



Center for Social Development

GEORGE WARREN BROWN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Washington University in St. Louis



Policy Recommendations to Stop Family Violence

Shanti Kulkarni (presenter)

Co-authors: Rick Barth and Jill Messing

Social Innovation for America's Renewal: Ideas, Evidence, Action

September 9, 2016



FAMILY VIOLENCE



- Family Violence is pervasive
- Occurs across lifespan, primarily within partner and parent-child relationships
- Encompasses wide range of trauma, violence, and abuse
- Exacts significant economic, health, and human potential costs
- Vulnerability increased by social inequalities, marginalization, and limited resources
 - Partner violence disproportionately impacts women



OUR PROCESS



- SSWR Violence Against Women and Children SIG—18 policy briefs
- Co-leads worked to extract overarching and unifying themes/recommendations
- Explored tensions and synergies between VAWC and child maltreatment approaches to identify 3 policy priorities



POLICY PRIORITIES



Family Violence Prevention/ Intervention Strategies should:

- Address established and emerging risk/protective factors
- Test intervention, implementation, and dissemination effectiveness
- Target multiple levels of the social-ecology



#1 Re-prioritize VAWA funding



- Currently 85% of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding allocated to criminal justice efforts
- 50% VAWA funds should be redirected towards social and preventive services
- Survivor-centered and empowerment approaches can address individual and structural risk/protective factors to reduce violence



#2 Increase Safe Family Interventions



- Proliferate successful child welfare/ domestic violence approaches that support victim and child safety and maintain accountability for violence perpetrators
- Embed evidence-based interventions within organizational, community, and system reform
- Fund implementation research that drives innovation at the intersection of child maltreatment and domestic violence



#3 Use Data Across Systems to Protect Children



- Link birth, child welfare, and criminal justice data to identify young children at high risk for severe or fatal abuse based on parents' history of substantiated abuse, termination of parental rights, and criminal abuse
- Create financial incentives to encourage states to link birth records to other health, education, and human services information to optimize preventive interventions