



Professional Development and Training Overview

About Us

Founded in 2007, the Center on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) is a pioneer research center working towards the elimination of violence against women and children and the power imbalances that permit them. We are a field leader in providing professional development and customized training to meet the needs of individuals and agencies.

VAWC offers training in two formats. [In Person](#): Our in person Professional Certificate Program has been developed to support agencies who are eager to expand their knowledge of issues surrounding power-based violence and violence against women.

[Online](#): Our online Virtual Academy offers the opportunity to take courses at your own pace, from the comfort of your home or desk, and on the topics that seem most relevant for your learning. Online courses can be taken by individuals, groups, and agencies.

Both formats feature dynamic courses that incorporate current research, field trends, self-reflection, videos, activities, and more. All courses provide participants with a deeper dive into the issues paramount in the field to encourage trauma informed practice. Through the exploration of core content areas such as understanding violence, screening and assessment, diversity, ethical issues, and legal resources with the addition of specialty topics like mental health, substance use, economic empowerment, and others; participants will leave the program feeling empowered to support survivors and offer trauma informed services regardless of their role or previous experience.

About You

I am an individual professional looking to further develop my skills...

Check out our Virtual Academy for Empowering Professionals. The Virtual Academy has been developed to ensure no matter where you are or how much time you have, you can build your toolkit and expertise. Courses may be taken individually or as a series to earn your Professional Certificate in Violence Against Women.

Cohorts of 25+ individuals may choose to enroll in the Violence Against Women Certificate program or create a custom course package. The Virtual Academy for Empowering Professionals has been developed to ensure that no matter where you are you can build your toolkit and expertise right from your desk and on your own schedule. [In person training is available for those local to the New Jersey area.](#)

For more information email: training@ssw.rutgers.edu



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WOMEN AND CHILDREN
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

How does it work?

Courses below may be taken individually or to earn a Professional Certificate in Violence Against Women. All bolded courses and five (5) additional electives must be taken. Rates are based on number of participants and courses selected. Contact us to learn more!

- **Understanding Violence Against Women**
- **Screening, Assessment, & Basic Interventions**
- **Ethical Issues and Values**
- **Legal Responses**
- **Diverse Populations**
- Mental Health
- Impact of Domestic Violence on Children
- Substance Abuse
- Understanding Perpetration
- Economic Empowerment with Survivors
- Middle and High School Populations



In Person and Virtual Academy Courses \$100-125 per person based on cohort size and number of courses selected.

*Due to COVID-19 Organizations may opt to take the certificate series via webinar at a reduced cost. To support online learning, discounts are also available for the Virtual Academy. Contact us to learn more.

For more information/to register: training@ssw.rutgers.edu



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Professional Development Course Details

Understanding Violence Against Women

Geared toward professionals who are eager to expand their knowledge of the issues of violence against women, this important workshop provides participants with an understanding of the fundamental issues related to violence against women in all its forms – physical, sexual, emotional, and financial. This workshop will include an exploration of the legal developments and social change movements that have developed within the context of the anti-sexual violence and domestic violence movements, emphasizing how participants' own experiences, values and views may have shaped their beliefs. Special attention will be given to the ways in which the issues of violence against women are compounded for women of color, lesbians and disabled women.

Violence Against Women: Techniques in Screening, Assessment & Basic Interventions

Appropriate responses to victims and survivors require a coordinated community response in which professionals and community members understand the types of violence perpetrated against women and children; are able to screen and assess individuals for abuse; and are prepared to provide basic and immediate interventions connecting individuals to appropriate community resources. Participants taking this workshop will also develop their understanding of the ethics, goals, and principles surrounding screening and assessing for abuse in a culturally sensitive way.

Ethical Issues and Values in Violence Against Women Work

This workshop will examine the ethics and values involved with violence against women work for professionals in a variety of fields. Participants will leave this workshop with an understanding of the importance of empowerment, self-determination, informed consent and feminist ethics when it comes to appropriately and effectively interacting with survivors of domestic or sexual violence. Examples of various situations in which ethical issues may be raised will be examined, including how to negotiate safety issues, questions of reporting, and the various ways the different professional codes of ethics may interact with violence against women ethics and values.

