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# Surveying the Landscape: Domestic Violence Plans from Around the World

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2012 Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence

## Table of Contents

<b>1.0 Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.0 Methods .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>2.1 Determining Evidence-Based and Promising Programs and Strategies .....</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>3.0 Findings and Implications .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.1 Prevention Approaches .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3.2 Common Prevention Elements and Strategies .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>3.2.1 Public Awareness .....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>3.2.2 Changing Societal Attitudes .....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>3.2.3 School-Based Education .....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>3.2.4 Improved Policy and Legislation .....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>3.2.5 Gather Standardized and Comparable Data.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>3.2.6 Collaboration and Co-operation .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>3.3.1 Inclusion of Men and Boys .....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>3.3.2 Inclusion of First Nations Peoples .....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>3.3.3 Inclusion of Ethno Cultural/Immigrant Communities .....</i>	<i>13</i>
<b>3.4 Use of Evidence-Based and Promising Prevention Programs and Strategies .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>3.4.1 Research-Based Prevention Strategies .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<b>3.5 Evidence of Effectiveness.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>4.0 Conclusion .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5.0 References .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix A: Summary of Documents Reviewed .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>National Action Plans .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>State and/or Provincial Plan .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>NGO Frameworks .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Appendix B: Commonly Used Strategies .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Common Strategies National Action Plans .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Common Strategies State and/or Provincial Plan .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Common Strategies NGO Frameworks .....</b>	<b>29</b>

## 1.0 Introduction

Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence was initiated by the Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, in the Faculty of Social Work, at the University of Calgary. Shift is aimed at significantly reducing domestic violence in Alberta using a primary prevention approach to stop first-time victimization and perpetration. In short, primary prevention means taking action to build resilience and prevent problems before they occur.

The purpose of Shift is to enhance the capacity of policy makers, systems leaders, clinicians, service providers and the community at large, to significantly reduce the rates of domestic violence in Alberta. We are committed to making our research accessible and working collaboratively with a diverse range of stakeholders, to inform and influence current and future domestic violence prevention efforts, through the perspective of primary prevention.

In November 2011, the Government of Alberta requested support for the redesign of their family violence<sup>1</sup> prevention framework. The intention was to ensure the framework included primary prevention strategies and recommendations, demonstrating a full continuum of supports and services. Through this process, Shift was asked to identify existing government programs and initiatives that could be enhanced, modified or scaled-up to support a significant reduction in domestic violence rates. In addition to this request, Shift conducted research to explore policy frameworks in other jurisdictions that are guiding large-scale social change initiatives, focused on preventing and reducing domestic violence.

The purpose of this research report is:

- To present a synopsis of Shift’s scoping review of domestic violence plans from around the world;
- To provide an overview of common elements from the plans reviewed, and;
- To recommend areas for inclusion into the Alberta Prevention of Family Violence Strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this paper, we use the terms “family violence” and “domestic violence” interchangeably.

## 2.0 Methods

In order to understand the strategies employed by different jurisdictions to address domestic violence, Shift engaged in a scoping review of plans from around the world. At a general level, scoping studies aim to rapidly map the key concepts underpinning a research area and the main sources and types of evidence available. They “can be undertaken as stand-alone projects in their own right, especially where an area is complex or has not been reviewed comprehensively before” (cited in Arksey & O’Malley, 2005, p. 194). While there are several reasons for conducting scoping reviews in a particular area (Arksey & O’Malley, 2005), our purpose was threefold:

- To understand other jurisdictions’ efforts in this area;
- To understand and summarize similarities and differences between domestic violence plans, and;
- To identify the evidence for effective domestic violence prevention strategies on a macro level in order to inform a domestic violence prevention plan for Alberta.

This review focused entirely on domestic violence action plans, frameworks and/or recommendations for action published by national organizations, government bodies and international NGOs. Documents reviewed addressed in whole, or in part, prevention measures for domestic violence.

The main search strategy used was:

- Searches of government, non-government and research institute websites for frameworks, action plans and recommendations;
- Search terms included “domestic violence prevention plans,” “domestic violence primary prevention plans,” “domestic violence action plans,” “family violence frameworks,” and “family violence action plans”;
- Only those plans available in English were reviewed.

