



## Health Policy Recommendations to Address Reproductive Health and Violence and Abuse

Comprised of 25 national and allied health professional organizations and reaching more than 850,000 professionals through its membership, the National Health Collaborative on Violence and Abuse (NHCVA) works to prevent and address the health consequences of violence and abuse.

Physical, sexual and emotional abuse are both cause and consequence of poor reproductive health outcomes. Women with unintended pregnancies are two to four times more likely to experience physical violence than those whose pregnancies were planned, and those who experience abuse are at increased risk for pregnancy complications and poor birth outcomes. Research finds homicide is a leading cause of death among pregnant women - with Black women, Native American and Alaska Native women, and younger women bearing a disproportionate burden of those deaths. The intersection of abuse and lack of access to comprehensive reproductive health care can services result in untreated STIs, unplanned pregnancies and miscarriages, and long-term physical and mental health impacts.<sup>1</sup> This lack of access will disproportionately impact low income and marginalized people. To both improve reproductive health and protect people from violence, it is essential that we take immediate steps to fund existing programs that address these intersections, fund research to better understand the linkages and improve access to health care for low-income women. Recommendations include:

- **Violence Against Women Health program:** \$12 million, for FY '23 - Authorized by VAWA and administered by the Office on Women's Health at HHS, this program trains health care providers and strengthens collaborations between public health and domestic violence agencies.
- **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act:** \$300 million for FY'23 – FVPSA is the **only** federal funding solely for DV shelters and services; **Rape Prevention and Education**, \$100 million for '23

### Legislative Efforts:

- **Protect Moms from Domestic Violence Act** (S. 2588/H.R. 4916): This legislation would support research and grants to address adverse maternal health outcomes among survivors of intimate partner violence.
- **Expand Medicaid coverage to at least one year postpartum** in any end of year package

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<sup>1</sup> Noll JG, Shenk CE, Putnam KT. *Childhood sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy: a meta-analytic update.* *J Pediatr Psychol.* 2009;34(4):366–378, Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2722133/>; Boyer D, Fine D. *Sexual abuse as a factor in adolescent pregnancy and child maltreatment.* *Fam Plann Perspect.* 1992 Jan-Feb;24(1):4-11, 19. PMID: 1601126. Available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/1601126/>