

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
POLICY

Subject: Domestic Violence

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POLICY STATEMENT

Domestic violence is a serious criminal offense that generally refers to the physical harm, or threat of physical harm, inflicted by one family or household member against another. By definition, domestic violence includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.

Domestic Violence in South Dakota

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner¹
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15 percent of all violent crime²
- On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls, approximately 15 calls every minute³
- The lifetime prevalence of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner for South Dakota women is 33.7 percent⁴
- Children who grow up in abusive homes have higher incidences of depressive disorder, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, kidney disease, stroke, coronary heart disease, cancer, diabetes and being overweight/obese
- Nearly 2/3 of South Dakota domestic violence homicides are committed with firearms⁵
- Having a gun in the home increases the risk of homicide by at least 500 percent⁶
- 72 percent of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner; 94percent the victims of these crimes are female⁷
- Although American Indians comprise less than 9 percent of the population of South Dakota, they accounted for over 26 percent of victims/survivors of reported forcible rapes in 2012^{8,9}

Therefore, the SDSMA:

1. Recommends routine screening for intimate partner violence – to include screening for coercive control using HARK (Humiliation, Afraid, Rape, Kick);
2. Recommends periodic injury prevention evaluation and counseling regarding firearms;
3. Opposes governmental restrictions or requirements dictating the content of physician/patient counseling regarding firearms;
4. Advocates for funding and support of research, surveillance activities, public education, and anti-violence initiatives that aim to reduce intimate partner violence;

5. Supports laws or regulations limiting the purchase and ownership of firearms by individuals with emergency, temporary, or permanent protective or restraining orders or those with intimate partner violence and/or stalking convictions; and
6. Advocates for improved access and coverage of mental health care and services.

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AUTHORITY

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