For a complete list of plans reviewed, please see Appendix A: Summary of Documents Reviewed.

### ***2.1 Determining Evidence-Based and Promising Programs and Strategies***

This review was primarily focused on the prevention portion of domestic violence plans. For this reason, intervention programs and strategies were not included in the assessment. We recognize there are many promising and evidence-based programs and/or strategies used in dealing with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, such as co-ordinated community responses, abuser treatment programs, emergency protection orders, etc. When we conclude that an action plan does not specifically

identify evidence-based or promising programs, we are **not** referring to those interventions outside of a prevention focus.

Certain criteria were used to determine whether specific prevention programs and strategies identified in action plans and frameworks were evidence-based or promising. They include:

**Evidence-Based Program:** Well-defined programs that have demonstrated their efficacy through rigorous, peer-reviewed evaluations and have been well-documented. These programs have been endorsed by government agencies and well-respected research organizations (Small, Cooney, & O'Connor, 2009). These programs are not only well-defined and effective, they have shown long-term benefits and have been replicated across a range of populations and contexts successfully (Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, 2012).

**Promising Practice:** This is a science-based practice that shows minimally some intended effect or outcome (Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, 2012).

### 3.0 Findings and Implications

This scoping review included a total of 32 documents. The majority of these documents (19) were produced by national and provincial/state governments outlining their strategies and frameworks for addressing and preventing domestic violence. An additional 13 documents from non-governmental organizations were reviewed which offered theory and research-based recommendations on elements to be included in domestic violence prevention plans. Of the 13 non-governmental documents reviewed, two specifically outlined a framework and recommendations for ending violence against Aboriginal women in Canada. An additional six documents were reviewed that provided either full evaluations or portions of evaluations on strategies employed. It is important to note that many more jurisdictions may have evaluated or monitored the impact of their strategies, but did not make these documents publicly available. The six reviewed were those available on the Internet.

**Table 1: Number and Type of Domestic Violence Plan Reviewed**

National	Provincial/State	NGO Recommendation
10	9	13

**Table 2: Plans with Publicly Available Performance and Strategy Monitoring**

National	Provincial/State	NGO Recommendation
2	4	0

Of the plans reviewed<sup>2</sup>, only six were strictly focused on primary prevention. Of the six, one was a state action plan and the other five were recommendations from various non-governmental organizations. The six plans that focused on primary prevention are:

- Alaska: *Pathways to Prevention* (Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, 2010)
- Poised for Prevention: *Advancing Promising Approaches to Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence* (Prevention Institute, 2007)
- The Prevention Institute: *The Prevention Primer* (The Prevention Institute, 2009)

<sup>2</sup> Additional plans reviewed for this document: *Stop violence against women* (Amnesty International AU, 2010); *Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean: A framework for action* (Buvinic, M., Morrison, A., & Shifter, M. (1999); *National strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence 2010-2014* (The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence Ireland., 2010); *Domestic Violence Action Plan for Ontario* (Ontario Women’s Directorate and Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, 2004); *Plan of Action Supporting the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act* (Sri Lanka National Committee on Women, 2005). Further in text we refer to these plans by the country name

- World Health Organization and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine [WHO]: *Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women – Taking Action and Generating Evidence* (WHO, 2010)
- VicHealth: *Preventing Violence Before It Occurs – A Framework and Background Paper to Guide the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women in Victoria* (VicHealth, 2007)
- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance: *Guidelines for the Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence and Intimate Partner Violence* (Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, 2009)

### 3.1 Prevention Approaches

Each plan and/or proposed framework reviewed is based on underlying approaches and models that, while different, are overlapping and complementary ways of understanding and addressing domestic violence.

The public health approach to domestic violence prevention is a science-based, population-driven, interdisciplinary approach which emphasizes primary prevention and uses the social ecological theory to frame prevention strategies (WHO, 2010).

Very few of the national and international plans use a “pure” public health approach, but several do utilize the social ecological model to frame their proposed strategies. Overall, only one jurisdiction, Alaska, uses both a public health approach and the social ecological model to frame its plan; South Africa uses the social ecological model (Government of South Africa, 2008).

