

PARENTING IN THE CONTEXT OF DV

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Overview

- **What we will cover this session:**
 - Parenting and DV
 - Emerging approaches
 - Remaining questions
 - Ideas for engaging new fathers

Video

Digital stories

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu>

M'Liss' story

Chuck's story

Discussion of each story



PARENTING AND DV



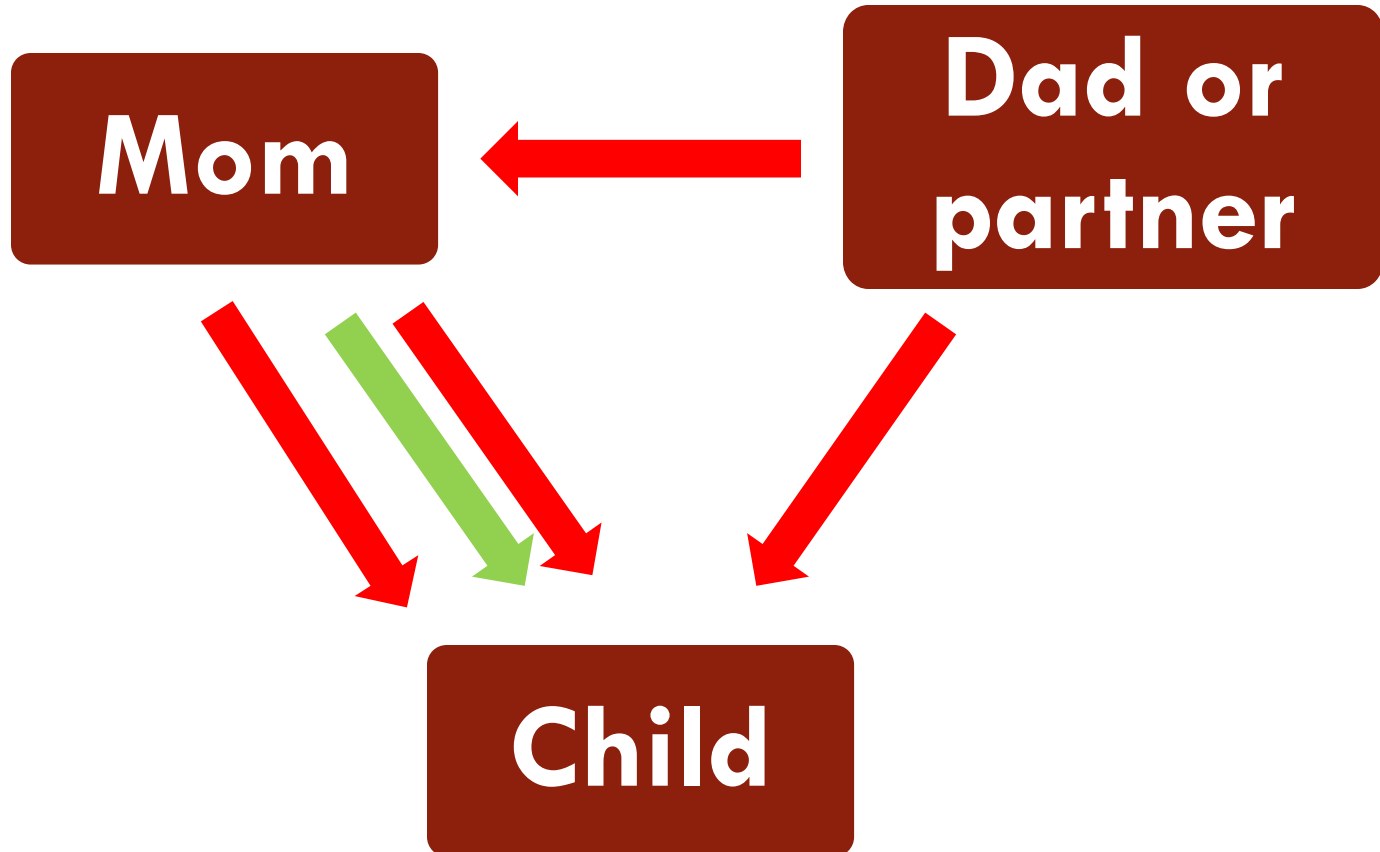
Discussion

- **How does DV affect parenting?**
 - By mother?
 - By father?

Why is parenting an issue?

