



eNewsletter

June/July 2010

VAWnet's eNewsletter provides updates on new resources available online, and is intended for wide distribution. Subscribe by using the subscription box on our [homepage](#), or [Contact Us](#).

New Special Collections

Preventing and Responding to Domestic & Sexual Violence in Later Life

(July 2010)

This Special Collection brings together selected materials related to preventing and responding to elder abuse, specifically domestic and sexual violence (DV/SV). By focusing specifically on DV/SV in later life, this collection highlights the complexities of older people's DV/SV experiences and emphasizes collaborative and multi-pronged approaches to addressing DV/SV in later life.

http://new.vawnet.org/category/index_pages.php?category_id=1101

Reproductive Justice & Violence Against Women: Understanding the Intersections

(June 2010)

This Special Collection provides resources and an introduction to reproductive justice, focusing particularly on the connections between the elimination of reproductive oppression and domestic and sexual violence. Included is a basic definition of reproductive justice, information about the development and the history of the Reproductive Justice Movement, and related resources.

http://new.vawnet.org/category/index_pages.php?category_id=1088

New NSVRC Information Packet

Sexual Violence in Later Life Information Packet by Holly Ramsey-Klawnsnik for the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (2010)

This series of new resources related to sexual violence in later life includes a fact sheet, technical assistance bulletin, technical assistance guide, resource list, annotated bibliography and research brief.

<http://www.nsvrc.org/publications/sexual-violence-later-life-information-packet>

Upcoming Prevent Connect Web Conference

From Girls to Women: Countering Limited Roles for Women Through Norms Change

July 29 at 2pm ET, 11am PT and repeated August 5 at 2pm ET, 11am PT

<http://www.preventconnect.org/>



SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN LATER LIFE
Fact Sheet

Sexual violence can affect individuals across the lifespan, including people in later life. Many older victims have survived multiple victimizations over the course of their lives. Recognition of sexual violence against people in later life is hindered by misconceptions that older adults are not sexual beings or sexually desirable and that rape is a crime of passion.

A high percentage of victims experience significant health problems and disabilities that increase vulnerability and reduce help seeking (Eckert & Sugar, 2008; Teaster & Roberto, 2004). Advanced age does not protect one from sexual assault, but rather increases risk in many ways.

The National Center on Elder Abuse (2007) defines sexual abuse as "non-consenting sexual contact of any kind" including unwanted touching; sexual assault or battery, such as rape, sodomy, and coerced nudity; sexually explicit photographing; and sexual contact with any person incapable of giving consent. Jurisdictions and agencies define "elder" differently but typically as commencing at age 60 or 65.¹

Injuries

Due to age-related physiological changes, older victims tend to sustain more serious physical and psychosocial injuries during an assault than younger victims. Some of the signs and symptoms of sexual violence against people in later life include:

- Genital injuries, human bite marks, imprint injuries, and bruising on thighs, buttocks, breasts, face, neck, and other areas

Barriers to response and prevention

It is likely that sexual violence against people in later life is highly underreported. Many barriers impede the effective response and prevention of sexual abuse against older victims including:

- Social stigma and barriers preventing individuals from discussing sexual activities or sexual violence openly
- Disabling conditions that interfere with making reports
- Victim's fear of further harm
- Victim's reluctance to report, especially if perpetrator is a family member
- Misinterpretation of disclosure as part of dementia and of physical evidence as "normal" markings on an older body (Burgess & Clements, 2006)
- Delayed medical and police assistance and contamination of physical evidence

¹Various jurisdictions and agencies define the "elder" portion of life differently, but typically as commencing at age 60 or 65. In contrast, the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) considers older victims to be those over age 50.

 *Updated LGTB Trainers Manual from New York State*

Domestic Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Bisexual Communities: Trainers Manual by the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (Updated June 2010)

Many years ago VAWnet posted the first version (dated 2001) of this trainer's manual and accompanying participant's manual developed to give health and human service providers the knowledge and skills necessary to sensitively and effectively respond to lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual victims of domestic violence. Since then, both resources have been listed in our top 10 most downloaded materials every year. We are excited to provide this newly updated edition, and hope that you will continue to find it useful in your advocacy work.
<http://new.vawnet.org/category/Documents.php?docid=859>

 *New Tool from Transforming Communities*

User's Guide: Making the Case for domestic Violence Prevention Using a Cost-effectiveness Framework by Lisa Hoffman for Transforming Communities: Technical Assistance, Training & Resource Center (2010)

This direct application tool supplements the 2005 manual, "Making the Case for Domestic Violence Prevention Through the Lens of Cost-Benefit." It describes cost-benefit principles and offers hands-on tools to "make the case" for your prevention program.

<http://new.vawnet.org/category/Documents.php?docid=2447>

 *2010 National Sexual Assault Conference*

This year's **National Sexual Assault Conference** will be held in Los Angeles September 1st through 3rd, hosted by the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault in partnership with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. This year's conference theme, *Building The World We Want To Live In*, will focus on providing cutting-edge information, effective and relevant practices, content that incorporates culturally appropriate outreach and services to historically underserved communities and those with limited access — all aimed at demonstrating how we can build the world we want to live in.

<http://calcasa.org/nsac/>

 *2010 National Conference on Ending Violence*

Changing Faces of the Movement is the theme of this year's **National Conference on Ending Violence** held July 31st through August 4th in Anaheim, California. This marks the 14th National Conference on Domestic Violence of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the 35th National Conference on Men and Masculinity of the National Organization of Men Against Sexism. The 2010 conference theme is meant to stimulate thoughtful dialogue and discussion around the changes, challenges and successes the domestic violence movement has undergone since its beginnings over 30 years ago.

<http://www.ncadv.org/>

 *2010 Global Domestic Violence Conference*

The **Global Domestic Violence Conference** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia will be held November 1st through 3rd. This conference is set to be the largest gathering of community groups, government, and non-government agencies (NGO's) devoted to highlighting and showcasing successful programs with the aim of empowering people and workers in the field of domestic violence.

<http://www.domesticviolenceconference.net/>

 *Second International Conference on Violence Against Women*

CRI-VIFF (the Interdisciplinary Research Center on Family Violence and Violence Against Women) and its *Women, Violence and Vulnerable Situations* research team are hosting the **Second International Conference on Violence Against Women** held May 29th through June 1st, 2011 in Montreal, Canada. *Violence Against Women: Complex Realities and New Issues in a Changing World* will bring together researchers, practitioners, political decision makers, and students from around the world to share knowledge and practices and debate current issues in the field.

<http://www.conferenceviolence.com/english/home/introduction-word/>

 *Latest Funding Alert*

Volume 5, Issue 13: July 8, 2010 by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence & National Sexual Violence Resource Center (2010)

Government funding, private funding and fellowships are included in this issue. Categories include training/technical assistance, health, trafficking, poverty, children/youth, and community development.

<http://new.vawnet.org/category/Documents.php?docid=2470>



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