It is interesting to note that it is mostly the non-government organizations that adopt this approach to framing domestic violence prevention (i.e., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WHO, VicHealth and the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance). However, while many jurisdictions do not formally use the social ecological model, most plans present strategies at the individual, relationship, community and societal level.

The human rights approach is another popular way of positioning domestic violence prevention frameworks. This approach is based on the belief that the “state” has an obligation to protect and uphold human rights and to therefore prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women and girls (WHO, 2010). The European Union Council (Council of Europe, 2008), Turkey (Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry, 2007), the United Kingdom (HM Government, 2011), Wales 2010 (Welsh Assembly Government, 2010)



and, to some extent Newfoundland (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006), all use a human rights approach in their domestic violence plans.

Most of the national and international plans and NGO reports rely on mixed models, and build their frameworks around their own stated and strategic goals. National and provincial/state action plans are primarily structured in the following way:

- Statement of desired outcomes;
- Statement of goals;
- Statement of concrete objectives under each outcome and goal area, and
- Description of actions and strategies that will support achievement of the goals and outcomes.

The focus of each plan differs as well. Some nations and organizations focus more specifically on violence against women and their children. (For a full list of plans with this focus, see Appendix A). Others have a broader focus, such as those plans that target domestic violence. Broader still are those plans that discuss other aspects of violence prevention in tandem with their domestic violence work (e.g., South Africa and Alberta).

### **3.2 Common Prevention Elements and Strategies**

Regardless of the approach or focus used, many plans share common elements and strategies to prevent domestic violence. (For a matrix of commonly used strategies, see Appendix B). The elements identified below are those most commonly found across the domestic violence action plans and frameworks reviewed.

#### ***3.2.1 Public Awareness***

Public awareness was present in almost all plans reviewed (24 out of 32), but varied in level of importance within the plan. Public awareness is a strategy that is used in many different facets to raise awareness of the issue of domestic violence in the general public, to raise awareness in a targeted group, or to raise awareness of resources available to individuals faced with domestic violence.

Many plans suggest that raising public awareness is best achieved through strategic campaigns involving the media, although demonstrating outcomes related to such strategies are often difficult. However, there are a small number of successful campaigns that have evidence of producing promising outcomes (Wells, 2012).

### ***3.2.2 Changing Societal Attitudes***

Changing societal attitudes is related to public awareness, with the exception that these strategies are more complex. Changing societal attitudes is especially pronounced in plans using the social ecological model or Spectrum of Prevention to frame their strategies and is seen in 20 of the 31 plans reviewed. Both models argue that social and cultural norms shape behaviour and therefore are critical elements of environmental change, because domestic violence is rooted in social norms.

There are domestic violence plans that raise the importance of media in shaping societal norms, and therefore strategies to work with media are included. Both Poland and the Prevention Institute in California suggest that mass media has the potential to significantly impact societal norms on domestic violence, both positively and negatively (Government of Poland, 2006; Prevention Institute, 2007).

### ***3.2.3 School-Based Education***

A significant number of domestic violence prevention plans and frameworks identify school-based curriculum changes and program implementations as prominent prevention strategies (21 of the 32 plans reviewed).

The weight of school-based curriculum changes and program implementation can vary from single statements such as “support school-based initiatives promoting healthy families and healthy relationships” (Northwest Territories Health and Social Services, 2009, p. 4), to identifying school-based education as a major component of a domestic violence prevention plan (Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, 2010).

### ***3.2.4 Improved Policy and Legislation***

While many plans identify the need for improved policy and legislation (22 of the 32 reviewed), most strategies were specifically aimed at better protection of women and children and holding abusers accountable for their actions. There were some plans that specifically identified more preventative policies, such as:

- **Alaska:** Plan stipulates that by 2014, health education standards will be adopted that promote healthy relationships in accordance with evidence-based guidelines for K-12 (Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, 2010).
- **Australia:** As part of its larger Violence Against Women Action Plan, one of the strategies articulated was the development of a national primary prevention framework that prioritizes key settings and population groups in which to coordinate primary prevention activities. In addition to this, a number of additional

policies have been identified to prevent violence, such as the implementation of healthy relationship education into the national curriculum (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009).