- **Battered **mothers** need parenting services**
 - ▣ Using power and control
 - ▣ Making up for absent father
 - ▣ Using children as allies or confidants
 - ▣ Children's similarity to father
 - ▣ Developing new rituals and support networks
 - ▣ Some are abusive
- **Gender-bias about **fathers** and parenting**
 - ▣ Men as irresponsible, disconnected
 - ▣ Mothers as primary caregivers
 - ▣ Few services for fathers/boyfriends
- **Courts often mandate a relationship**

Parenting impacts



Missing evidence

- **246 divorce cases with DV police incident or court order**
 - 117 (47.6%) no evidence in case
 - 71 (28.9%) only unsubstantiated allegations in case despite evidence
 - 58 (23.6%) had substantiated evidence in case record

(Kernic et al., 2005)

Fathers are given access

- **Father access restricted:**
 - 71.2% in DV cases
 - 17.5% no DV
- **Judges assigned supervised visitation in:**
 - 25.6% of substantiated domestic violence
 - 4.6% no evidence or allegation of domestic violence

(Kernic et al; 2005)

Evaluations of parenting

- **Judges, custody evaluators and others:**
 - underestimate the danger of men to their children
 - undervalue the safety strategies used by mothers



SUPPORTING ABUSED MOTHERS



Abused mothers

- **More stressed than other mothers**
- **Maternal stress and child problems:**
 - Some find relationship linkage to problems (Levandosky, Graham-Bermann)
 - Other don't find one (McClosky et al.)
- **Mothering behavior:**
 - No different in some studies
 - Current but not past victims show poorer parenting (Kelleher et al.)
- **Perpetrators are seen as interfering in ability to parent**

Programs for abused mothers

- **Most often concurrent with children's programs**
- **Assistance in rebuilding their parenting**
- **Few evaluations**

Abusive mothers

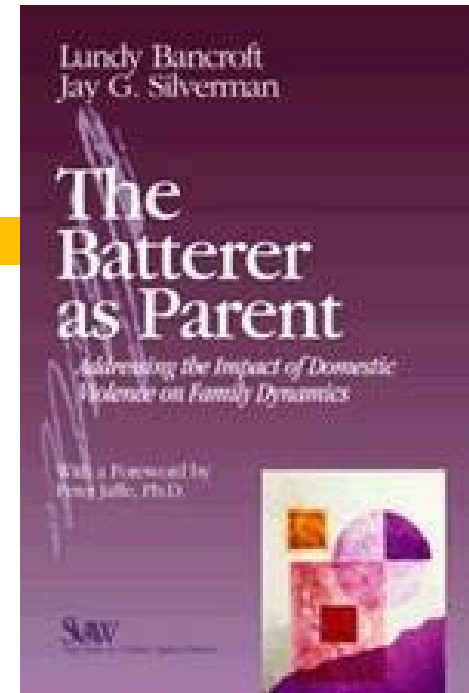
- **Some are more likely to be abusive**
 - Walker showed that move to safety lowered mother's abusive behaviors
- **Some will continue to abuse their children**

**WHEN DO WE
ENGAGE MEN WHO
BATTER IN
PARENTING?**

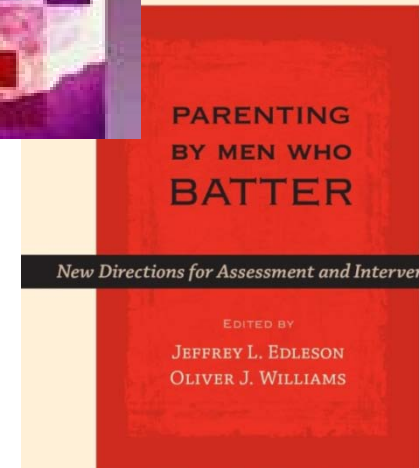


Books

The Batterer as Parent (2nd ed). *By Lundy Bancroft and Jay G. Silverman (2012). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.*



Parenting by men who batter women: New directions in assessment and intervention. *Edited by Jeffrey L. Edleson & Oliver J. Williams (2007). NY: Oxford University Press.*



SOMETHING MY FATHER WOULD DO

**Futures Without Violence
San Francisco, CA, USA**

formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund

futureswithoutviolence.org

Discussion

- **What changes did these men talk about in their lives around fathering?**
- **Did you believe them?**
 - If so, why?
 - If not, why not?

How do MwB parent?

- **Research shows:**
 - Behavior negatively affects children
 - Continue threats and violence after separation
 - Limited evidence they are more controlling and abusive as parents
 - Perpetrators often involve children in violent events

(see Bancroft & Silverman, 2012, for summary)

Voices of Mothers

- **Safety**
 - Initiating contacts and visitations
 - Parameters of Contact
 - Accountability
 - Structure
 - Enforceability
 - Terminating contacts and visitations
- **Impact of Time**

Tubbs & Williams (2007)

Children and fathers

- Children are confused and ambivalent about their feelings toward their fathers
- Some children express relief that their father is out of the house
- Some children express sadness/longing that their father is gone
- Some children ally themselves with their father and see him as a victim, especially if they have seen him arrested.
- Children idealize their fathers, especially if they have little contact with them.

