



European Violence Prevention in Health Network



Health actor involvement in violence prevention and intervention networks in Hesse/Germany

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Milestones

Hesse documentation instrument

- **Collaboration:** Four institutes of forensic medicine, physician in E.D. practice, crisis intervention counsellor, women's shelter staff, attorney specialized in family and criminal law & Hesse Department of Social Welfare, support from Hesse Medical Association
- **Product:** Diagnostic and documentation tool for clinicians, published 2003, region-wide dissemination with continuing education and networking promotion effort 2004 – national recognition as promising practice

Hesse community-based initiatives

- Hesse Region Task Force on Violence in the Home installed 2001 to draft Hesse Action Plan
- Hesse Violence Intervention in Health Network installed 2000 – workshops, conferences, tool development
- **23 multi-institutional round tables** in towns, cities and counties in Hesse est. early 90's-2004; **several older and each of the new round tables est. since 2002 involve health professionals**

WHO global
initiative 2004
Violence Prevention Alliance

founding
member

Medico-Legal Clinic University Gießen opened 09-2004

- 4 forensic physicians
- cooperation with Univ. Hospital and local victim services

Policy Framework

- 2002 German Violence Protection Act, reform of civil court protection against violence in the home, particularly partner violence and stalking
- 2002 Police law reform in Hesse - police can now remove violent partner from the home for 14 days (extension possible)
- 2004 Hesse Action Plan to Combat Violence in the Home includes extensive chapter on health sector involvement – Hesse Cabinet approval pending

WHY SHOULD A MINISTRY HELP CREATE A EUROPEAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN HEALTH NETWORK – WITH FORENSIC PHYSICIANS?

- A ministry is in a pivotal position. Its sphere of influence spans community, regional and national levels through programmes and law reforms. It provides leadership in the European Union through European regional partnerships and policy debate.
- The health sector faces barriers to providing effective services for violence victims that policy actors must help overcome. Research directed to monitoring of violence incidence and evaluation of violence protection services is the basis for well-informed, evidence-based public policy decisions.
- Forensic medicine has decisive monitoring skills to contribute to public health policy. Moreover, as a medical discipline, it has expertise in victim care and a knowledge base which meets the needs of other health providers and multiple professions dealing with violence.
- The **European Violence Prevention in Health Network** joins policy leadership with health research and practitioners to set the stage for improving both health outcomes and systematic violence prevention in our communities.

Forensic medicine at the centre of health care responses to violence

European Colloquium - Bordeaux, France - October 22, 2004

Daphne I Programme 2000 – 2003

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