Domestic Violence

Inequities in Rates of DV

**Exposures & Behaviors**

- History of multi-generational violence
- History of witnessing violence
- Social and emotional isolation
- Lack of healthy role models and relationships
- Lack of emotional regulation and nonviolent social skills
- Adherence to norms related to gender inequities, violence and non-intervention
- Awareness of lack of community sanctions against DV
- Desire for power over and control in relationships

**Structural Drivers**

Unequal Distribution of Power and Resources

Structural Disempowerment| Disenfranchisement

Community Trauma

Community Violence

**Community Determinants of Domestic Violence**

**Place**
- Harmful media and ways of promoting products
- Housing Insecurity

**Equitable Opportunity**
- Lack of living wages and local wealth

**People**
- Harmful norms and culture
- Low participation and willingness to act for the common good
- Weak social networks and trust

**Safe Relationships**
**Reduced DV**

**Exposures & Behaviors**

- Fewer exposures to multi-generational or community violence
- Strong social and emotional support and connections, especially in times of need
- Presence of active role models for safe and healthy relationships
- Emotional regulation and nonviolent social skills
- Adherence to norms of non-violence
- Awareness of strong community sanctions against DV
- Desire for equity and safety in relationships

**Structural Drivers**

Equitable Distribution of Power and Resources

Structural Empowerment & Enfranchisement

Community Healing

Community Safety

**Community Determinants of Safe Relationships**

**Place**
- Healthy media and ways of promoting products
- Safe, stable and affordable housing

**Equitable Opportunity**
- Access to living wages and local wealth

**People**
- Healthy norms and culture
- Participation and willingness to act for the common good
- Strong social networks and trust

**Table A: Community Determinants (THRIVE Factors) Associated with DV and Safe Relationships**

This table summarizes how six of the THRIVE factors and two overarching community factors apply to DV and to safe relationships.

| THRIVE Factor | THRIVE Factor Definition | How the THRIVE Factor Applies to DV and Safe Relationships |
|---|---|---|
| *Socio-cultural Environment (People Cluster)* | | |
| **Norms & Culture** | Broadly accepted behaviors to which people generally conform that promote health, wellness and safety among all community residents; discourage behaviors that inflict emotional or physical distress on others; and reward behaviors that positively affect others. | Harmful norms such as **norms that support gender inequities in relationships, norms supportive of violence** and **norms of non-intervention in family matters** reinforce power disparities within relationships condone the use of violence to solve problems, and discourage community intervention. Conversely, healthy norms and culture such as **norms that support healthy and equitable relationships, norms supportive of non-violence, and norms that support engagement in family matters** can support safe relationships. |
| **Social Networks & Trust** | Trusting relationships among community members built upon a shared history, mutual obligations, and opportunities to exchange information and that foster new connections. | Weak social networks result in **distrust** and increased **social isolation** within communities, a known risk factor for DV whereas **social cohesion** improves trust and solidarity between community members and fosters healthy community relations. |
| **Participation & Willingness to Act for the Common Good** | The capacity, desire and ability to participate, communicate and work to improve the community; meaningful participation by local/indigenous leadership; and involvement in the community through community and social organizations and participation in the political process. | **Weak community sanctions**, i.e., the lack of legal sanctions and moral or social pressure from the broader community to intervene to address and prevent DV, reflect low community capacity to address and prevent DV as a community issue. This low participation and willingness to act enables perpetrators to use violence with relatively little fear of repercussions while discouraging survivors to seek support. **Strong community sanctions against DV** reflect community participation and willingness to act to address DV as a community issue, which deters perpetration of DV while also fostering support for survivors. |
| *Physical/Built Environment (Place Cluster)* | | |
| **What's Sold & How it's Promoted** | The availability and promotion of safe, healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate products and services. | **High alcohol outlet density and availability** is correlated with higher rates of DV, while **low alcohol outlet density** is associated with reduced rates. **Media and marketing practices that reinforce harmful norms and culture** are associated with increased sexual aggression and inequitable gender norms in intimate relationships. Conversely, **media and marketing practices that support healthy norms and culture** promote and reinforce safe behaviors in relationships. |
| **Housing** | High quality, safe and affordable housing that is accessible for residents with mixed income levels. | **Housing insecurity**, including difficulty paying rent or bills, frequent moves, and overcrowded living conditions, is closely linked to increased risk of DV. Access to **safe, stable and affordable housing** with supportive design increases family stability and health, and improves social networks and trust, thus reducing the risk for DV. |
| *Economic/Educational Environment (Equitable Opportunity Cluster)* | | |
| **Living Wages & Local Wealth** | The local ownership of assets; accessible local employment that pays living wages and salaries; and access to investment opportunities. | **Family and community economic insecurity** often plagues entire communities with instability and concentrated disadvantage making it difficult for many to provide necessary resources to their families. Conversely, **family and community economic security** increases the ability to securely meet basic needs. |
| *Overarching Community Factors* | | |
| **Community Violence** | Intentional acts of interpersonal violence committed in public areas by individuals who are not intimately related to the victim, characterized by its shared widespread impact and cyclical nature within the community. | Exposure to **community violence** is associated with an increased risk for DV. High rates of community violence negatively impact social networks, economic and housing security, and other determinants that increase risk of further DV. Conversely, **community safety** is protective and supportive of resilience factors such as strong social networks, economic security, stable housing, etc. |
| **Community Trauma** | The cumulative and synergistic impact of regular incidents of interpersonal, historical, and intergenerational violence and the continual exposure to structural and community violence. | **Community trauma** negatively alters community environments and reinforces systems and cycles of disenfranchisement, inequity, and multiple forms of violence. **Community healing** can reduce the risk for multiple forms of violence and strengthen multiple factors that support safe relationships. |