressed.

Violence and the fear of violence reduces women's freedom of movement and rights to access education, work, recreation, and essential services, and can restrict their participation in political life. It also negatively affects their health

and well-being. Despite these wide-ranging consequences, violence against women and girls in public spaces remains a neglected area, with few laws or policies in place to prevent and address it.

*Sources: <http://endviolence.un.org/about.shtml> & <http://endviolence.un.org/orangeday.shtml>

What can we do?

✓ Get Educated & Educate Others.

- Check out the United Nations website for Orange Day to learn more about the UNiTE initiative and additional resources to help combat the issue: <http://endviolence.un.org/orangeday.shtml>.
- Talk about the continuum of violence with your clients and at community events. See below for a graphic of the continuum and check out this website for an example of an activity that you can use: <http://wcadv.org/sites/default/files/resources/Continuum%20of%20Harm%20Exercise.pdf>.



- ✓ **Discuss the issue with family, friends and fellow community members.**
 - Organize a discussion with members of your community on the issue of sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women. Talk about sexual harassment in public spaces and examine if it is an issue of concern in your community, where it may take place, and what concrete action can be taken to prevent and respond to it.
 - Tweet about it: Today, the UNiTE campaign will host a Twitter discussion. Tweet about whether public spaces are safe for women and girls in your city, what you think could be done, and share stories of what has worked. Follow @SayNOUNiTE and #orangeday on Twitter.

DVAM:

Did You Know?

Did you know that in 2011, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) reported 10% of hotline calls as Intimate Partner or Familial Trafficking?*

Intimate Partner Trafficking: Spouses and intimate partners may compel their partner to engage in commercial sex, forced labor or involuntary servitude. The abuser may tell their partner that this exploitation is for benefit of their family, the relationship, for financial support or to support an addiction.

Familial Trafficking: Family members, often adults or older individuals, may compel their relatives to engage in commercial sex, forced labor or involuntary servitude. The abuser utilizes existing power dynamics and vulnerabilities to exploit the family member.

Trafficking programs also report an overlap in victimization of the crimes. For example, nearly **70 % of female trafficking victims** at a London program reported experiencing abuse prior to being trafficked.

*Source: *Domestic & Sexual Violence Intersections with Trafficking* Issue Brief:
<http://beckyowensbullard.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/dvht-brief-bbullard2.pdf>.

What can we do?

- ✓ **Get Educated.**

- Learn more about the connections between human trafficking and domestic and sexual violence:
 - **Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking** fact sheets:
<http://icfs.org/pdf/DVandHumanTraffickingFactSheet.pdf> and
<http://freedomnetworkusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/FN-Factsheet-Human-Trafficking-and-Domestic-Violence-Updated-Sept-2012.pdf>
- Attend the upcoming **Teen Sex Trafficking** training on November 14th: See attached and register here -
<http://fairfax.cc/outreach/justask/>

✓ **Get Involved.**

- Check out anti-trafficking organizations like the **Polaris Project** and get acquainted with available resources:
<http://www.polarisproject.org/about-us/overview> and
[http://humantrafficking.org/countries/united states of america/ngos](http://humantrafficking.org/countries/united%20states%20of%20america/ngos).
- Stay tuned for more information about the **Just Ask** campaign, which will be released to the public on January 11, 2014.

October 29, 2013: Purple Out Northern Virginia – TOMORROW!

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that most of the jurisdictions in Northern Virginia have partnered together in a promotional campaign called *PURPLE OUT NOVA*?

This campaign asks us all to wear purple on October 30th to not only raise awareness during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but also to remind us all to continue speaking out against domestic violence year-round.

Each jurisdiction will collect photos of our teams, offices, or groups wearing purple. The jurisdiction with the most photo entries will win bragging rights for the year. So, let's show our support in Fairfax County for speaking out against domestic violence—wear purple and send me your pictures!

Also tomorrow, our DVAC partners are hosting a fundraiser at the Buffalo Wing Factory in Chantilly. Please come join us in celebrating all of the good work our DV Community has done throughout the month of October. 10% of designated receipts will go straight into victim services through our DVAC partner agencies.

Join us and spread the word about our Purple Out NoVa campaign and our DVAM party, both being held on Wednesday, October 30th. Please share the attached flyers far and wide! We want to Purple Out Northern Virginia!

What can we do?

✓ Wear Purple & Send Pictures.

- Send your purple pics to me at:
 - E-mail: sandy.bromley@fairfaxcounty.org or
 - Text: (571) 215-2429

✓ Attend the DVAM party.

- Come to the Buffalo Wing Factory in Chantilly (<http://www.buffalowingfactory.com/Locations/>) any time from 4pm to 10pm to hang out with your colleagues (*and watch my beloved Red Sox in the World Series!*).
 - Write DVAC on your receipt and 10% of your ticket will go straight into DVAC victim services.

