

# Policy Opportunities to Prevent Child Abuse, Youth Violence, and Domestic and Sexual Violence

February 2011

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# Strategies to Prevent IPV, Child Abuse, Youth Violence

1. Early supports for young and vulnerable families
2. Services for Children Exposed to Violence
3. Engaging Men and Boys/Changing social norms about use and acceptability of violence
4. More recently, added focus on:
  - Promoting healthy relationships for youth 11-14
  - Recognizing and reducing reproductive coercion

# Policy Opportunities: Helping Mothers and Children Exposed to Violence

- **Home visitation:** \$1.5 billion included in ACA
- **CAPTA/FVPSA:** new programs and funding to address overlap of domestic violence and child abuse
- **Children Exposed to Violence,** new grant program out of Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women

# Home Visitation: Helping Vulnerable Pregnant Women and New Moms

- Data go back 30 years, began as effort to help reduce disparities and even playing field for kids by focusing on support for pregnant women and new moms who were young or poor or single, and often all of those
- Have been able to demonstrate effectiveness at reducing poor health outcomes and reducing child abuse over decades
- But...Effectiveness reduced or eliminated when DV is present

# ACA: Included Funding for Home Visitation and Specific DV provisions

**Provides \$1.5 billion over 5 years** for maternal, infant and early childhood home visitation programs. Grantees are required to use evidence-based program models and establish quantifiable, measurable 3 and 5 year benchmarks that demonstrate: improvements in:

- maternal and child health,
- childhood injury prevention,
- school readiness and achievement,
- crime or domestic violence,
- family economic self-sufficiency, and
- coordination with community resources and supports.

# Importance of Addressing Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence

1. Childhood exposure to IPV is common
  - Over 15 million children exposed each year
  - Twice as common as asthma
2. IPV exposure is bad for kids' health
  - Poor physical & mental health, and child abuse
3. Rates disproportionately high in homes with children <5 years old
4. Kids with exposure to IPV face increased risk of becoming victim or perpetrator of abuse

# CAPTA/FVPSA

## New DV provisions included in CAPTA law:

- Requires child welfare agencies to improve identification and help for mothers experiencing DV with kids in CPS
- Allows funds to go to partnerships between DV and Child Welfare programs (e.g. “Greenbook”)
- Allows funds to go to DV services

## New Children’s Services program in FVPSA:

- Creates new program and increased funding to help domestic violence and community-based orgs. Serve children exposed to violence and their mothers

## OVW: Children Exposed to Violence

- New Program included in the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization of 2005
- Authorized grants to assist children exposed to DV, SA and Stalking
- Applications Due March 3
- Eligible entities: DV/SA programs, CBOs, Health, Head Start; units of govt. may apply if partner with above groups
- Grants range from \$200,000-\$400,000
  - Provide training, coordination and advocacy
  - Provide direct services to children including counseling, and must also support caretaker



# Teen Dating Violence

## Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships

- New CDC Initiative - FOIA should be public next few weeks
- Targets 11 to 14-year-olds in high-risk, urban communities
- Builds on evidence-based approaches
- Employs a comprehensive approach

# ACA Implementation

## Sec. 2713 of the ACA:

**SEC. 2713. COVERAGE OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.** “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall, at a minimum provide coverage for and shall not impose any cost sharing requirements for—

- (1) evidence-based items or services that have in effect a rating of ‘A’ or ‘B’ in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force;
- (2) immunizations that have in effect a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to the individual involved; and
- (3) with respect to infants, children, and adolescents, evidence-informed preventive care and screenings provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration.
- (4) with respect to women, such additional preventive care and screenings not described in paragraph (1) as provided for in comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration for purposes of this paragraph.**

# ACA Implementation

- Advocating for IPV assessment and counseling be included in the comprehensive guidelines
- Engage with IOM's Committee on Preventive Services for Women
  - Presentation 11/10
  - Submitted comments (FVVPF, ACOG, AWHONN, ASTHO, and others)
  - FVVPF is circulating a sign-on letter – deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>

# Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Health Title

- Authorized in VAWA 2005; Expires in Sept. 2011
- Three programs:
  - Grants to Foster Public Health Response (Project Connect)
  - Training and Education of Health Professionals
  - Research on Effective Interventions
- Project Connect is funding 8 states and 2 tribes with focus on home visitation, adolescent health, and family planning

# Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Health Title

- Stand-alone bill will be introduced in April –  
“Violence Against Women Health Initiative of 2011”
- Need for engagement to continue funding and  
VAWA reauthorization of Health Title
- FVPF is circulating letter of support for bill

# Thank you!

For additional information, please contact:

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