Coalition Overview

The Bethel Primary Prevention coalition is committed to increasing the availability and quality of primary prevention programming and resources targeted at intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence (SV) and teen dating violence (TDV) available to the community of Bethel, Alaska. The coalition consists of numerous non-profit, tribal, health, and education partners and continues to grow.

TWC (Tundra Women’s Coalition) helps to support the coalition with staff time and organizational support. TWC has a long history of programming devoted to the primary prevention of TDV and SV primarily through Teens Acting Against Violence (TAAV) violence prevention program aimed at junior high and high school aged youth.

Vision

The YK Delta is a community of empowered people who value family and expect a culture of safe and healthy relationships.

Values

Creativity, reliability, optimism, humor, teamwork

Acknowledgements

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault provided funding for this strategic plan.

Partners who participated in strategic planning include:

- Tundra Women’s Coalition (TWC)
- Teens Acting Against Violence (TAAV)
- Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC)
- Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)
- Bethel Community Services Foundation
- Bethel Regional High School
- 4H Club
- Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center
- Bethel Public Health Center

Coalition Contact

Eileen Arnold, TWC Executive Director
eileen_arnold@twcpeace.org
85% of area residents are Alaska Native (primarily Yup’ik, Cup’ik or Athabascan)

66% of the region speaks a language other than English at home (primarily the Yup’ik language)

Bethel population

6,415

Bethel
Definitions

Intimate Partner Violence
The term intimate partner violence describes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercive acts) by a current or former partner.

Sexual Assault
Sexual assault is any type of forced or coerced sexual contact or behavior that happens without consent. Sexual assault includes rape and attempted rape, child molestation, and sexual harassment or threats.

Child Sexual Abuse
Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse that includes sexual activity with a minor. Child sexual abuse does not need to include physical contact between a perpetrator and a child, e.g. exposing oneself to a minor, fondling, intercourse, masturbation in the presence of a minor, pornographic images or movies of children, sex trafficking, etc.

Teen Dating Violence
Teen dating violence is the physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional aggression within a dating relationship, including stalking. It can occur in person or electronically and might occur between a current or former dating partner.

Interpersonal Violence
Interpersonal violence can include a broad range of abusive behavior committed by a person who is or has been: in a romantic or intimate relationship; a spouse or partner; a family member; or a cohabitant or household member, including a roommate.

Preventing Multiple Forms of Violence

Different forms of violence are strongly connected to each other.

Research indicates:

> Those who are victims of one form of violence are likely to experience other forms of violence.
> Those who have been violent in one context are likely to be violent in another context.
> The different forms of violence share common consequences.

Prevention of all forms of violence should start early and continue across the lifespan.

Qalarut’laramceci kenekngamceci
We talk to you because we love you

Sources:
State guidance document (IPV, SA, TDV); RAINN: Child Sexual Abuse; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Safe at UNC) Interpersonal Violence

Source:
Our Challenge

Community Challenges

- Loss of basic resources
- Loss of identity and culture
- Alcohol
- Distrust of systems/institutional racism
- Trauma
- Unsafe homes for children
- Lack of traditional ways to express emotions and talk about hard topics

Primary Prevention is:

Building Community
Connected communities experience less interpersonal violence

Establishing Gender Equity
More women in leadership roles, pay equity, allow people to be their whole self, empower girls and young women through participation in healthy activities

Passing Legislation
Laws to improve quality of life help change social norms and have the widest-reaching longest-lasting impact

Cultivating Healthy Relationships
Engage men and boys to create healthy expressions of manhood, build communication and conflict resolution skills with youth and adults

Promoting Behavior Change
Through public awareness campaigns, organizational practices and policies, question the media/pop cultures unhealthy messages about gender and violence

Teen Dating Violence

- Among students who dated - Ever physically hurt by someone they dated in past year:
  - Bethel: 11%
  - Kusilvak: 7%
  - Alaska: 7%

- Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse:
  - Bethel: 7%
  - Kusilvak: 8%
  - Alaska: 8%

- Among students who dated - Physically forced to do sexual things by someone they dated in past year:
  - Bethel: 6%
  - Kusilvak: 7%
  - Alaska: 8%

Source:
YRBS, 2017

Source:
http://www.ricadv.org/images/Prevention/PreventionPublication_web.pdf
Prevention Goals

Goal 1. Collaborate on policy and infrastructure improvements that support positive youth development.

- Advocate for alcohol (and potential marijuana) tax revenue to fund Parks and Recreation Department prevention programming.
- Advocate for development of and collaborate with other organizations to pursue funding for a community gym/youth drop in center (to reach 18-24-year-old males.)

Goal 2. Build relationships with and strengthen the capacity of community systems that serve youth.

- Work with the school district to review healthy relationships and sex education curriculum, increase TAAV programming, and divert kids to healing circles.
- Introduce/promote information about ACES and protective factors to organizations serving 0-6 age group.
- Work with ONC to foster restorative justice within the tribal court system.

Goal 3. Monitor ongoing prevention work.

- Develop a system to track the violence prevention work currently taking place.
- Coalition to regularly review, analyze the information gathered by the tracking system, and provide support as needed to ongoing programming.

Goal 4. Engage boys + men

- Support Compass Trainings and the community of men who have been trained.

Evaluating Our Progress

The coalition will develop action plans to track the goals and assess how well the coalition is implementing the goals. Ongoing action plan monitoring and evaluation will allow for reflection on achievements and shortcomings and help the coalition to re-examine the goals and recalibrate as needed. The action plans will identify the timeline for goal implementation, the resources needed, and the people and organizations who will help see that the goal is met.