- **New Zealand:** Promotion of healthy relationship public policy aimed at reducing inequality and socio-economic disparities (Ministry of Social Development, 2002).
- **Newfoundland:** As part of its policy and legislation strategy, it is proposed that the Department of Education implement healthy relationship, anti-violence and diversity training into its provincial curriculum (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, 2006).
- **Turkey:** As part of its improved legislation and policy to address gender inequality, the need has been identified to ensure that the legal arrangements on parental leave portion-out the child-care responsibilities between the mother and father (as per the EU directives) (Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry, 2007).
- **Wales:** Encouragement of policies that oppose corporal punishment of children, with the development of a Parenting Action Plan to further this specific agenda (Welsh Assembly Government, 2005).

### ***3.2.5 Gather Standardized and Comparable Data***

Almost all action plans and frameworks identified the need for comparable and standardized data (20 of the 32 reviewed). Again, some of the strategies in this area were vague, put simply as “assessing the real situation of domestic violence and domestic violence prevention and control work” (Nien, 2010, p. 2).

Other jurisdictions, such as Australia (National), Denmark and New Zealand all implemented significant formalized methods for gathering and making sense of data in this area (see Table 3 below).

**Table 3: Efforts in Gathering Comparable and Standardized Data**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Method of Gathering Data</b>
Australia	Has proposed a “National Center of Excellence” be established that would be responsible to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a central point for monitoring and reporting on the effects of the Plan of Action;</li> <li>2. Provide a national resource for the development of policy and benchmarks;</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Develop and promote “gold-standard” practice to reduce violence against women and their children across Australia;</li> <li>4. Create an international primary point of contact for Australia’s response to sexual assault, and domestic and family violence;</li> <li>5. Establish alliances with international observatories to grow and expand the nation’s knowledge base.</li> </ol>
Denmark	In 2000, the country initiated formalized methods of gathering and tracking prevalence and incidence data. The Danish National Observatory on Violence Against Women has been collecting survey data to document trends on gender-based violence.
New Zealand	<p>The Family Violence Taskforce is responsible for ensuring the initiatives laid out in the plan are implemented and monitored. In its 2011-12 update, the taskforce committed to monitor the level of domestic violence in New Zealand through its Family Violence Dashboard of Indicators. There are three key questions to be answered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are the major outcomes of domestic violence changing: getting more or less severe?</li> <li>2. Are incidents of domestic violence increasing or decreasing year-by-year across all communities?</li> <li>3. Is there specific evidence of reduced tolerance of violence and behaviour change in families across all communities?</li> </ol>

### ***3.2.6 Collaboration and Co-operation***

Many plans propose strategies that involve collaboration and co-operation (16 of the 32 reviewed). These plans identify inter-agency collaboration (specifically the co-ordination of front-line agencies), prevention agencies and partnership with other sectors such as health care and law enforcement.

Most jurisdictions recognize the fact that domestic violence is an issue that intersects many domains, hence the awareness that prevention can only be achieved through a multitude of change agents. However, this is a strategy that tends to lack concrete actionable articulation.

### **3.3 Emergent Prevention Elements and Strategies**

While the action plans and frameworks contain many areas of commonality in their “essential” elements required in a prevention plan, there are some that deserve further consideration due to their possibly overlooked importance.

### **3.3.1 Inclusion of Men and Boys**

The Prevention Institute identifies the engagement of men and boys as a “major emerging strategy” (Prevention Institute, 2007, p. 5). Very few of the action plans and frameworks reviewed specifically identified the engagement of men and boys as a strategy to prevent or reduce domestic violence, and only one NGO framework was entirely dedicated to strategies to engage men and boys (See Appendix B).

Of those that did include a focus on men and boys, there were several specific strategies identified. Several pointed out the need to empower non-violent men to speak out in opposition to domestic violence and violence against women. Other jurisdictions presented strategies to “promote men and boy’s adjustment to new or changing gender roles and ideas of masculinity” (Gender Secretariat, 2008, p. 20).