Legal Responses to Violence Against Women

As a result of participating in this workshop, participants will become aware of the state and federal laws related to various forms of violence against women, particularly sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Additionally, this workshop will enable participants to understand the various legal remedies available to victims within the justice process, including restraining orders, divorce, and other relief involving economic justice, child custody, and civil suits brought by survivors of any of the above listed types of violence against women. Finally, in examining the standard operating procedures of law enforcement and the courts, participants will learn about the roles of key personnel involved in the legal process, as well as the critical role that direct service providers can play in supporting and empowering women who have experienced violence.

Violence Against Women in Diverse Populations

Recognizing the critical impact that issues of race, culture, sexual orientation, religious identity, ability and other diverse identities has on victims' experiences of violence, this workshop provides a first glimpse into the issues of violence against women in relation to: LGBT Community; People with Disabilities; Cultural Groups or Ethnicities; Immigrants, Asylum Seekers & Refugees; People with language issues; Elder Victims; Male Victims; Substance Abuse population; Severe Mental Illness Population and Teens. Participants will leave this workshop having learned strategies for addressing the various obstacles or issues that victims face in accessing services and negotiating the various support systems.

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Mental Health and Violence Against Women

Research has shown that survivors of violence against women have a greater risk of experiencing a myriad of mental health issues and are more likely to experience depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, to abuse alcohol and drugs, and to contemplate suicide as a result of their experiences, causing many survivors to seek mental health and other supportive services. This fundamental workshop provides an overview of the common mental health issues that many survivors of violence may face. Additionally, information on how to prevent “screening out” survivors from support, shelter or clinical services based on previous misdiagnosis will be discussed, as well as an introduction to some of the current effective treatment interventions that survivors may encounter while engaged in clinical services.

Impact of Domestic Violence on Children

As a result of taking this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of violence against women and the impact exposure to such violence has on children physically, emotionally, and developmentally. Participants will examine prevention models and learn how to minimize the negative, and long-term impact exposure to violence can have on youth. This workshop will provide participants with information on how to respond to children exposed to violence and abuse and to families impacted by violence and abuse. In addition, time will be spent discussing the tensions that exist between child protective services and violence against women advocates.

Violence Against Women and Substance Abuse

Though experts agree there is a connection between substance abuse and violence against women, its precise nature remains unclear. Not only do perpetrators tend to abuse drugs and alcohol, but domestic violence and sexual assault may increase the probability that victims may use alcohol or drugs to cope with abuse. This workshop will explore how the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault and substance abuse can interact and exacerbate each other and the importance of addressing these issues simultaneously. A goal of the workshop is to understand the complexity of the problem, address misperceptions and prejudices, and better service individuals as well as lay the foundation for a coordinated community response. Participants will gain an understanding of the way each problem can interfere with the resolution of the other and of the barriers posed.

Understanding Perpetration of Violence Against Women

This workshop provides participants with an understanding of sexual violence and domestic violence perpetration and working with perpetrators. Participants will explore offender characteristics, learn about the modes and methods they utilize to commit acts of violence and gain an understanding of the myths and stereotypes that exist regarding sexual violence and domestic violence perpetration. The workshop will examine theories of etiology, the dynamics of abuse, and discuss institutional supports for abusive behavior. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore treatment and intervention options and methods for working with both types of perpetrators, as well as discuss various laws and legal responses used to sanction perpetrators.

Economic Empowerment with Survivors

Violence against women comes in all forms, including physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse. The use of economic or financial abuse to control and manipulate a partner is a topic that has recently received increased notice. Economic education programs have been introduced to survivors of domestic violence in order to provide them with the information and tools they need to become empowered financially. This workshop will explore the use of financial abuse by batterers to control and isolate their partners, and focus on both short and long term strategies for assisting survivors in their quest to become financially independent.

Violence Against Women in Middle and High School Populations

Violence against women is occurring at very high rates among adolescent girls. While there are many similarities with middle and high school students and the adult population experiencing gender based violence, there are also differences in the ways that adolescent girls are experiencing victimization. There are many strategies being used that focus on prevention with the adolescent population. This workshop will focus on understanding the dynamics of gender based violence within the middle and high school adolescent population and focus on strategies for working with this population.

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