

Two-Generation Approach to Interpersonal Violence

Created by Caroline Friedman Levy, Jenna Reardanz, and Taylor Scott

Challenge

- Domestic violence and child maltreatment [co-occur](#) in **30-60% of families that** experience violence.
- Agencies servicing DV and child maltreatment often [fail to coordinate](#) resulting in disjointed, erratic, and **less effective services**.
- **Ineffective services** leave children and adults experiencing violence and [trauma unidentified, untreated, and less safe](#).

Relevant Legislation

- [Violence Against Women Act](#) (VAWA), [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act](#) (CAPTA), and [Family Violence Prevention Services Act](#) (FVPSA) all address discrete areas of family violence and public health remediation. **All three are have expired** and are awaiting reauthorization.
- The [Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting Program](#) (MIECHV) supports home visit services for families in high needs with children under five years; benchmarks include **coordination of community services** and **reduction of domestic violence and child abuse**.

Stumbling Blocks

- **Confidentiality Provisions** have been [misinterpreted](#) to reinforce barriers between agencies serving children and adults. This often thwarts coordination efforts between the most effective programs that apply two generation, [integrated](#) service to protect victim safety.
- **Structurally**, services have been [set up](#) in a manner that reinforces barriers to integrated services through disparate agency **locations**, absence of shared **identifiers** across agencies, and a lack of **interoperable data information systems** that can communicate.
- **Culturally**, there has been a [lag](#) between research and practice. Integrating services systems requires a **shift in ethos** and a heavy lift from leadership at the community/agency levels, often reinforced by states.

Opportunities for Improvement

- **Clarification** of [confidentiality laws](#). Many [states](#) have established memoranda of understanding (MOU) across agencies to promote integrated services while ensuring victim safety. **Opportunities for collaboration could be clarified in [legislative language](#)**.
- **Co-Location** of services. States like [Oregon](#), Florida, New York, and New Jersey have co-located services for children and adults experiencing family violence. A [NY state audit](#) reported benefits including improved and earlier identification and domestic violence, faster access to services and reunification, enhanced family engagement, reduction of repeated maltreatment, out-of-home placements, and exposure to violence.
- **Interoperability/Information Systems**. Despite [longstanding](#) federal efforts to promote the capacity for information sharing in social service data information systems, many **states still lack** interoperable systems and many **federal incentives have expired**.
- **Partnership between judiciary and law enforcement**. The [Attorney General's national task force](#) suggests training for law enforcement, family court, and juvenile justice officials in **trauma-informed screening, assessment, and care**. [South Carolina](#) and [California](#) have made efforts to reach this standard.

Key Takeaways

1. Time limited federal funding could assist counties or states in improving systems of coordination.
2. Increased interoperability of information systems could be more effective to support collaboration between agencies.
3. Structural changes in practice or systems towards inter-agency coordination and collaboration could improve outcomes for families experiencing violence.

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Helpful Resources

- More information regarding relevant legislation: [VAWA](#), [CAPTA](#), [FVPSA](#), [MIECHV](#)
- This [Children's Bureau brief](#) details efforts to protect children in families that are experiencing domestic violence
- This [brief from Oregon](#) details the efforts to co-located domestic violence advocates at DHS offices
- Further information regarding the [co-occurrence](#) of child abuse and domestic violence
- New York state's [report](#) concerning the evaluation of the benefits of co-location of services
- South Carolina state's [report](#) on domestic violence and state level prevention efforts