

# **VIOLENCE IN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

**Colorado State University Center for Public Deliberation  
Community Forum April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008**



## **Violence in Intimate Relationships**

**Forum Facilitators: Liesl West, Renee Octaviano, and Teddy Saldivar**

**Report Compiled By: Liesl West, Renee Octaviano, and Teddy Saldivar**

**Forum & Report Completed Under the Direction of  
Dr. Martin Carcasson & The Colorado State University Center for Public Deliberation**

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## **Introduction: Intimate Partner Violence**

The topic of our forum was “Intimate Partner Violence”. The group was originally formed because all members realized that women have still not achieved full equality in our society and still face numerous problems. We decided on this particular topic because, after conducting an opinion survey, we realized that this was a topic that many people believed to be one of the “most important”. How to best deal with this problem is a question that plagues many communities. Larimer County is not unlike other communities where programs can overlap, procedures for law enforcement agencies differ, and resources for victim as well as perpetrators are difficult to find.

Some of the statistic we found at the local level focused the topic on to our community so that we could see how the people that live among us are affected. It became obvious that it is very likely that most of us know at least one person who has been affected by this problem. An example is that in 2006, Larimer County had 1,221 domestic violence arrests/reports. Also, almost one half of all murders in Colorado are committed by an intimate or former intimate partner and the victims are disproportionately female. The numbers also indicated that the problem was not being solved by existing programs.

Ultimately, this is a problem that affects whole communities, not just the parties involved. That is why it is so critical that something be done. This deliberation was an attempt to figure out the best strategies for creating an informed community where the cycle of violence against women can be broken.

### **Information on Who Participated in the Intimate Partner Violence Forum**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this section is to examine and analyze the group demographic of the Intimate Partner Violence forum. To achieve this objective, each participant was given a “Participant Information Survey” and instructed to fill out this document prior to commencement of the forum. The demographic areas incorporated on the “Participant Information Survey” include the following fields:

(Note that participants were asked to select certain categories or answer certain questions)

- Are you a CSU student?
- Are you enrolled in SPCM 479?
- Age of Participant
- Gender/Sexual Identification
- Occupation or anticipated occupation
- Race/Ethnicity
- Household Income
- How did you hear about this event?
- How many public meetings or forums have you attended in the last year?
- What do you feel are the 3 most important issues our nation faces today?
- What do you feel are the 3 most important issues our local community faces today?

#### **Participant Data**

As noted in the introduction section, demographic areas included on the “Participant Information Survey” can be placed into two groups; questions that require the participant to offer a written response and questions that require the participant to select a certain category. Each of the following tables includes; (1) The demographic question or informational category, (2) A list of all

available responses to the demographic question or informational category (3) The number of participant responses to a demographic question or informational category, (4) All participant responses to questions that required a written response. Note: The political affiliation, 3 most important issues facing our nation today, and 3 most important issues facing our local community questions received either: a wide distribution of responses or a large number of responses. To better illustrate the responses to these questions, graphs are provided in addition to data tables.

| <b>Are You a Current CSU Student?</b> | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Yes:                                  | 13                         |
| No:                                   | 1                          |

| <b>Are You Enrolled in SPCM 497? (Capstone)</b> | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|---|----------------------------|
| Yes:  | 10                         |
| No:   | 2                          |
| No Response Given:                              | 1                          |

