

Rethinking Violence Prevention from a Systems Lens

—

Ace Devlin

About Me



My roles

Wellness Manager | Black & Pink

Private Practice | Ace Devlin

LLC

My identities

white, queer, nonbinary trans,

parent, survivor, disability,

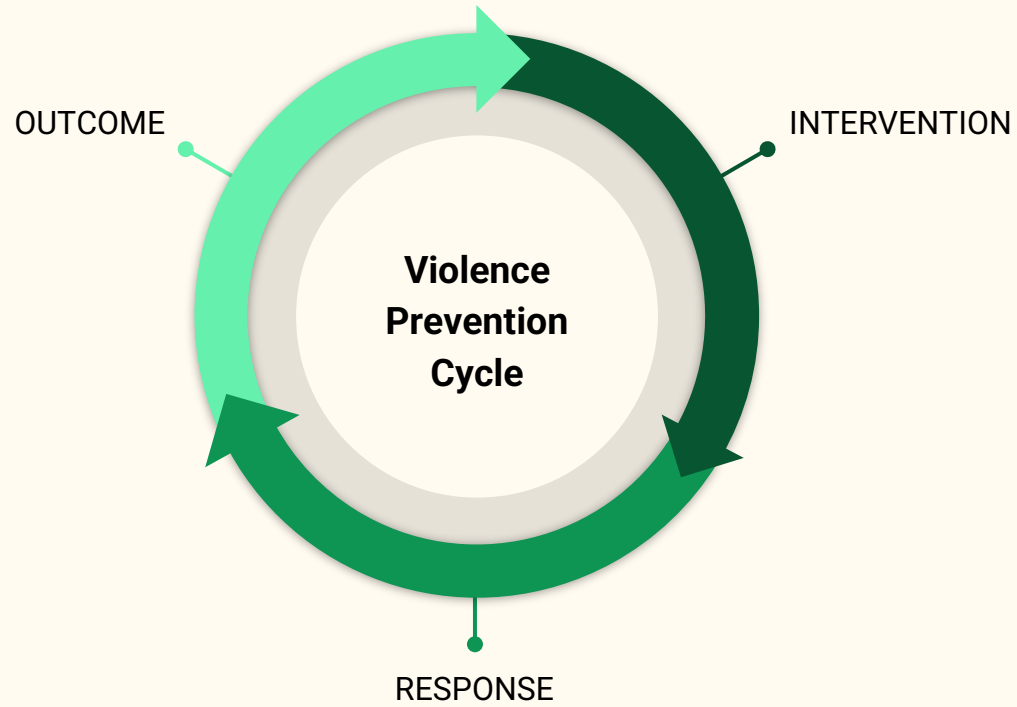
educated

My violence prevention story

Violence Prevention Stories

patriarchy
strength
mental health
educating about gender
Nightmares
Creighton
witnessing anonymous attack on a driver
Victim shaming
stranger-danger
Victim Shaming
George Floyd
Secondary Survivor
crisis center volunteer
Favoritism
advocates
Parental abuse
I saw my parents fighting (verbal and physical) as a child
PTSD
Depression
Alcohol
perservere
Corruption
bullying victim and excluded
Anxiety
intimate partner violence experience I had





What are the entry points into a cycle?

Table 1. Public Trust in Key Groups in Health and Healthcare (in Percent)

Q5. In terms of recommendations made to improve health, how much do you trust the recommendations of each of the following groups? Do you trust them a great deal, quite a lot, somewhat, not very much, or not at all for recommendations they make to improve health?

	Great deal/Quite a lot	Somewhat	Not very much/Not at all	DK/Ref
Nurses	71	22	5	2
Healthcare workers you know	70	24	5	1
Doctors	67	24	7	2
The American Cancer Society	56	31	11	2
The CDC	52	25	20	3
The American Red Cross	48	30	16	6
Your local health department	44	36	18	2
Your state health department	41	36	21	2
The Surgeon General	40	37	19	4
Your friends or family	40	37	20	3
The NIH	37	29	19	15
The FDA	37	38	24	1
The National Academy of Medicine	34	35	16	15
The federal Department of Health and Human Services	33	37	28	2

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *The Public's Perspective on the United States Public Health System*, 12/11/21-3/15/21.

What are some of the reasons you think people distrust DHHS?

