

Preventing IPV Through Engaging Men & Boys

Why engaging men and boys matters — and what effective prevention looks like.

Engaging men and boys is critical to preventing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Men and boys can be powerful agents of change in challenging harmful norms and many want to be involved but do not know where or how to start.

Working with men and boys is also important because they are victims as well as perpetrators of violence. Those who support traditional gender norms and notions of masculinity are more likely to use violence against a partner (ii).

1 in 4 men

are victims of IPV during their lifetime.*

*sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking

GENDER NORMS, MASCULINITY & IPV

Cultural norms that promote traditional gender roles and masculinity contribute to IPV perpetration, especially against women and girls.

4x more likely

Men who strongly endorse “traditional masculinity ideology” — dominance, anti-femininity, and aggression — are 4x more likely to perpetrate IPV (ii).

Masculine norms

Men who strongly adhere to masculine norms are more likely to perpetrate violence against female partners (iii).

47% increase

Media consumption that glorifies male dominance increases acceptance of IPV by 47% among adolescent boys (iv).

34%

of American men aged 18–30 think a man should always have the final say about decisions in a relationship. (v)

Programs that take a “gender transformative” approach — explicitly questioning gender norms and expectations — are particularly promising strategies for preventing IPV (vi).

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

Evaluated programs of engaging men and boys as allies in IPV prevention can achieve significant outcomes.

38% DECREASE

Teen dating violence perpetration at 12-month follow-up (vii).

Coaching Boys Into Men

56% INCREASE

Boys understanding what consent means (viii).

A Call to Men

33% DECREASE

Negative and sexist gender attitudes held by teen boys (ix).

Manhood 2.0

What Effective Programs Have in Common

Successful IPV prevention programs that engage men and boys vary in approach and design. Their effectiveness relies in part on incorporating attention to the following elements (x–xiii):

1

Challenge harmful masculine norms

Address associations between manhood and dominance, aggression, and control.

2

Build skills for healthy relationships

Support emotional regulation and nonviolent conflict resolution.

3

Foster peer support networks

Reinforce positive behaviors and accountability.

4

Encourage men to be active bystanders

Support safe intervention when witnessing harmful attitudes or behaviors.

5

Promote male leadership in violence prevention

Build leadership within communities.

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