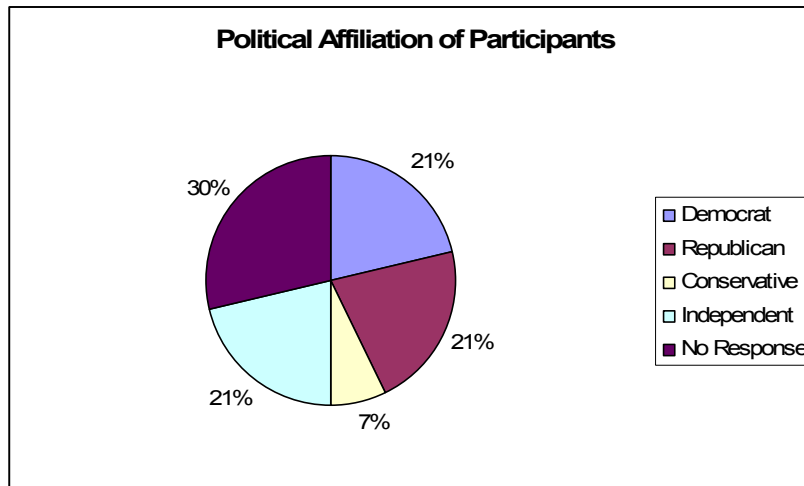
| <b>Age of participant</b> | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 20 or younger             | 1                          |
| 21 to 26                  | 12                         |
| 27 to 44                  | 1                          |
| 45 to 64                  | 0                          |
| 65 +                      | 0                          |

| <b>Gender/Sexual Identification</b> | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Male:                               | 4                          |
| Female:                             | 10                         |

| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>   | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| African American:       | 0                          |
| Caucasian:              | 13                         |
| Multi-Ethnic:           | 1                          |
| Asian/Pacific Islander: | 0                          |
| Hispanic/Latino(a):     | 0                          |
| Native American:        | 0                          |
| Other:                  | 0                          |

| <b>Political Affiliation</b>       | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Democrat:                          | 3                          |
| Republican:                        | 3                          |
| Conservative:                      | 1                          |
| Independent:                       | 3                          |
| No Response Given or Marked "N/A": | 4                          |

**Graph # 1**



| Household Income   | Number of Responses |
|--|---------------------|
| Less Than \$20K:   | 3                   |
| Less Than \$20K (Specifically Marked Individual Income): | 1                   |
| \$20K-\$39K:   | 2                   |
| \$40K-\$59K:   | 0                   |
| \$60K-\$74K:   | 0                   |
| More than \$75K:   | 5                   |
| More than \$75K (Specifically Marked Parents Income):    | 2                   |
| No Response Given  | 1                   |

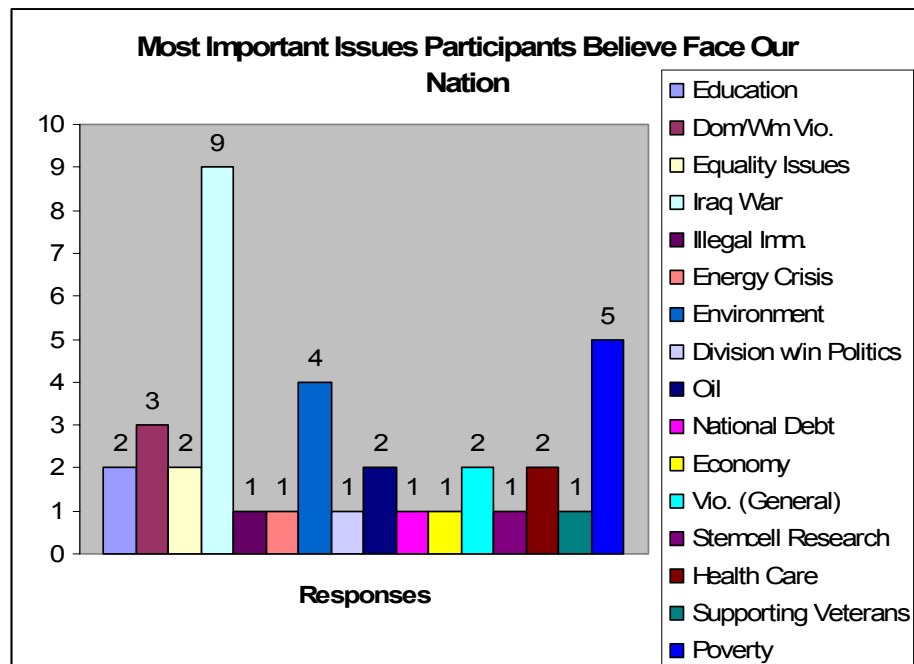
| How Did You Hear About This Event? | Number of Responses |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| In Class                           | 13                  |
| From a Friend                      | 0                   |
| CPD Email List                     | 0                   |
| Other Email List                   | 0                   |
| <i>Coloradoan</i> Article          | 0                   |
| Today at CSU                       | 0                   |
| Flyer                              | 0                   |
| Radio                              | 0                   |
| Other: _____                       | 1 (Invitation)      |

| How Many Public Meetings or Forums Have You Attended in the Last Year? | Number of Responses |
|--|---------------------|
| This is the First  | 13                  |
| 1-3  | 1                   |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 4-8       | 0 |
| 8 or more | 0 |