Response	Net Votes	Upvotes	Downvotes	Trending Score
Bureaucratic red tape preventing results	3	3	0	3
ineffective	2	2	0	2
bureaucrats	1	1	0	1
confusion	2	2	0	2
Kids in cages	1	1	0	1
impersonal	2	2	0	2
A federal entity that interests may not be patient centered or participant centered but politically centered; perhaps financially incentives	1	1	0	1
possibly subject to political influences; rather than sticking to the science	3	3	0	3
sad stories in the press	2	2	0	2
miscommunication	3	3	0	3
slow to make changes	3	3	0	3
confusion	3	3	0	3
DHHS is too impacted by bias and their vision of health and human services are so rooted in whiteness/white supremacy/capitalism and	-1	0	1	-1
all of the above	0	0	0	0
questionable policies	2	2	0	2
lack of transparency	1	1	0	1
Mistrust of government entities in general	3	3	0	3
Political foundation	0	0	0	0
racist beginnings	1	2	1	1
miscommunication	2	2	0	2
"institution"	1	1	0	1



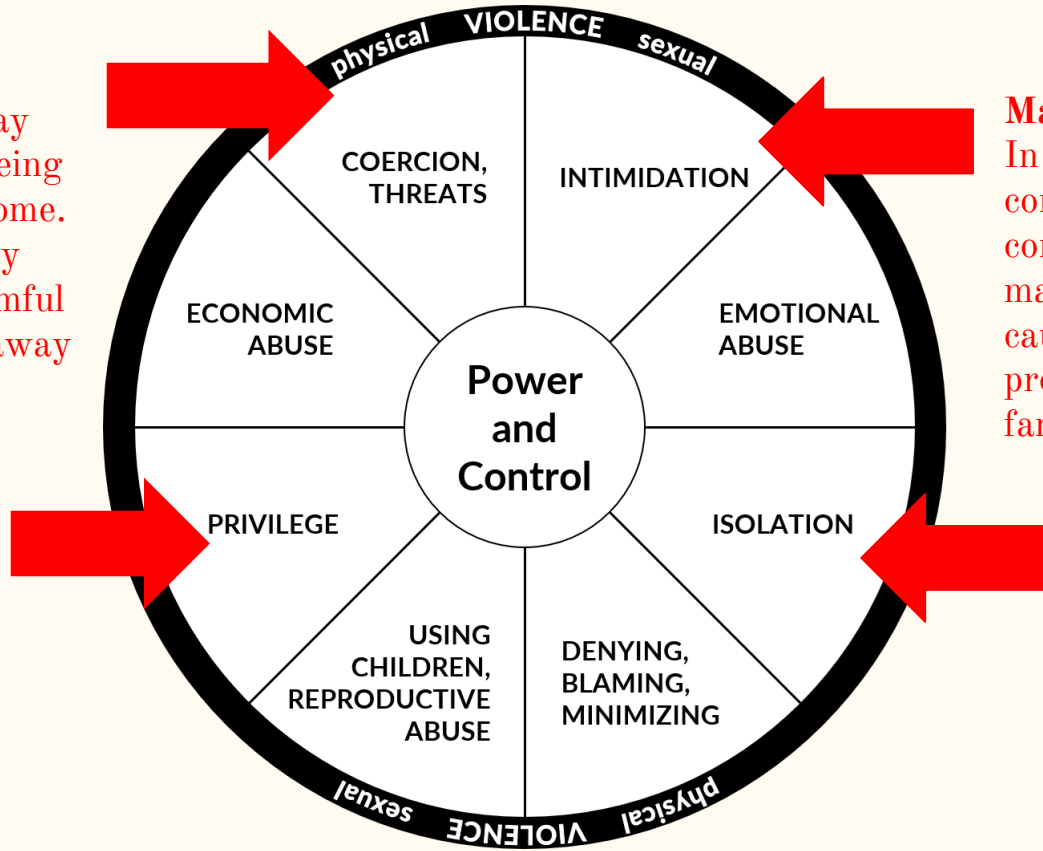
When violence
prevention is
violent.

Family Separation:

Unfounded reports may still lead to children being removed from their home. Even temporary family separation can be harmful and divert resources away from families.

Economic and Racial Disparity:

Black, indigenous, and families living in poverty are most likely to be involved with CPS.



Mandated Reporting:

In low-income communities and communities of color, mandated reporting causes fear among professionals and families.

Avoidance of Care:

Parents may avoid care for their children or avoid disclosing experiences of poverty to prevent CPS reports.

Power and Control Wheel

What are some attainable actions you can take to resist disciplinary control in violence prevention systems?

Engage stakeholders early in the process of reforming the systems to make them lean more into care for the broader social determinants of health rather than punishing

Be a voice at the table

Bring exposure to issues

Hold on as long as we can without putting our careers/licenses at risk. Withhold information/share as little as possible. Broadly speaking, do less/say less, and focus on collaboration with our clients and families, and follow their lead.

talk to people, avoid assumptions

Be curious; Ask questions

Don't jump to "easy" conclusions



Further Reading

Alex S. Vitale. *The End of Policing*. October 10, 2017.

Ejeris Dixon and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha. *Beyond Survival*. 2020.

Hina Naveed. “*If I Wasn’t Poor, I Wouldn’t Be Unfit.*” *The Family Separation Crisis in the US Child Welfare System*. November 17, 2022.

Mariame Kaba. *We Do This ‘Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transformative Justice*. November 9, 2021.

Mikki Kendall. *Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot*. February 25, 2020.