

Fighting Domestic Violence

This month, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) received a two year grant to prevent domestic violence. Project Connect: A Coordinated Public Health Initiative to Prevent Violence against Women is designed to improve the health and safety of women and children.

The Project is funded by the Office on Women's Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is designed to identify, respond to, and prevent domestic and sexual violence, and promote an improved public health response to abuse.

IDPH is one of ten entities in nine states to be awarded \$200,000 for implementation of the program.

The IDPH Domestic Abuse Death Review Team's biennial report for 2007-2008 states that Iowa averaged about 15 deaths per year between 2005 and 2009 from domestic violence, compared to about 12 per year between 1995 and 2004. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 1,200 deaths and two million injuries to women from intimate partner violence each year nationally.