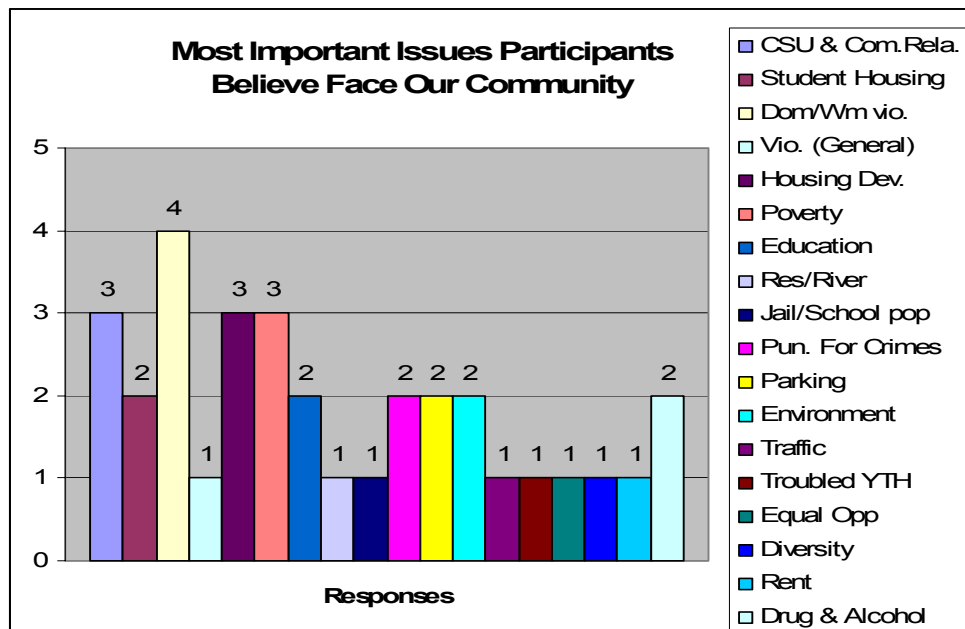
| <b>What Do You Feel Are the Three Most Important Issues Our Nation Faces Today</b><br><small>*(Some Participants Entered Less Than 3 Responses) *(Some Participants Entered More than One Response Per Line, These Responses Were Captured and Recorded)</small> | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Education:   | 2                          |
| Domestic Violence & Violence Against Women:  | 3                          |
| Equality Issues:   | 2                          |
| Iraq War:  | 9                          |
| Illegal Immigration:   | 1                          |
| Energy Crisis:   | 1                          |
| Environment:   | 4                          |
| Division Within Politics:  | 1                          |
| Oil:   | 2                          |
| National Debt:   | 1                          |
| Economy:   | 1                          |
| Violence (General):  | 2                          |
| Stem Cell Research:  | 1                          |
| Health Care:   | 2                          |
| Supporting Veterans:   | 1                          |
| Poverty:   | 5                          |

**Graph # 2**



| What Do You Feel Are the Three Most Important Issues Our Local Community Faces Today *(Some Participants Entered Less Than 3 Responses) *(Some Participants Entered More than One Response Per Line, These Responses Were Captured and Recorded) | Number of Responses |
|--|---------------------|
| Relationship Between the Community & CSU:  | 3                   |
| Issues Related to Housing for Students:  | 2                   |
| Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence & Violence Against Women:   | 4                   |
| Violence (General):  | 1                   |
| Housing & Consumer Development:  | 3                   |
| Poverty:   | 3                   |
| Education:   | 2                   |
| Glade Reservoir/Poudre River:  | 1                   |
| Jail & School Overpopulation:  | 1                   |
| Punishments for Crimes:  | 2                   |
| Parking:   | 2                   |
| Environment:   | 2                   |
| Traffic:   | 1                   |
| Troubled Youth:  | 1                   |
| Equal Opportunities:   | 1                   |
| Diversity:   | 1                   |
| Rate of Housing Rent:  | 1                   |
| Drug & Alcohol Abuse   | 2                   |

