

Violence Prevention Programs

Table of Contents

Violence Prevention Programs	1
Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant – Sex Offense Prevention (Appendix A)	2
Public Health Response to Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Exploitation (Appendix B)	3
Rape Prevention and Education Program (Appendix C)	5
Sexual Violence Prevention Training and Prevention Programming (Appendix D).....	6
Violent Death Reporting System (Appendix E)	7

Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant – Sex Offense Prevention (Appendix A)

Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant helps support unfunded or underfunded public health needs, including prevention services and outbreak control (CDC).

The sex offense prevention is a federally mandated set aside which increases direct support to sexual assault survivors and advances sexual violence prevention activities.

Iowa is actively working to reduce adolescent sexual violence using the public health approach to violence prevention.

Current Activities:

1. Policy and best practice updates developed for all victim services agencies on working with minors
2. Increase data collection methods and tools to better understand the impact of sexual violence prevention among adolescents
3. Evidence-based training which increases knowledge and skills of sexual violence prevention specialists and youth
4. Peer supported youth groups on health, relationships, and sexual violence prevention
 - a. Youth have access to best practice information for sexual violence prevention programming
5. Collaborate on best practice standards for sexual assault related medical response
 - a. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners standards and best practice multi-disciplinary collaborations
6. Direct support to survivors of sexual violence
 - a. Emergency assistance

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Public Health Response to Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Exploitation (Appendix B)

Public Health Response to Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Exploitation

We provide specialized training and technical assistance to public health programs, medical providers, victim service allied professionals, and community service providers to advance policy, protocol, and practice in working with survivors of violence.

These activities are funded by the federal STOP VAWA grant to help service providers gain the knowledge and skills to appropriately identify, support, and refer adults exposed to intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and exploitation.

Additional services provided under the Public Health Response to Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence include public health leadership within

1. coordinated community response teams,
2. state and national advisory committees,
3. collaborative health initiatives,
4. data collection and dissemination,
5. resource development,
6. cross-sector partnerships,
7. conferences and training, and
8. referrals

We accomplish program goals by working to improve policies, protocols, and practices of health care systems to better serve those exposed intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and exploitation.

These efforts include providing technical assistance and training to providers on topics such as the impact of violence on health, best practices for supporting survivors, best practice guidelines and policies, and shared risk and protective factors.

Additionally, the program provides administrative support for the Iowa Domestic Abuse Death Review Team. This way recommendations for the prevention of future deaths can be made to government agencies and communities.

915.46 – Sexual Assault Qualified Medical Providers Resources

Domestic Abuse Death Review Team Resources

- [IPV Health Partners](#)
- [Futures Without Violence](#)
- [Workplaces Respond to Domestic & Sexual Violence: A National Resource Center](#)
- [The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury](#)
- International Association of Forensic Nurses
- The National Network to End Domestic Violence
- [Safety Net Project - Technology Safety & Privacy: A Toolkit for Survivors](#)
- [Financial Safety Planning](#)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center

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Rape Prevention and Education Program (Appendix C)

Rape Prevention and Education Program

Funded through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control Injury Center, the Rape Prevention and Education Program (RPE) prevents sexual violence before it happens by working collaboratively with national, state, and local partners to plan, implement, and evaluate programs, practices, and policies through primary prevention.

Primary prevention—stopping [sexual violence](#) before it begins—is the focus of the RPE program. Program activities are guided by a set of principles that include:

- Preventing the first-time occurrence of sexual violence.
- Reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors linked to sexual violence perpetration and victimization.
- Using the best available evidence when planning, implementing, and evaluating prevention programs.
- Implementing comprehensive strategies that address individual, relationship, community, and societal factors.
- Analyzing state and community data, such as health and safety data, to inform program decisions and monitor trends.
- Evaluating prevention efforts and using the results to improve future program plans.

Resources

- 2024 – 2029 Iowa State Action Plan
- [2021 Statewide Survey of Safety & Violence](#)
- [2017 Primary Prevention Action Report for Iowa Schools and Communities](#)
 - 2027 Update Underdevelopment
- County-Level Environmental Scan
- [Sexual Violence Prevention Resource for Action](#)
- [VetoViolence](#)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center
- Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (IowaCASA)
- Injury Prevention Research Center
- Monsoon United Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity – [Youth Program: Prevention and Intervention](#)
- NISAA African Families Services – [Youth Program](#)
- University of Northern Iowa Patricia A Tomson Center for Violence Prevention

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Sexual Violence Prevention Training and Prevention Programming (Appendix D)

Sexual Violence Prevention Training and Prevention Programming

We partner with the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault to ensure Iowa sexual assault response team members have access to sexual violence response training.

Youth-led organizations receive training and technical assistance to stop sexual violence before it happens.

Additionally, there is a technical work group to grow capacity for implementing sexual violence prevention programming across Iowa.

Subrecipients

- CHIC Behavioral
- Hip Hope
- Safe Place
- Iowa Safe Schools

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Violent Death Reporting System (Appendix E)

The Iowa Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS) is administered through the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) and funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

Data that is collected is entered into a federal database, the Secure Access Management System (SAMS). IAVDRS desires that the data collected and abstracted by the program be available to community partners to inform the development of strategies to prevent deaths resulting from violence. This document describes the type of data that can be requested and the process for making that request. Data sources that are used for the IAVDRS are considered confidential.

These include death certificates (Iowa HHS Bureau of Health Statistics), medical examiner reports (Iowa HHS Office of the State Medical Examiner), and law enforcement investigative reports (obtained from state and local law enforcement agencies).

Process for Requesting Data From the Iowa Violent Death Reporting System

Iowa HHS has a policy that governs release of confidential public health information. It is posted on the Iowa HHS internet at this link. Researchers who want access to the data need to follow the instructions for research requests found [here](#). Processing these requests may take six months or more. For a current estimate of processing time, contact RERC@hhs.iowa.gov. Summary data, which is statistical or aggregated, can generally be released to the public. At times, small count sizes may need to be suppressed (typically represented by an * in a table or chart) or approval to release may be needed from the Iowa HHS Data Management Program or the State Medical Director. When possible and appropriate, the IAVDRS can combine several years of data in order to prevent the need to suppress numbers. Challenges arise when the requestor desires information about county-level or specific population numbers (such as racial/ethnic breakdown).

Someone who wishes to request aggregated data from the program can initiate the process by emailing the Program Director and making the request. She will determine how long it will take to fulfill the request or follow-up with clarifying questions. The Program Director will then contact the Data Analyst or Program Epidemiologist to obtain the information and once received and approved, forward it to the requestor. Depending on the detail of the request, most can be fulfilled within a two-week period. If the requestor desires access to data that cannot be made publicly available according to the Iowa HHS Policy for Disclosure of Confidential Public Health Information, Records, or Data, a formal data request would need to be made.

For more information on this process and to apply, contact RERC@hhs.iowa.gov

- Iowa Violent Death Reporting System
 - [Suicide in Iowa 2022](#)
 - [Suicide in Iowa 2021](#)
 - [Suicide in Iowa 2020](#)
 - [Homicides in Iowa 2016-2020](#)

Committees

IAVDRS Advisory Committee

The Iowa HHS Iowa Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS) Advisory Committee provides guidance on programmatic efforts, data analysis, and strategic planning. The committee serves as a platform for information dissemination and helps engage new organizations and resources to support IAVDRS initiatives. Additionally, members offer technical expertise, contribute to strategic planning, and provide support for the overall success of IAVDRS.

Membership: Individuals interested in joining the Advisory Committee should contact Derma L. Rivera.

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