



# Violence Against Women Request for Information Report

National Institute of Nursing Research  
Office of Research on Women's Health



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# Overview

- **Background for Research on Violence Against Women**
- **About the Request for Information Purpose and Process**
- **Themes and Research Examples from the RFI Analysis**
- **Contact Information and Questions**



# Background

# The Case for Research on Violence Against Women



**About 30%**

of women worldwide experiencing some form of exposure to violence in their lifetime.

Source: WHO



**Almost 1 in 2**

women have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking victimization by an intimate partner.

Source: CDC



**Over 26%**

of women have experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetime.

Source: CDC

# Definitions

- **Women:** In this RFI, women refers to cisgender, transgender, and gender-diverse persons who identify as a woman or girl, as well as other individuals assigned female at birth but who may not identify as a woman or girl.
- **Violence Against Women (VAW):** In this RFI, VAW is considered broadly to include but not be limited to domestic or intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual assault and rape, dating violence and abuse, peer violence, physical and mental abuse, sexual coercion, stalking, homicide, and elder mistreatment.
- **Social Determinants of Health (SDOH):** SDOH is considered from the perspective of victimization and perpetration in that the circumstances that place women at risk of violence are deeply rooted in the conditions of daily living and the wider set of systems and forces that determine them.

# About the RFI

# Purpose

## Solicit

- Comments from the public on scientific gaps and research opportunities to address longstanding and emergent factors that perpetuate VAW.

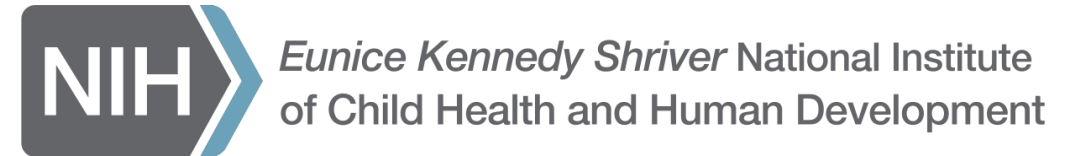
## Gather

- Input to inform research directions to better understand and identify opportunities to address underlying causes that influence women's exposure to violence and to identify approaches to address the health impacts and sequelae of VAW.

## Complement

- Ongoing [Violence Research Initiatives](#) at the NIH to support research to understand, prevent, and address VAW and its health impacts.

# NIH Collaborators





# Respondents



# The Analysis Process

Seven  
weeks  
accepting  
responses

Three scientists from ORWH  
and NINR analyzed  
responses:

1. open coding
2. development of a code book
3. formal coding

Nine  
overarching  
themes

# Research Themes from VAW RFI Analysis

Advance Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Research to Understand and Mitigate Risk

Inform Policy Efforts for Broader Impact

Strengthen Measures and Methodologies in VAW Research

Increase Focus on Intersectionality

Address the Health Sequelae of Violence

Incorporate Research on Violence Perpetration

Foster Family-Based Research to Address the Intergenerational Transfer of Violence

Leverage Diverse Settings to Prevent and Treat VAW

Expand Focus on Disproportionately Impacted Populations



# Themes and Examples

# Theme 1: Advance Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Research to Understand and Mitigate Risk

- Consider SDOH from the perspective of victimization and perpetration to comprehensively understand the societal and social causes that place women at risk.
- Research Examples:
  - Address barriers to violence prevention with a focus on housing and economic instability, lack of childcare, inaccessible transportation, and limited access to domestic violence services and community resources.
  - Increase focus on the SDOH of violence perpetration such as education, economics, incarceration and the criminal legal system, and community cohesion.



## Theme 2: Inform Policy Efforts for Broader Impact

- Inform policy at the local, state, federal, and organizational levels to foster sustained impacts on the prevention of VAW.
- Research Examples:
  - Research to understand the health impact of policies aimed to prevent and treat violence in institutional and organizational settings like colleges and healthcare settings.
  - Research to inform the de-implementation of harmful policies and programs.



## Theme 3: Strengthen Measures and Methodologies in VAW Research

- Identify new ways to assess the magnitude of and factors that contribute to VAW victimization and perpetration.
- Research Examples:
  - Examine and define risk factors for victims and how well those factors can be used to build protection and resilience.
  - Integrate current data across different federal and state agencies and departments.