Graph # 3



### Interpretation & Analysis of Data

After examining the participant demographics, several data fields stand out. Furthermore, these areas might have effected how our participants perceived the issue of violence in intimate partner relationships. To begin, as figures from the survey indicate the violence in intimate partner

relationships deliberative forum group was overwhelmingly comprised of college students. This figure is easily understood considering that the deliberative forum was sponsored by The Colorado State University Center for Public Deliberation, an organization within an academic institution. Furthermore the deliberative forum was run in conjunction with the Speech Communication Capstone class. In that regard, the composition of this demographic might have given forum participants the perception that solving intimate partner violence is only the responsibility of college students or young adults.

Second, the ratio of female participants to male participants (10:4) was disproportionate. The larger amount of female participants in the forum could have reinforced the popular notion that because victims of intimate partner violence are usually females, they are responsible for addressing this issue.

Thirdly, Caucasians were represented in the intimate partner violence forum significantly more than any other race or ethnicity (13 Caucasians:1 Multi Ethnic Identifier). This statistic demonstrates that the voices, experiences, and opinions of racial and ethnic minorities were not present in the forum.

Fourthly, as statistics from the survey indicate, the intimate partner violence forum was the first public forum experience for the majority of participants. The potential consequences of this statistic are numerous. Participants might have been reluctant to speak because this experience was unfamiliar and they might have been hesitant to offer their opinions fearing that their statements would be considered wrong or incorrect.

Shifting away from the disproportionate data fields, political ideologies were equally represented in our group. With 3 participants identifying as Democrats, 3 as Republicans, 3 as Independent, 1 Conservative, and 4 choosing not to answer or marking unaffiliated, no political ideology was represented more than any other. Furthermore, these figures may indicate that participants felt/feel that intimate partner violence was/is not a partisan issue and that every political affiliation has a responsibility to address this issue. However, by taking a broad perspective with only 4 political ideologies represented in the forum, it can be concluded that the voices, experiences, and opinions of individuals who identify with other political ideologies were not present in our forum.

### **The Process of the Intimate Partner Violence Forum**

After all the participants, facilitators, and note-takers were in the room, Teddy began with the introduction, having everyone introduce themselves and their personal stake and/or why they choose to participate in a forum about Intimate Partner Violence. Teddy also mentioned the empty chair representing the people that were not in the room. After introductions were done, Teddy presented a brief overview of the topic, including reading some of the statistics we had researched and printed on the placemat. He also gave a brief overview of each approach.

When Teddy was finished with that section, Renee facilitated the first approach, "Make it Easier to Get Help". Liesl took notes, both appreciations and concerns. After about twenty minutes, Renee concluded the discussion of Approach One, and Teddy proceeded to facilitate the second approach "Proliferate the Role and Capacity of the Criminal Justice System." Liesl took notes of the appreciations, and Renee took notes of concerns. After Teddy concluded Approach Two (which took place for about twenty minutes as well), Liesl facilitated the third approach "Break the Cycle." Renee and Rachel Lovendahl took notes for this approach, with Renee taking notes of the appreciations, and Rachel taking notes on the conversation in general.

After discussing Approach Three for about twenty minutes, Liesl transitioned the conversation to Reflections. While the group was reflecting some of the trade-offs and common ground of the conversation, the participants were also completing the post-forum survey. The forum concluded with thanking the participants and collecting the completed post-forum surveys.

## **Analysis & Summary of the Discussion**

### **Approach 1**

For this approach some of the appreciations were the need for community awareness and education. Though people stresses the importance of these two areas, neither of them did particularly well with the dot voting. This could be because approach three was more focused on education and prevention, while this approach focused more on existing programs and policies.