### **3.3.2 Inclusion of First Nations Peoples**

Domestic violence within Aboriginal communities has been consistently differentiated through its connection to residential school exposure, and other inter-generational trauma. As a result, domestic violence must be viewed in the context of the unique historical and present-day experiences of Aboriginal communities in order to comprehend the root causes, risk and protective factors, and strategies for prevention (Bopp, Bopp, & Lane, 2003; New Brunswick Advisory Committee on Violence Against Aboriginal Women, 2008; VicHealth, 2007).

Taking into account these factors, a number of jurisdictions have identified the need for prevention strategies specific to First Nations Peoples, particularly those where populations of First Nations are significant (e.g., Alaska, Alberta, Australia National Council, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Zealand and Western Australia).

### **3.3.3 Inclusion of Ethno Cultural/Immigrant Communities**

There is some suggestion that prevention programs are especially important in ethno cultural/immigrant communities where factors such as pre-migration stressors and limited access to employment increase vulnerabilities for domestic violence (Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2009; Prevention Institute, 2007; Wells et al., in press).

There were very few plans that addressed prevention strategies specifically for ethno cultural communities (only nine of the 32 reviewed). However, there were some *intervention* related strategies unique to ethno cultural and immigrant communities. In Denmark, for example, there is government funding of a special shelter established for immigrant women who have fled compulsory, forced marriage or threats of such marriage. The centre offers shelter for 12 women to a maximum of two years. The

centre also offers general counselling and support to help the women regain an active social life (Minister for Gender Equality, 2008).

Most prevention strategies focused on ethno cultural and immigrant communities focus on:

- Supporting the transition of newly arrived immigrants and refugees by providing orientation and opportunities such as English on Arrival language courses and familiarization with local laws and the legal system, including principles of gender equality and the value placed on respectful relationships in the host society (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009; Government of Nova Scotia, 2009).
- Implementing social marketing campaigns that promote respectful relationships that are particularly targeted at those from diverse backgrounds (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009).
- Ensuring family violence prevention initiatives are culturally appropriate (Government of Alberta, 2009; Government of New Zealand, 2002; Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, 2009).
- Supporting leadership and organizational capacity-building initiatives (Government of Alberta, 2009).
- The need to target and engage men from ethno cultural and immigrant communities (VicHealth, 2007).
- Engaging ethno cultural and immigrant communities in the planning of prevention initiatives (VicHealth, 2007).
- Developing culturally sensitive information campaigns that address the issues of forced marriage and honour-based violence (Wales, 2010).

### **3.4 Use of Evidence-Based and Promising Prevention Programs and Strategies**

In almost all plans, proposed strategies were not specific enough to identify particular programs and/or initiatives, and because of this, it is difficult to ascertain whether prevention and intervention activities are an “evidence-based program” or a “promising practice.” There were only two programs identified that are considered to be evidence-based (see Methods, page 6, for criteria):

- The Fourth R (Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault 2010; WHO, 2010)

- Safe Dates (Poised for Prevention, 2006; WHO, 2010)

Additionally, two other programs were considered to be promising practices:

- Choose Respect (Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, 2010)
- Expect Respect (Poised for Prevention, 2006; Texas Council on Family Violence, 2011, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, 2009)

### ***3.4.1 Research-Based Prevention Strategies***

In addition to evidence-based programs (based on established criteria set forth in Methods, page 6), there are several other initiatives and strategies shown to be promising based on research and evaluation in the area. These include:

- **Alcohol reduction/limitation strategies:** As demonstrated in the literature, research has shown a strong association between alcohol use and domestic violence, with evidence suggesting links to both increased occurrence and severity of violence (WHO, 2005; WHO, 2010). Several plans (Australia, Nova Scotia, Wales 2010 and Western Australia) have presented alcohol strategies to prevent domestic violence. These strategies are focused on identifying the links between substance abuse such as alcohol and domestic violence, as well as reducing the physical availability of alcohol, which is suggested to be effective (Anderson, Chisolm, & Fuhr, 2009).
- **Whole school approaches in violence prevention:** Children and youth are a particular focus in violence prevention efforts, and many of these efforts take place in schools (WHO, 2010). Whole school approaches include the following:
  - Programs occur across the curriculum (both teaching and learning);
  - They operate across school policy and practices;
  - They are embedded in school culture;
  - Involve the school, community and the home environments;
  - Ensure comprehensive curriculum, and;
  - Have specialized training and resources for teachers and support staff (State of Victoria, 2009).

