




**Project Connect: A Coordinated
Public Health Response to
Domestic and Sexual Violence**

Futures Without Violence



Coordinated by Futures' National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence


- Competitive Grant Program, VA Department of Health 1 of 10 grantees selected
- Training & Technical assistance
- Model policies, programs, materials
- Target Areas—Reproductive Health, Adolescent Health and Home Visiting

**VA's 2 targets: Reproductive Health and Home Visiting

Silverman et al, 2006

Long Term Goals of Project Connect

- Improved health and safety for women and kids
- Early identification and prevention in target programs
- Interventions to decrease risk for poor health outcomes and risky health behaviors
- Decrease in coercion and violence



Virginia's Training Plan



- Develop curricula and educational materials/clinical tools for family planning/reproductive health providers and early childhood home visitors
- Held six Train-the-Trainer Events in 2010-2011
- Trained over 1050 family planning nurses and home visitors in 37 workshop sessions across the state since 2011. (All sessions co-facilitated by a provider and an advocate.) 12 more sessions to be held Spring 2012.

Virginia's Policy Work

- Revised family planning health history and visit forms to include questions that assess for domestic violence, sexual violence and reproductive coercion
- Piloting integrated emergency contraception assessment questions into domestic violence shelter intake forms, to be added into state domestic/sexual violence data collection system
- Reproductive coercion questions added to PRAMS
- Domestic/sexual violence training standards for family planning clinic nurses and early childhood home visitors

Virginia's Project Connect Pilot Communities



- Charlottesville/Albemarle and the Northern Neck
- Five pilot home visiting program and reproductive health clinic sites
 - MOA's that formalize policies/procedures for intake/access to health services and cross referrals between advocacy programs and pilot programs/clinics
 - Project Connect training for all staff
 - Intervention implemented with all clients/patients
 - Client Outcomes data collection and evaluation
- On-site Health Services in Shelter



Evaluating Success: Family Planning

- Pre, post and 90-day follow up training surveys
 - 45.6% reported screening almost or all of the time for dv/sv with patients in for a pregnancy test after being training, compared to 22.1% before training
 - 42.5% reporting screening almost or all of the time for reproductive coercion with patients in for a pregnancy test after being trained, compared to 17.2% before
- Client satisfaction surveys conducted at two clinic sites
 - 65.9% of patients reported receiving a safety card
 - 82.2% of patients reported their nurse discussing healthy vs. unhealthy relationships with them.

Evaluating Success: Home Visiting

- Pre, post and 90-day follow up training surveys
 - 74.4% of home visitors reported feeling confident assessing clients for domestic violence after being trained, compared to 51.8% before training
 - 39.7% of home visitors reporting conducting safety planning with clients more frequently after being trained.
- Client satisfaction surveys conducted with clients in a large urban home visiting program
 - 95.2% of clients reported their home visitor had talked with them about how violence impacts their health, 93.5% reported their home visitor had discussed how violence can impact their children's health and their parenting
 - 90.3% reported that their home visitor had discussed the availability of EC with them

The Goals for Year 3...

- Collect and analyze outcomes data to make recommendations for policy and practice
 - Disseminate model policies and practices statewide
 - Strengthen sustainability
 - Promote a "culture of wellness" in shelters
 - Increase safety for and support of those impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence
- Hear and share their stories ...***

Questions?

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