Concerns for this approach recognized the weaknesses of existing programs and policies. The biggest concern which was apparent because of the dot voting was that perpetrators may never change, even with more funds allocated to the resources already available to them. This was a tension that surfaces since people know funds are already scarce, where would a community be able to take money from to help agencies that are not seen as totally effective. The idea that more money does not always seem to fix the problem was clearly shared by a majority of the group. This was not apparent from the dot voting, but from observation.

### **Approach 2**

People believed that this approach would be most effective if the law enforcement agencies involved adopted a uniform approach in two areas. The first area was making intimate partner violence crimes the same as other violent crimes. The discrepancy discussed was that intimate partner violence crimes were seen as less severe by law enforcement agencies. A uniform approach to all violent crimes would make reduction of intimate partner crimes more attainable. The other need for uniformity involved adopting consistent protocols between different law enforcement agencies, for example sheriff's office and city police departments.

Concerns for this approach mostly included the idea that our justice system is already failing victims and their needs. This approach does not address the cause of intimate partner violence, and the punishments already being handed out and not preventing offenders from repeating their crimes. Participants realized the existing law enforcement and justice structures already in place are struggling to stop this cycle, but they are in over their heads and a more proactive approach needs to be taken

### **Approach 3**

The most obvious common ground for our discussion was the need for education. This was brought up in all three approaches, but because this approach mentioned it specifically, the discussion was more focused in that direction. Also, a very popular idea was using existing mediums, like television, to educate the public

Concerns with this approach were that these preventive measures would not be properly funded, and would not deal specifically with intimate partner violence. This concern received 7 stickers, the most out of all appreciations and concerns. Participants also realized it is difficult to change society and some of the engrained ideals community members hold, like women being subservient to men.

## **Reflections**

By far the most discussed need for this problem is education. Approaches 1 and 3 were seen as the most viable. The need to focus on existing programs now (approach 1) to help people dealing with this problem is unavoidable, but more focus needs to be directed at prevention and education over the long road if communities even want to be free from this problem.

### **Intimate Partner Violence Forum Discussion Notes**

\*(number indicates the amount of value/agreement dots each statement received)

#### **Discussion Notes from Approach 1: Making it Easier to Get Help**

##### **Approach 1 Appreciations**

- Training is important in helping victims properly. (1)
- Community awareness will help people know what intimate partner violence is and where they can get help. (1)
- Education is important so when people go to family/friends they know how to help. (2)
- People who are victims may feel responsible- important to educate people about facts.
- Starting education early will create more awareness. (1)
- Focus on education in schools. (2)
- Resources for perpetrators important as well. (1)
- Intervention in the community is important. (2)
- May help change perpetrators who have already been identified.

##### **Approach 1 Concerns**

- Facilities for victims can run out of space.
- If we allocate money and victims don't come forward, we've wasted money.
- Throwing money at a problem doesn't always solve it.
- Danger is at point that victim leaves the relationship- help is critical at that point.
- Victims dependent on perpetrators in relationship. (4)
- This approach just continues to feed the problem, prevention is needed as well.
- Perpetrator may not change even with additional resources; abuse mindset is engrained in perpetrators mind. Don't see what they are doing as wrong. (5)
- Only extreme therapy would be effective.
- Perpetrators will not volunteer to get help.
- Perpetrators are manipulative and can get through treatment without changing. (2)
- Therapy not mandatory, perpetrators will not participate.

#### **Discussion Notes from Approach 2: Proliferate the Role & Capacity of the Criminal Justice System**

##### **Approach 2 Appreciations**

- Effective if law enforcement adopted a uniform approach.(3)
- Effective if law enforcement is consistent when investigating.
- Common ground: imprisoning perpetrators of intimate partner violence was a good thing.