Only one plan specifically recommended a whole school approach in violence prevention (End Violence Against Women Coalition, 2011), although many other plans recommend aspects of whole school approaches in their strategies.

- **Healthy relationship curriculum in schools:** Many plans (i.e., Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Poised for Prevention, United

Kingdom, Virginia, Wales and Western Australia) have identified the need to ensure that healthy relationship programming is embedded into the larger education curriculum. School-based programming has been shown to be an effective strategy for the prevention of intimate partner violence (WHO, 2010).

- **Effective media campaigns:** The media have been identified as exerting a powerful influence on norms (Prevention Institute, 2007). As such, media awareness campaigns are a common approach to the prevention of domestic violence. While media campaigns play a prominent role in almost all domestic violence plans, only a handful have been evaluated and show evidence of attitudinal and behaviour change (Australia, New Zealand, Ontario Native Women’s Association (2007), South Africa, Western Australia).<sup>3</sup>

### 3.5 Evidence of Effectiveness

Very few evaluations and/or performance monitoring reports on the various strategies are publicly available. Out of the 32 action plans and frameworks reviewed, only six evaluations or performance monitoring reports were accessed.

**Table 4: Domestic Violence Plans with Evaluations**

Plan	Portion of Plan Evaluated	Results
Alberta	Public Awareness	Based on the survey results from Alberta Perceptions of Family Violence and Bullying – in 2010, 53 per cent of Albertans felt family violence occurs a lot or a fair bit, up six per cent from 2008. However, there was a significant decrease from 2008 in the percentage of Albertans who felt family violence was an urgent priority for their community.
Alaska	Activities from 2010 plan	In 2011, number and description of activities implemented were reported.
New Zealand	Taskforce Report on Initiatives	Found that their public awareness campaign has been effective. Research shows that one in three people have taken some action to address domestic violence as a result of the campaign. It also suggests that public tolerance of domestic violence is beginning to decrease. Additional initiatives to be undertaken by the Taskforce in support of the plan have been identified for 2011-2012.

<sup>3</sup> See Shift’s report “A Preliminary Scan of Evidence-Based Social Marketing Campaigns to Reduce Domestic Violence” for full details.



Western Australia	Mid Term Progress Report 2009-2013	<p>Social marketing campaigns have been evaluated, demonstrating positive results.<sup>4</sup> Alcohol as a contributing factor to domestic violence is a significant strategy for Western Australia. Evaluation data demonstrate that two key activities, alcohol restrictions and alcohol management plans, have indicated reductions in the number and severity of violence offenses.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>Key performance data is also being monitored in Western Australia. 2009-10 data demonstrate that the number of domestic violence incidents reported to police has decreased from the previous year (2008-09). The number of domestic violence-related police charges has also decreased in 2009-10 from the previous year (2008-09).</p>
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Assessment of the above results shows that only Western Australia and Denmark are actually monitoring rates of domestic violence in conjunction with their proposed strategies. These two jurisdictions have been able to show decreases in various violence indicators. Western Australia, in particular, has been monitoring selected strategies, such as alcohol restriction and management, and subsequent reductions in rates of violence (Government of Western Australia, 2011).

<sup>4</sup> See Shift's report "A Preliminary Scan of Evidence-Based Social Marketing Campaigns to Reduce Domestic Violence" for full details.

<sup>5</sup> See University of Notre Dame Australia, 2010

## 4.0 Conclusion

This report presents an analysis of domestic violence plans from around the world. While there are many variations among the plans based on local need and context, there are a number of similarities shared by all. Key elements emerged, with the most prevalent being: 1. Raising public awareness; 2. Changing societal attitudes and norms; 3. School-based education; 4. Improving policy and legislation; 5. Enhancing collaboration and co-operation among systems, and; 5. Gathering standardized and comparable data.

There were also a number of areas that were shown to be emerging in importance, most specifically strategies targeted to ethno cultural and immigrant communities and First Nation communities. While inclusion of men and boys has been documented as being a critical strategy in the prevention of domestic violence, only one plan was found that was comprehensive in nature and dedicated solely to strategies in this area.