## Theme 4: Increase Focus on Intersectionality

- Consider intersectionality widely across population groups and subgroups, the life course, and topic areas.
- Research Examples:
  - Increase focus on topic areas in VAW research like HIV, substance use, pregnancy, intergenerational trauma, child and elder maltreatment, and polyvictimization.
  - Examine intersectionality across systems of oppression such as homophobia, racism, classism, ableism, indigeneity, and immigration to understand how these systems contribute to VAW.





## Theme 5: Address the Health Sequelae of Violence

- Expand research to focus on the health effects of VAW beyond the acute phase.
- Research Examples:
  - Examine health consequences conveyed by respondents for consideration in VAW research such as hypertension, HIV, cancers, substance use disorders, and depression.
  - Research on sequelae of violence across the life course, especially considering childhood development, adolescence, pregnancy, midlife, aging populations, and menopausal and post-menopause periods of life.



## Theme 6: Incorporate Research on Violence Perpetration

- A clear and concerted effort is needed to understand the causes of and effective paths to addressing violence perpetration.
- Research Examples:
  - Increase understanding of underlying factors that foster violence, the immediate circumstances that contribute to violence, and how violence is perceived.
  - Develop better, culturally relevant multi-level interventions addressing violence perpetration that consider SDOH factors together with family- and individual-level factors.



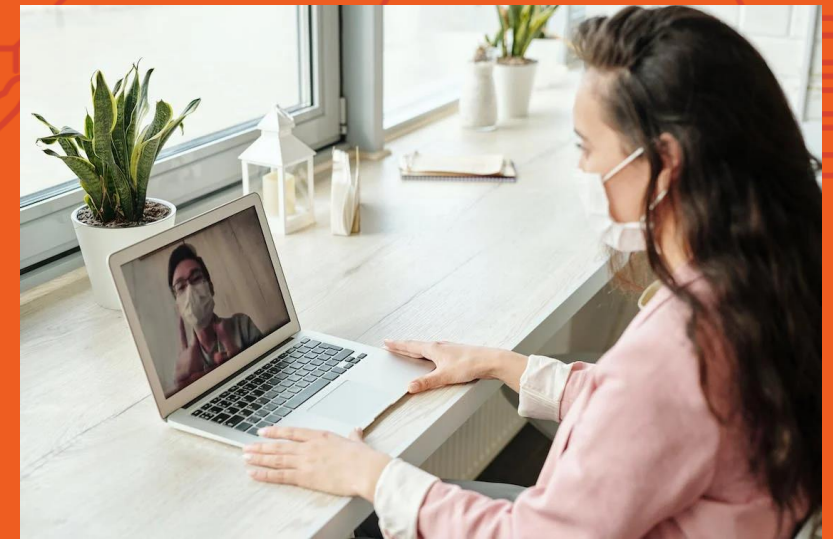
## Theme 7: Foster Family-Based Research to Address the Intergenerational Transfer of Violence

- Assess the interactions, relationships, and health outcomes related to the effects of violence on the family unit across generations.
- Research Examples:
  - Identifying best approaches to intervene and prevent violent behaviors in the family unit.
  - Understanding the long-term consequences of childhood exposure to violence, both psychological and future risk of violence victimization and/or perpetration.



## Theme 8: Leverage Diverse Settings to Prevent and Treat VAW

- Utilize a variety of settings to promote VAW prevention and treatment.
- Research Examples:
  - Utilization of online/virtual settings for VAW research, especially on the relationship between non-contact forms of violence (e.g., cyber-stalking and digital coercion) and health.
  - Leverage community groups – which are often overlooked – already involved in VAW prevention and treatment as potential partners.



## Theme 9: Expand Focus on Disproportionately Impacted Populations

- Expand focus on underrepresented populations in VAW research and populations that are currently represented in the literature but remain disproportionately affected.
- Research Examples:
  - Focus on populations underrepresented in VAW research such as American Indian and Alaska Native groups.
  - Focus on populations that face structural or legal challenges that place them at greater risk of violence or limit their ability to seek services and healthcare.



# Contact Information and Links

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**THANK YOU!**

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