##### **Approach 2 Concerns**

- Law enforcement does not provide victims with resources for lasting psychological damage.
- Does not allow for adequate police investigation.
- Probation is not appropriate for perpetrators. (3)

- Punishments for intimate partner violence should resemble those of non-intimate partner assaults. (4)
- A lot of resources to use.
- Effective if jails adopted rehabilitation programs for perpetrators of intimate partner violence. (2)
- Victims might be reluctant to report crimes.
- Police are not always consistent in investigating and arresting perpetrators. (1)
- Perpetrators are likely to assault again.
- Prisons do not rehabilitate perpetrators. (2)
- Not a long term approach.
- Hard line approaches to other problems have not worked.
- Does not address the causes of intimate partner violence.
- Law enforcement already doing what they can. (1)
- Does not address portrayal of women in media.(1)

### **Discussion Notes from Approach 3: Break the Cycle**

#### **Approach 3 Appreciations**

- The most effective way to stop the violence.
- Education will help prevent abuse (6)
- Schools will pick up what parents don't teach children
- Television campaigns could be very helpful and easy (5)
- Trained people on school staff will be effective without using a lot of resources (5)
- Addressed culture/society issues
- Easily integrated into existing programs
- Empowers youth (2)
- Small changes will lead to big changes (2)

#### **Approach 3 Concerns**

- Hard to implement through policy and education
- Need more educational resources that deal specifically with violence and related issues (7)
- Parents don't emphasize that violence is bad (2)
- Not enough time, and that is used as an excuse to not learn about violence
- Needs to be comprehensive so people can be effective towards change (1)
- Too many people are passive consumers- people aren't aware of how media changes them. (3)
- Media hard to change (1)
- Just talking about issue does not solve problem, start with youth- they are future
- Educational programs may not be effective in low income communities
- Hard to change people's mind/personality need to change ideology (1)
- Won't happen overnight, will take time (3)
- Some men don't take this situation seriously they joke about it and try to make them see/understand consequences of joking and the other side of the situation (2)

## Post Forum Survey Results

### Participants in the Forum

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Students        | 12 |
| Non-Students    | 3  |
| Did Not Specify | 2  |

### Participant Figures

### Statement/Question #1

*I think society as a whole already spends enough resources on trying to stop intimate partner violence:*

|                   | Number of Responses |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Strongly Agree    | 0                   |
| Agree             | 0                   |
| Not Sure/Depends  | 2                   |
| Disagree          | 10                  |
| Strongly Disagree | 5                   |

### Statement/Question #2

*I think if more resources were available, more victims and perpetrators would use them to get help:*

|                   | Number of Responses |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Strongly Agree    | 2                   |
| Agree             | 3                   |
| Not Sure/Depends  | 10                  |
| Disagree          | 2                   |
| Strongly Disagree | 0                   |

### Statement/Question #3

*Spending money on better training for people who work with victims and perpetrators is important to help solve this problem:*

|                   | Number of Responses |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Strongly Agree    | 4                   |
| Agree             | 6                   |
| Not Sure/Depends  | 5                   |
| Disagree          | 2                   |
| Strongly Disagree | 0                   |

### Statement/Question #4

*Colorado State laws aimed at punishing perpetrators of intimate partner violence are adequate enough at the present time:*

|                   | Number of Responses |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Strongly Agree    | 0                   |
| Agree             | 1                   |
| Not Sure/Depends  | 7                   |
| Disagree          | 3                   |
| Strongly Disagree | 6                   |

**Statement/Question #5**

*We should require mandatory incarceration for perpetrators of intimate partner violence, even if this is the first offense:* **Number of Responses**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Strongly Agree    | 2 |
| Agree             | 7 |
| Not Sure/Depends  | 7 |
| Disagree          | 1 |
| Strongly Disagree | 0 |

**Statement/Question #6**

*I would be willing to pay higher taxes to increase law enforcement's ability to incarcerate perpetrators of intimate partner violence:* **Number of Responses**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Strongly Agree    | 3 |
| Agree             | 9 |
| Not Sure/Depends  | 2 |
| Disagree          | 2 |
| Strongly Disagree | 0 |

**Statement/Question #7**

*Society at large doesn't have any business dictating what occurs in intimate relationships:* **Number of Responses**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Strongly Agree    | 0 |
| Agree             | 1 |
| Not Sure/Depends  | 3 |
| Disagree          | 5 |
| Strongly Disagree | 8 |

