



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**VIOLENCE AND ABUSE OF CHILDREN CAN DIMINISH HEALTH
AND CONTRIBUTE TO DISABILITY**

A briefing was held by the National Health Collaborative on Violence and Abuse (NHCVA) on how to improve the capacity of the health system to prevent and address the adverse impact of violence and abuse. The NHCVA is comprised of 26 organizations, including leadership from health care organizations such as the American Medical Association. Presenters at the forum were representatives from the medical and nursing professions, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Agency on Families and Children and advocates for prevention of violence and abuse.

Summary

Preventing and responding to violence, especially against children, is a high priority for the health and public health professions. Health systems provide an important entry point to reduce violence and abuse. Each year 400,000 adolescents experience physical or sexual dating violence. Before the age of 16, two of every three children will witness or experience a traumatic event and many children and families will need help to recover from these experiences. If help is not provided, children may face long term challenges to their physical and mental health and normal development. Some children will develop serious problems in school with the law, and through the lifespan

Disability Prevention Issues

Evidence was presented at the briefing of 120 health conditions that could result from violence and abuse. The major adverse health conditions were reproductive health issues (20), mental health (16), behavioral issues and neurological problems (8 each), dental and dermatology (6 each). Other citations of health disorders that may result from violence and abuse of children and youth are chronic fatigue, eating and sleep disorders, risk of perpetrating violence in adult life, increase risk of cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, respiratory/pulmonary, and endocrine disorders, In addition allergies, orthopedic and entomology adverse conditions from traumatic injuries were also cited. All of the above mentioned disorders from violence and abuse may contribute to diminished health and disability.

Activity

There is ongoing study of prevention strategies to confront violence and abuse to prevent diminished health and disability.

Principle

There should be widespread implementation of evidence based protocols that results in reduced violence and abuse with the adverse consequences for disability.