(Groves, et al, 2007)

Qs on father intervention

- What is the most appropriate forum in which to encourage such contact?
- Will court officers substitute fathering programs for batterer intervention programs and, if so, what are the consequences in terms of safety?
- What are the goals of our work with these violent men who are fathers?

(Edleson & Williams, 2007)

Using the courts

- **Court** (“Paper abuse”, Miller & Smolter, 2011)
 - Multiple filings
 - Requests for Documentation
 - Change of Providers
- **CPS**
 - Allegations of negligence and/or abuse
- **Visitation Provider** (Parker et al., 2008)
 - Allegations of contempt or non-compliance
 - Proof of cancellations
 - Scheduling challenges

Court decision options

- **Contact choices**
 - No contact
 - Supervised visitation (professional vs. kinship)
 - Supervised exchange (professional vs. kinship)
 - Exchanges in public places
 - Unsupervised visitation
 - Liberal and regular visitation
 - Shared custody/parenting
- **Not automatic! Behavior based, not time based.**
- **Not rushed to least restrictive**
- **Regular judicial reviews in any option**

Jaffe & Crooks (2007)

Visitation - access

- Some are too dangerous to receive visitation
- Use of professional supervised visitation centers
- Visitation centers require special precautions and training for domestic violence cases
- “Therapeutic visitation”
- *Safe Havens*, US federal initiative

Danger Zone:

Supervised visitation issues

- Battered mother's views of supervised visitation centers
- Continued abuse during visitation
- Evolution of rules
- Importance of trained monitors
- Need for coordinated community responses that include visitation centers

Parker et al. (2008)

Services decision options

- **Sometimes it is clinically useful to the child to involve fathers, must ask:**
 - Is the father complying with court orders and mandated treatment?
 - What do family members want?
 - What is the level of violence and safety?
 - How involved are other systems?
 - What protections/risks in cultural environments?
 - What is the worker's assessment?

Groves et al. (2007)

Online resources

**Parenting in the Context
of Domestic Violence by Edleson et al.
Judicial Council of California's Center for
Families, Children and the Courts
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc>**

**Three-part online learning module by Scott
& Root at:
<http://www.globalvp.umn.edu>**



HOW DO WE ENGAGE MEN WHO BATTER AS FATHERS?



Father content in Men's Programs

- Mothers want more programming about fathering in programs
- Programs ought to pay more systematic attention to the issue of fatherhood
- More tools need to be developed
- Men need to understand the effects of violence on their children and how to reverse them
- Fathers need training to be nonviolent parents

Davis & Arean (2007), Peled (2000)

Intervention: Father program content

- **Specialized content**
 - Direct and indirect impact on children
 - Enhance empathy with children and mother
 - Men's continued use of abuse
 - Parenting without violence
 - Co- or parallel parenting
 - Father's future role in child's life

Father programs

- **Modules as part of men's programs**
 - Evolve's 6-session module
 - Non-Violence Alliance 4-session module
 - Center for Human Development's Program for Empowered Parenting 4-session module