**Statement/Question #8**

*Prevention is the only truly effective way to put an end to violence in intimate relationships:* **Number of Responses**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Strongly Agree    | 6 |
| Agree             | 9 |
| Not Sure/Depends  | 0 |
| Disagree          | 2 |
| Strongly Disagree | 1 |

**Statement/Question #9**

*Education is not a strong enough tool to bring about the change that is needed:* **Number of Responses**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Strongly Agree   | 1 |
| Agree            | 1 |
| Not Sure/Depends | 1 |
| Disagree         | 9 |

**Statement/Question #10****Note: Statement/Question allowed for open participant responses**

*If you had the chance to communicate one thing about this issue directly to other community members, what would you tell them?*

- Choose your actions wisely as you never know who is watching
- To speak out if you are a victim and try to take a stance in order to advocate change.
- This shouldn't be overlooked.
- We need to start at the beginning. To educate children and continue education through high school would be beneficial in the long run.
- Prevention is the key and most effective
- This is a very important issue but all three approaches need to be implemented. To truly solve or improve a problem, the past, present, and future all need to be addressed.
- Start educating individuals at earlier age
- That domestic violence is a problem and that there are options out there for people who need it.
- It happens. Every person can take action to help prevent these measures from happening. A hug a day keeps the doctor away.
- It is okay to get help and everyone needs to be willing to help those in this situation.
- That domestic violence can be so much more than physical violence, and can happen from more than hitting each other.
- It happens a lot more than you think and it is very hard to get out of a relationship involving DV because of the control the perpetrator has on the victim.
- Education is vital, this is a relevant issue.
- Don't get me started; I have a lot to say on this issue!
- This affects more people you personally know or think.
- Can't pick one thing!! Violence against women is a real issue and everyone needs to take action.

**Statement/Question #11****Note: Statement/Question allowed for open participant responses**

*What actions would you most strongly support in the community to address this issue?*

- Informing youngsters about the overall seriousness of these issues
- Support systems and educational programs
- Prevention at a young age
- Education and prevention
- Children's programming sounded like a good idea. Maybe girl scouts, Boys and Girls Club, Clubs like this that can help
- Education on this issue as a whole and specifically
- All these are needed, prevention, punishment and therapy
- Spread awareness in schools
- Education in school, children's programming
- Preventative measures
- Teaching our youth what this is and how to treat each other with respect
- Better and more therapy for perpetrators. More education for youth. Uniform policy for assault

- I will support any type of funding specifically for education in the school system
- Education Implementation
- Prevention and education to students in all grade levels
- Address IPV explicitly as part of character ed programs in schools, including in elementary schools
- Prevention, awareness

### **Statement/Question #12**

**Note: Statement/Question allowed for open participant responses**

*What key areas of common ground do you feel was present in your group?*

- EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION
- Thinking prevention is essential
- Prevention is needed
- Media is a huge problem
- Break the cycle, rehabilitate, change media
- Prevention and education
- Everyone agreed that it is an issue and action is needed
- Media, society need to change
- Prevent, less talk, more action, be the role model (change) you wish to see in the world
- It all felt like it was common ground
- System is not working
- People understand that the perpetrator and the victims both need psychological help at the time, we need to focus on prevention instead of treatment
- Need for change
- Agreement that a problem exists and we have responsibility to act
- Prevention is important, a comprehensive approach is necessary

### **Statement/Question #13**

**Note: Statement/Question allowed for open participant responses**

*What were some key areas of tension or conflict that existed (either between participants or areas in which you are conflicted or unsure how to move forward)? What “tough choices” did your group uncover or struggle with?*

- The difficulty of making real change, some misinformation among participants
- The idea of “mandatory arrest” doesn’t necessarily identify “true” perpetrators, both parties may be contributing. It’s always assumed that it’s the men
- Funding
- How to change the media
- Where \$ should come from and go
- How to change the media is tough
- How to deal with on the spot occurrences, who goes to jail, when and how they go to jail
- How to make changes
- Information on this issue matters, AKA statistics
- Conflicting opinions on possible cures through limited costs
- The act of training individuals to address victims/perpetrators

