

Supporting and Creating Strong Women

Danielle Chee, Student Nurse

INTRODUCTION

One of the global sustainable developmental goals is gender equality. One of the main focus points of the goals is aimed at protecting women from violence.

In 1994 the United States passed the Violence Against Women Act to protect women and allow them to feel safe in their life. Through the years the government has established programs to support the cause (Moore & Gover, 2021).

The Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) program was introduced in 2002 (Estefan et al. 2019). The program has since been modified to adapt to the populations needs. Programs such as DELTA PREP, DELTA FOCUS, and DELTA Impact have been implemented.

"The purpose of DELTA Impact is to decrease risk factors in communities that may lead to intimate partner violence and to increase protective factors that prevent it" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2021).

SIGNIFICANCE

"In the U.S., over 1 in 3 women experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime" (CDC, 2021).

"About 18.3% of women experienced contact sexual violence, 30.6% experienced physical violence (21.4% experience severe physical violence), and 10.4% experienced stalking during their lifetime" (CDC, 2021).

"From 2019 to 2020, the percentage of intimate partner violent victimizations for which victims received victim service provider assistance decreased by more than half, from 26% to 12%" (Morgan & Thompson, 2022).

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Domestic violence cases rose from 0.013% in 2019 to 0.015% in 2020 (Morgan & Thompson, 2022).

POSITION STATEMENT

With an increase in the number of domestic violence and intimate partner violence cases, funding for and awareness about DELTA programs need to be implemented as well as other support systems.

SUPPORT FOR POSITION

DELTA Impact provides services and resources for prevention of domestic violence and intimate partner violence as well as resources for those that are victims.

DELTA Impact aims at providing communities with primary prevention by providing communities with teaching children and adolescents what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior in relationships (CDC, 2021).

As stated by the CDC DELTA Impact focuses on creating a welcoming environment that allows for, "A social and physical environment that improves safety, social connections, and awareness of IPV in schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods that support the prevention of violence against intimate partners" (CDC, 2021).

In hopes of preventing intimate partner violence DELTA Impact, "seeks to reduce predictors of IPV associated with financial stress by improving financial stability and autonomy and by reducing gender inequity in education, employment, and income" (CDC, 2021).

As stated by Estefan et al "Our investigation found that all DELTA FOCUS recipients reported that their work has influenced IPV prevention dialogue or practice in multiple ways. The individual activities were often implemented at the community and state levels, but the work was disseminated beyond these boundaries, contributing to a wider conversation on IPV prevention" (Estefan et al., 2019).

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE



(Youngoldman, 2021)

Abuse is said to be a learned behavior, with early education and preventative measures they can aid in ending the cycle of abuse (National Domestic Violence Hotline).

Providing women with information about DELTA's mission at health clinics or doctor appointments can bring awareness to the program and aid in keeping them safe from violence.

Funding can be used to increase or enhance education programs in schools on domestic violence and intimate partner violence.

Widespread advertisement and networking about DELTA programs can increase awareness of the program's mission and what resources they have to offer.

Having a strong community-based program and resources can allow for more accessible assistance that is not a drastic adjustment if relocation is needed.

Continuous evaluation of the DELTA program can aid in identifying adjustments or additions that need to be made to aid the community further.

DELTA found that by having a prevention-focused evidence base they were able to make effective changes to the program. Sharing feedback from clients and analyzing the different aspects the program has to offer is crucial to allow those changes to occur (Estefan et al., 2019).

Creating support groups that incorporate DELTA for those that are victims of domestic and intimate partner violence can be beneficial.

CONCLUSION

The rising cases of domestic violence and intimate partner violence coupled with decreasing use of domestic violence resources and intimate partner violence resources have resulted in the need for an increase in community outreach programs for victims.

DELTA programs have been able to adapt to their communities' and population's needs to make their efforts as beneficial as it can be and to be able to reach a wide range of people.

DELTA has shown to be effective at educating communities on what domestic violence and intimate violence are and providing effective measures as to assist those that are victims of violence.



(Danilovic, 2019)

REFERENCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, September 3). *About DELTA Impact*. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/delta/impact/index.html>
- Danilovic, J. (2019). Happy Couple at Public Park in Autumn. Stock Photo. <https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/happy-couple-at-public-park-in-autumn-gm1181815683-331616067>
- Estefan, L.F., Armstead, T.L., Rivera, M.S., Kearns, M.C., Carter, D., Crowell, J., El-Beshti, R., & Daniels, B. (2019). Enhancing the National Dialogue on the Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 63(1/2), 153-167. <https://doi.org/misericordia.idm.oclc.org/10.1002/ajcp.12318>
- Moore, A. M., & Gover, A. R. (2021). Violence Against Women: Reflecting on 25 Years of the Violence Against Women Act and Directions for the Future. *Violence Against Women*, 21(1), 3-7. <https://doi.org/misericordia.idm.oclc.org/10.1177%2F1077801220949693>
- Morgan, R. E., & Thompson A. (2022). Criminal Victimization, 2020- Supplemental Statistical Tables. Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv20sst.pdf>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline (date), Why People Abuse. <https://www.thehotline.org/identify-abuse/why-do-people-abuse/>
- Youngoldman. (2021). Multi-ethnic Group of Women of Different Ages Posing Against Brown Background Looking at Camera. Stock Photo. <https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/multi-ethnic-group-of-women-of-different-ages-posing-against-brown-background-gm1330569516-413949042>