

A NOTE ON PRIMARY PREVENTION:

At Prevail, we believe violence is not inevitable. It isn't a cancer; it's not a natural disaster. It is the result of the choice the perpetrator makes to cause harm. So, the only way to completely prevent violence from occurring is to prevent people from becoming perpetrators.

PRIMARY PREVENTION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is not a freak accident or bad luck. It is a public health issue that can be prevented through environmental, social, and systemic change. Primary prevention—stopping the first time occurrence of violence before it happens—focuses on reducing the attitudes, behaviors, and circumstances in our relationships and communities that make people more likely to engage in violent behavior. Further, it focuses on building safe environments, access to resources, and meaningful connections in all areas of our lives.

WHAT DOES PRIMARY PREVENTION LOOK LIKE?

Prevail is taking a multifaceted approach towards violence prevention, from building protective factors for young people to engaging men to empowering individuals to act when they witness a potentially dangerous situation.

Our work with the [40 Developmental Assets](#) framework helps us teach community members to provide an environment where youth can feel safe, valued, and loved. The Assets are a list of qualities, behaviors, and experiences kids need in order to thrive. We all can play a role in the lives of youth in our community, and we all have a responsibility to create and maintain safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. We often hear the saying, "it takes a village to raise a child," and the Assets show us what this village looks like.

Prevail's 100 Men Campaign: Domestic violence is not just a women's issue, it's an all-of-us issue. We need good men to stand with Prevail in our prevention efforts. Men from all walks of life play a crucial role in eradicating the destructive behaviors and attitudes that lead to violence. 100 Men is a leadership group that aims to develop male leaders who are willing to stand up and oppose violence, creating a ripple effect, encouraging more men to get involved, which will ultimately create a safer community for all. 100 Men group members have the opportunity to serve at 100 Men-sponsored events, as well as volunteer as a group with other organizations in the community. 100 Men members also attend quarterly meetings focused on networking and building skills around violence prevention.

Our work with the [Raise the Bar Indiana](#) program empowers individuals to speak out and take action against potentially violent behaviors. So often, we are afraid to speak up when we see something that makes us uncomfortable because we are afraid of being wrong—we don't want to misread the situation or bother someone, and we're constantly taught to mind our own business. But when we stay silent, the message of indifference we send to offenders and their victims is loud and clear. Raise the Bar Indiana works with alcohol-serving establishments to help staff recognize potentially violent situations and safely intervene.

Through these varied approaches, we hope to reduce occurrences of violence in our community. But Prevail cannot do this on our own. Preventing violence begins with all of us working together to create safer and loving environments. That means building relationships, strengthening connections, and checking in on the people around you. It means encouraging each other, building others up, and breaking down the stigma that surrounds seeking help. Every single one of us has a responsibility to our friends, families, and neighbors to do our part in keeping Hamilton County safe.