### **Statement/Question #14**

| <i>How satisfied are you with the conversations you had today?</i> | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Very Satisfied   | 2                          |
| Satisfied  | 11                         |
| Somewhat Satisfied   | 3                          |
| Neutral  | 1                          |
| Somewhat Dissatisfied  | 0                          |
| Dissatisfied   | 0                          |
| Very Dissatisfied  | 0                          |

**Statement/Question #15**

| <i>Do you feel you now have a clearer or deeper understanding of the issue than you did before the forum?</i> | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|---|----------------------------|
| Certainly   | 6                          |
| Somewhat  | 9                          |
| No  | 2                          |
| Not Sure  | 0                          |

**Statement/Question #16**

| <i>Did you hear ideas or see new possibilities for dealing with the issue that you had not considered before the forum?</i> | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|---|----------------------------|
| Certainly   | 10                         |
| Somewhat  | 5                          |
| No  | 2                          |
| Not Sure  | 0                          |

**Statement/Question #17**

**Note: Statement/Question allowed for open participant responses**

*What voices or perspectives were not present in your small group that needed to be?*

- Law makers, law enforcement
- Law enforcement, school district reps
- Voice of victims and perpetrators
- None
- We needed the other side's viewpoint
- Victims/perpetrators and policymakers
- The perpetrator
- I thought it was great, we had some ladies from the safe-house and that was awesome
- More community voices or victims
- Big government, politicians, perpetrators
- Can't think of anything
- Actual Perpetrators

**Statement/Question #18**

**Note: Statement/Question allowed for open participant responses**

*If we were to host an additional forum on the specific topic your small group addressed, what should we focus on? What questions should we address?*

- How to design more effective awareness and prevention programs
- Realistic implementation of policies
- Equal punishments, counseling, education
- More education
- Preventative measures and how realistic it is to make it happen
- Logistics, money, therapy, etc.
- Spreading awareness and the small steps we can do, implementing education in schools
- How should we implement teaching awareness at the elementary school level
- What action should take place
- Funding
- Police action, restraining orders and jail time
- Implementation of education programs
- Sexism, Reverse Sexism
- Specific costs that would be affordable and how influential they are by proven statistics

**Statement/Question #19**

**Note: Statement/Question allowed for open participant responses**

*Please add any additional comments or suggestions you have concerning today's forum:*

- Thanks for choosing this topic!
- The paper tearing was distracting
- Good conversations. I like that representatives from the safe-house were present
- Don't make as structured- let people talk and then facilitate if needed
- I felt like it was almost a little too structured. Like I couldn't say what I wanted because it wasn't on topic
- Almost too structured. Took away from the conversation
- I don't appreciate the Crossroads people rolling their eyes and showing favoritism to people who know are agree with what they feel is right. I understand they're professional but I would never talk to them if I am going to be judged. –Please leave!

**The Fall 2008 Community Issues Forum is scheduled for November 17, 2008. How likely are you to attend that forum?**

|                                 | <b>Number of Responses</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Very Likely                     | 2                          |
| Somewhat Likely                 | 4                          |
| Not Sure                        | 4                          |
| Not Likely                      | 4                          |
| Depends on topics               | 0                          |
| Depends on if I still live here | 2                          |
| No Response                     | 1                          |

**Interpretation & Analysis of Post-Survey Questions**

One of the most interesting themes among the post-forum survey results was that, while during the discussion, there didn't seem to be a strong sense that punishing perpetrators was important. The survey results indicate that is something most of the participants feel strongly about (12 out of the 17 respondents mentioned that they would be willing to pay more taxes to increase incarceration of perpetrators).

It was also obvious that education and prevention is an important factor, through various outlets, for solving the issue of intimate partner violence. Most of the conflict/trade-offs/tough choices were regarding funding and influencing the media. Surprisingly, it seemed that the group was mostly neutral about making it easier to get help, but seemed to feel more strongly about punishing perpetrators and implementing education/prevention initiatives.