

Most Men Will Support Efforts to Prevent Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault

More than half of men think it is very likely that, at some point in their lives, they will know a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, and most are willing to take action to raise awareness, help victims, and promote healthy, violence-free relationships, according to a poll conducted for the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) and released in June.

According to the poll, 56% of men – and 60% of those age 18 to 34 – have reason to believe a member of their family, a close friend or acquaintance has been in a domestic violence or sexual assault situation. More than half (57%) think they can personally make some difference in preventing violence, and 73% think they can make some difference in promoting healthy, respectful, non-violent relationships.

And, it finds, men are taking action. Two in three fathers (68 percent) have talked to their sons about the importance of healthy, violence-free relationships, and 63% have talked to their daughters. Fifty-five percent of the men surveyed have talked to other boys who are not their sons.

“There has been significant change in men’s attitudes toward domestic, dating and sexual violence, and especially in their willingness to take action to stop it,” FVPF President Esta Soler said. “That’s one reason domestic violence has been declining in this country. But it’s still a tremendous problem. We need many more individuals and institutions to get involved. It is within our reach to dramatically reduce violence against women, but we all need to be part of the solution. That so many men say they are willing to act gives us real hope.”

For more information on the poll visit www.endabuse.org/07menspoll.

If you or someone you know needs help, call:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233 (SAFE)

1-800-787-3224 (TTY for the Deaf)

www.ndvh.org

Help is available in English and Spanish and many other languages.

All contact with the hotline is free and confidential.

If you want to join other men in helping to stop violence against women and children visit the Family Violence Prevention Fund website at www.endabuse.org.