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that Virginia has a new early lease termination law that provides certain victims of family abuse, sexual abuse or sexual assault the right to terminate their residential leases?

In 2013, the Virginia Residential Landlord Tenant Act was amended to address the early termination of residential rental agreements by victims of family abuse, sexual abuse, or criminal sexual assault. The purpose of the statute is to enable a victim of abuse to escape the dangerous environment of an abusive home without subjecting herself/himself to civil liability to a landlord for breaching a residential lease.

[Va. Code § 55-248.21:2](#) provides that under certain circumstances, a tenant may terminate his/her obligation under a rental agreement if he/she is a victim of (i) family abuse as defined by Va. Code § 16.1-288, (ii) sexual abuse as defined by Va. Code § 18.2-67.10, or (iii) other criminal sexual assault under Va. Code § 18.2-61 et seq.

The statute represents a victory for ensuring victims' safety and housing stability is protected. Prior to this bill, victims fleeing their homes due to violence and stalking could have their rental history compromised - resulting in poor credit, poor rental histories, and other barriers to housing.

What can we do?

- ✓ **Get Educated about the Statute.**

Circumstances for Early Lease Termination

The statute defines the circumstances that justify the early termination of a rental agreement to include:

1. A situation in which the ***victim has obtained an order of protection*** pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-279.1 and has given written notice of termination in accordance with subsection B of Va. Code § 55-248.21:2 during the period of the protective order or any extension thereof; or
2. A situation in which a court has entered an order ***convicting a perpetrator of any crime of sexual assault or family abuse*** under Va. Code § 18.2-61, et seq, sexual abuse as defined by Va. Code § 18.2-67.10, or family abuse as defined by Va. Code § 16.1-228 against the victim and the victim gives written notice of termination in accordance with subsection B of Va. Code § 55-248.21:2. A victim may exercise a right of termination to terminate a rental agreement in effect when the conviction order is entered and one subsequent rental agreement based upon the same conviction.

Notice and Rights of Residential Landlord

- ***30 Days Notice:*** In order to terminate his/her obligations under a residential agreement, a qualifying tenant must serve the landlord with written notice of termination to be effective on a date stated therein, such date to be not less than 30 days after the first date on which the next rental payment is due and payable after the date on which the written notice is given.
- ***Documentation:*** When the tenant serves the termination notice on the landlord, the tenant must provide the landlord with a copy of (i) the order of protection issued or (ii) the conviction order.
- ***Continuing Payments:*** Rent shall be payable at such time as would otherwise have been required by the terms of the rental agreement through the effective date of the termination as provided in the written notice.

- Furthermore, any co-tenants on the lease with the victim shall remain responsible for the rent for the balance of the term of the rental agreement.
 - However, if the perpetrator is the remaining sole tenant obligated on the rental agreement, the landlord may terminate the rental agreement and collect actual damages for such termination against the perpetrator pursuant to Va. Code § 55-248.35.
- **Talk with your clients about this option and, if needed, help advocate for them with their landlords.**

DVAM: Did You Know?

Did you know that, in addition to our experience of vicarious trauma, service providers can also experience vicarious resiliency?

Vicarious resiliency was chosen as the theme for this year's DV Community Annual Meeting in order to remind us all of some of the positive benefits of working in this field.

Vicarious resilience describes the impact that working with trauma survivors (including current offenders) can have on us – that we can experience changes in our attitudes and emotions based upon witnessing our client's immense capacity to heal.

What can we do?

✓ **Learn more about vicarious resiliency.**

- *Exploring the Impact of Trauma on Therapists: Vicarious Resilience and Other Concepts in Training* (research article): http://moodle.unitec.ac.nz/pluginfile.php/164942/mod_folder/content/1/exploring_the_impact_of_trauma.pdf?forcedownload=1.
- *Trauma and Vicarious Resilience* (short blog entry): <http://caresnw.blogspot.com/2009/08/trauma-and-vicarious-resilience.html?m=1>.

✓ **Express our gratitude to our colleagues and clients for their positive impact on our lives.**

- Read this blog entry, entitled *In Honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, A Thank You to Virginia's Service Providers*, from the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness: <http://www.vceh.org/blog/in-honor-of-domestic-violence-awareness-month-a-thank-you-to-virginias-service-providers/>.
- **I echo Ms. Fox's sentiment and would like to express to each of you my gratitude for the work you do every day to make our communities safer and healthier. Thank you all for your work over the past month, and throughout the year, to prevent, respond to, and speak out against domestic violence!**
- For a reminder of how amazing our DV Community is, check out this photo compilation of yesterday's *Purple Out NoVa* campaign: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/88459789@N05/sets/72157637130683435/>. Fairfax County definitely represented! Stay tuned for a decision on whether we 'won' the competition with our NoVa partners.