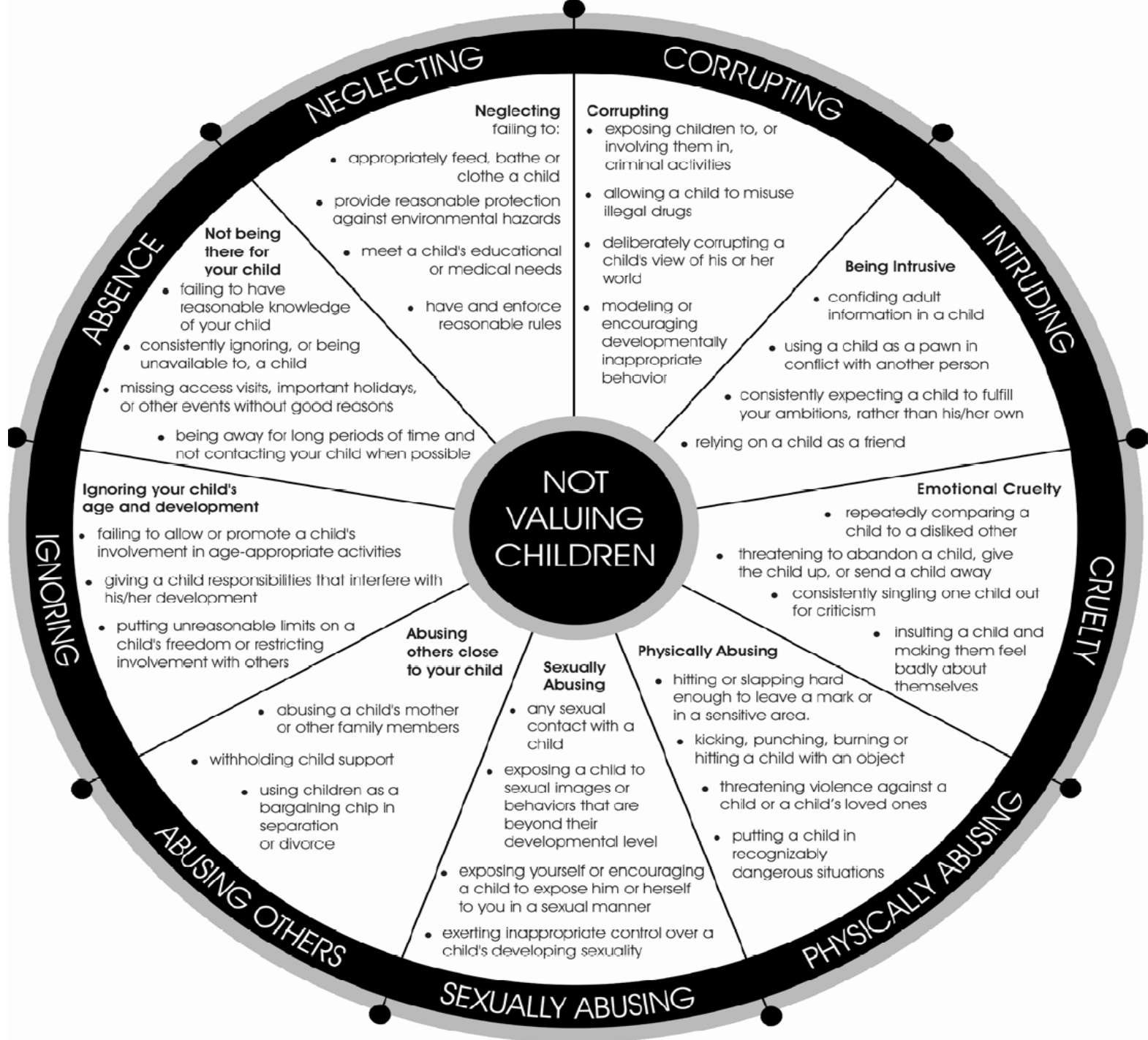
Father Programs (2)

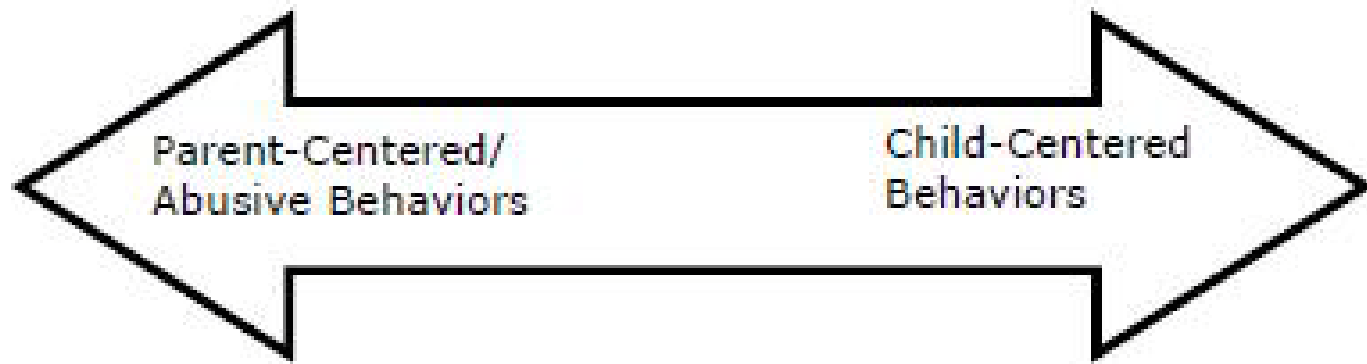
- **After-care parenting groups**
 - Caring Dad's Program (Scott, Crooks et al.; <http://www.caringdadsprogram.com>)
 - Addressing Fatherhood with MwB (Advocates for Family Peace, MN; stopdomesticabuse.org)
 - Wilder's 12-week skills group (Mathews, 1995)
 - Crager & Anderson 12-session (communication, online on MINCAVA)
 - Fantastic Fathers (Schwartz, online on MINCAVA)