At present, the evidence on the effectiveness of prevention strategies is limited (WHO, 2010). Review of the 32 plans demonstrate that very few identify specific evidence-based programs, but instead outline general strategies that include recommendations to offer or enhance appropriate programming in a specific area (e.g., ensuring appropriate school-based curriculum to children and youth).

In spite of this void, a number of plans do propose the use of strategies that have been shown to be necessary in the prevention of domestic violence (VicHealth, 2007; WHO, 2010). Limiting access to alcohol, ensuring healthy relationship programming, utilization of whole school approaches, and effective media campaigns are all strategies that research demonstrates are effective in the prevention of domestic violence (Davis, Fujie Parks, & Cohen, 2006; Prevention Institute, 2007; University of Notre Dame Australia, 2010; WHO, 2010).

Due to the lack of evidence in this area, the generation of research and solid evaluation data are top priorities (World Health Organization and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2010) to ensure that prevention initiatives are based on solid evidence. Furthermore, collecting data on the scope and nature of domestic violence is critical to being able to offer the most appropriate strategies at the most appropriate time. Data of this nature is also critical in determining whether the chosen prevention strategies are truly making a difference in the rates of domestic violence. Prevention of domestic violence is no simple task. As review of these plans demonstrates, it requires multiple strategies at many different levels. However, these efforts are critical to ensuring that families and communities are free from domestic violence.

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## Appendix A: Summary of Documents Reviewed

### National Action Plans

National Action Plans	Year Released	Focus (i.e., prevention – intervention)	Language	Approach	Framework	Use of evidence-based prevention strategies	Plan evaluation or activities report
Australia National	2009	Mixed	Violence Against Women (VAW)	Mixed	Mixed	Yes – men’s engagement strategy “ <b>Domestic Violence, It’s Not Our Game</b> ”	Yes – on public awareness and men’s engagement activities
Denmark	2007	Mixed	VAW	Human Rights	EU Indicators	None specifically identified	Yes – performance report. Measurement on progress against indicators.
Ireland	2010	Mixed	Domestic Violence (DV), Sexual Violence (SV) and Gender Based (GB)	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
New Zealand	2002	Mixed	Family Violence (FV)	Mixed	Mixed	Yes – social marketing campaign	Yes – Taskforce updates on performance
Poland	2006	Mixed	Domestic Violence	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
South Africa	2008	Mixed	Violence Prevention (VP)	Human Rights	Ecological	Yes – <b>Soul City</b> media campaign	None available for review
Sri Lanka	2005	Mixed	DV	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
Turkey	2007	Mixed	DV	Human Rights	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
United Kingdom	2011	Mixed	VAW	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
Vietnam	2010	Mixed	DV	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review



### State and/or Provincial Plan

State/Provincial Action Plans	Year Released	Focus	Language	Approach Used	Framework Used	Use of Evidence-based strategies	Plan evaluation or activities report
Alaska	2010	Primary Prevention	Interpersonal Violence (IPV)	Public Health	Ecological	Yes <b>4<sup>th</sup> R Healthy Relationship Program</b> <b>Choose Respect Program</b>	Yes – Report on activities completed
Alberta	2009	Mixed	Family Violence (FV) & Bullying	Mixed	Mixed	Yes <b>Coordinated Community Response Model</b>	Yes – Performance Measures Report
Newfoundland	2006	Mixed	VP	Human Rights	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
Northwest Territories	2009	Mixed	FV	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
Nova Scotia	2010	Mixed	DV	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
Ontario	2004	Mixed	DV	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
Wales 2005	2005	Mixed	Domestic Abuse	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	None available for review
Wales 2010	2010	Mixed	Violence Against Women	Human Rights	Mixed	None specifically identified	Yes – 2010-2011 Activities Report
Western Australia	2009	Mixed	DV & FV	Mixed	Mixed	Yes – <b>Alcohol restrictions and social marketing campaigns</b>	Yes – Mid term evaluation

