

At-A-Glance: Gender Based Violence and SHIP System-Wide Recommendations

Collaboration is Necessary in Gender-Based Violence Prevention: Embracing a Health in All Policies Approach

Gender-based violence (GBV) cannot be traced back to a singular root cause. It is perpetuated by a system of harmful gender norms, inequitable policies, unstable and unsafe communities, limited available education, lack of resources, and more (CDC, 2020). It is important to understand that gender and other forms of oppression occur simultaneously with each other and create a unique experience of violence (Imkaan, 2019). GBV cannot be successfully prevented if all sectors are not acknowledging their role in these systems and conditions and working toward comprehensive solutions. The effectiveness of policies striving to achieve equity as well as the efficiency of interventions suffers in the absence of gender considerations (PAHO, 2009). A Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach, as recommended by the Delaware State Health Improvement Plan, could have a shared impact on both GBV prevention and broader population health goals in Delaware (Delaware SHIP Report, 2020). This approach is based on collaboration and decision-making across policy areas in order to improve the health of everyone.

Gender-based violence refers to damaging acts directed at an individual based on their gender identity or their biological sex. It is rooted in gender inequality, the dynamics of power and control, and harmful gender norms. Gender-based violence includes sexual, physical, psychological and economic harm inflicted in public or in private. Threats of violence, coercion and manipulation are also manifestations of gender-based violence. Source: Center for the Study and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, University of Delaware

Strategies

The Health in All Policies approach focuses on collaboration to incorporate health into decision-making across policy areas and sectors to improve the health of all people (Rudolph et al., 2013). Additionally, the approach encourages that the decision-makers are fully educated on the possible outcomes of the policies being implemented (Delaware SHIP Report, 2020). The five key elements to a HiAP approach are promotion of health, equity, and sustainability; support for intersectional collaboration; benefit for multiple partners; engagement of stakeholders; and, creation of structural or procedural change (Rudolph et al., 2013). SHIP stakeholders should not only implement the HiAP approach, but the approach should fully recognize GBV as a public health issue and assess how policies may help prevent or perpetuate GBV.



Call to action

Stakeholders can incorporate a HiAP approach by fostering partnerships with local groups that have expertise in applying an intersectional lens and GBV prevention approach, such as the Center for the Study and Prevention of Gender-based Violence, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Delaware Alliance Against Sexual Violence. This would create a mutually beneficial partnership and ensure that GBV prevention is integrated into health considerations for policy decision-makers. Additionally, agencies are encouraged to work with members of the community to ensure robust stakeholder engagement so that the approach is responsive to community needs (Rudolph et al., 2013). Stakeholders can connect with community-led policy change campaigns that address issues related to intersectionality, gender and health such as Black Mothers in Power.



Although HiAP did not surface as a discrete concept until the World Health Organization (WHO) published the Adelaide Statement on Health in All Policies in 2010, cross-sectoral collaboration to improve health dates back to the 19th century when public health pioneers linked living conditions to disease.

Source: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. The State of Health in All Policies. Arlington, VA: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. 2018.

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