Caring Dads

- **Goals:**
 - Develop trust and motivation
 - Increase focus on child-centered fathering
 - Increase responsibility of abuse and neglect
 - Consolidate learning, trust, plan for future
- **Small groups, 17 sessions**
- **Most often after batterer intervention**

Scott et al (2006)





Denigrates, insults child

Expresses conditional love and ambivalent feelings towards child

Emotionally or physically rejects child's attention

Uses cruel & harsh control methods

Shows no sensitivity to child's needs

Intentionally seeks out ways to frighten, threaten or provoke child

Responds unpredictably with emotional discharge through coercion, threats, or bribes

Is sexually or physically coercive or intrusive

Provides a variety of sensory stimulation & positive emotional expression

Engages in highly competent, child-centered interactions

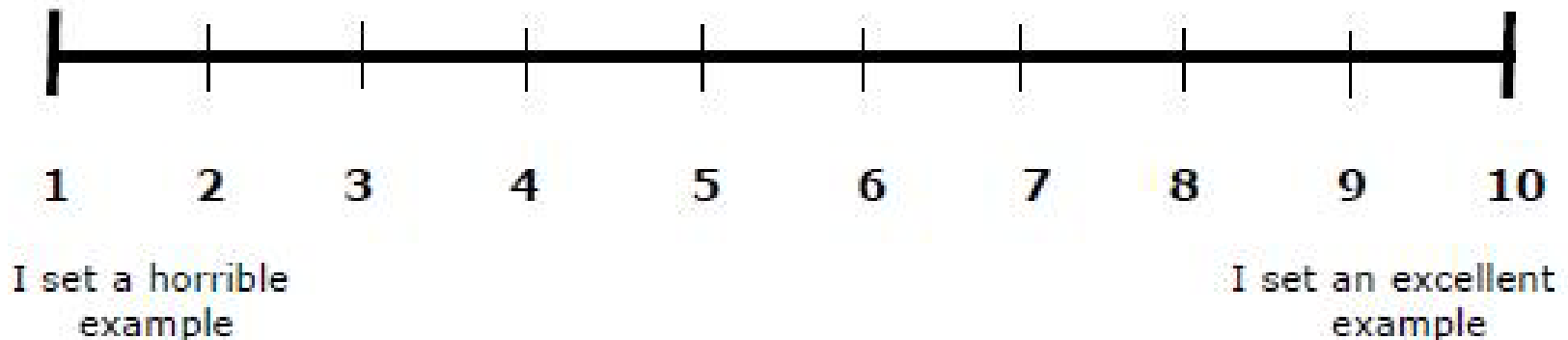
Communicates to child about normal sexuality & healthy relationships

Makes rules for safety and health

Occasionally scolds, criticizes, interrupts child activity

What Kind of Example Do I Set?

Use the following scale to rate yourself. What kind of example do you set for your child or children with the way that you treat their mother? What kind of things are they learning about relationships?



In conclusion

- **Parenting by men who batter is important**
- **There are many opportunities**
- **But there are many concerns**
 - Some fathers are too dangerous for contact
 - Do we encourage engagement? Where?
 - How do we ensure safety?
- **In every area there is a dire need for research:**
 - basic behavioral knowledge
 - assessment
 - decision making
 - intervention



Promise of Prevention

Opportunities for prevention with new fathers

- **Ultra-sound**
- **Prenatal support**
- **Prenatal education programs (e.g. birthing)**
- **Delivery involvement**
- **Immediate post-delivery period and well-child check-ups**
- **Home visiting programs**
- **Parenting preparation programs**
- **Social marketing to men, reaching them in non-traditional settings**

New mobilizing men project



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Mobilizing Men for Violence Prevention (MMVP)

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Welcome!

MMVP is a research collaboration between the social work programs at the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota and the University of Washington, Tacoma. Founded in 2008, the mission of the Global Research Program on Mobilizing Men for Violence Prevention (MMVP) is to develop effective strategies with men to create respectful relationships and prevent childhood exposure to family violence. This project will examine early prevention strategies to engage new fathers and non-violent men in preventing violence against women and children.

We invite you to read about our [current projects](#) and to look at papers and documents resulting from this project.

MMVP is a member of [MenEngage](#)

MMVP is a member of [EngagingMen.Net](#) , a Gender Justice Network

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Advisory Council

News

Online resources

MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu> (search “child exposure”)

Mobilizing Men for Violence Prevention

<http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/social-work/mobilizing-men-violence-prevention-mmvp>

Futures Without Violence

<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org>

Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System

<http://www.lfcc.on.ca>



Questions

and thank you!