## NGO Frameworks

NGO Recommendations	Year Released	Focus (i.e., prevention – intervention)	Language	Approach Used	Framework Used	Use of Evidence-based strategies	Plan evaluation or performance report
Aboriginal Ontario	2007	Mixed	Violence Against Women (VAW)	Determinants of Health	Medicine Wheel	Promising Approach Public Awareness Strategy <b>'Kizhaay Anishinnabe Hin'</b>	No
Aboriginal New Brunswick	2008	Mixed	VAW	Mixed	Mixed	None specifically identified	No
Amnesty International	2010	Mixed	VAW	Human Rights	Mixed	None specifically identified	No
Council of Europe	2010	Mixed	VAW	Human Rights	EU Indicators	None specifically identified	Yes – Evaluation of public awareness
End Violence Coalition	2008	Mixed	VAW	Human Rights	Mixed	Yes <b>Whole School Approaches</b>	No
Inter-development Bank (Latin America)	1999	Mixed	Violence Prevention (VP)	Human Rights	Mixed	None specifically identified	No
Poised for Prevention	2007	Primary Prevention (PP)	IPV	Public Health	Spectrum of Prevention (SP)	Yes – <b>Choose Respect, and Fourth R</b>	No
Prevention Institute Primer	2009	PP	VP	Public Health	SP	Yes – <b>Choose Respect and Fourth R</b>	No
SIDA	2008	Mixed	VAW	Human Rights	Mixed	None specifically identified	No
Texas Council	2012	Prevention	VP	Public Health	SP	Yes – <b>Expect Respect</b>	No
WHO	2010	PP	VAW	Public Health	Ecological	Yes – Recommend a number of evidence-based programs such as <b>Nurse-Family Partnership, Fourth R, Safe Dates and Soul City.</b>	No
VicHealth	2007	PP	VAW	Public Health	Ecological	None specifically identified	No
Virginia Alliance	2009	PP	IPV	Public Health	Ecological	Yes – <b>Expect Respect</b>	No

## Appendix B: Commonly Used Strategies

### Common Strategies National Action Plans

National Action Plans	Changing Societal Norms	Raising Public Awareness	School Based Education	Collaborate and Coordinate Services	Training of Professionals	Leadership	Policy	Community Engagement	Improving data and reporting	Inclusion of Men	First Nations	Ethno-Cultural
Australia National	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Denmark		Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes			Yes
Ireland		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes							
New Zealand		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes
Poland	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes				Yes	Yes		
South Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Sri Lanka	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes		
Turkey	Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes					
United Kingdom	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes			
Vietnam								Yes	Yes			
<b>Total Number of Plans that Include Element</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

### Common Strategies State and/or Provincial Plan

State and/or Provincial Action Plans	Changing Societal Norms	Raising Public Awareness	School Based Education	Collaborate and Coordinate Services	Training of Professionals	Leadership	Policy	Community Engagement	Improving data and reporting	Inclusion of Men	First Nations	Ethno-Cultural
Alaska		Yes	Yes					Yes	Yes	Yes		
Alberta	Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes
Newfoundland	Yes	Yes					Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Northwest Territories	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Nova Scotia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ontario	Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes
Wales 2005		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			
Wales 2010	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes					Yes
Western Australia		Yes	Yes		Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Total Number of Plans that Include Element</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

### Common Strategies NGO Frameworks

NGO Recommendations	Changing Societal Norms	Raising Public Awareness	School Based Education	Collaborate and Coordinate Services	Training of Professionals	Leadership	Policy	Community Engagement	Improving data and reporting	Inclusion of Men	First Nations	Ethno-Cultural
Aboriginal Ontario												
Aboriginal New Brunswick												
Amnesty International							Yes		Yes			
Council of Europe	Yes	Yes		Yes					Yes			
End Violence Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			
Inter-development Bank (Latin America)	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes				
Poised for Prevention	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes		Yes
Prevention Institute Primer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
SIDA	Yes					Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		
Texas Council		Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (plan is for men only)		
WHO	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		
VicHealth	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia Alliance			Yes						Yes	Yes		Yes
<b>Total Number of Plans that Include Element</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>



**SHIFT TO STOP  
VIOLENCE  
BEFORE IT STARTS**



Initiated by The Brenda Stafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence