

# INDIANA HEALTH ADVOCACY COALITION NEWSLETTER



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### THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON OUR COMMUNITY

During 2021, Indiana law enforcement agencies reported 15,197 violent crime incidents to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS, <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>). Because many incidents of violence, particularly domestic violence, go unreported each year and under 70% of Indiana law enforcement agencies report to NIBRS, it is likely that the number of violent crimes experienced by Indiana residents is much larger. Violence has a long-term, negative impact on the economic and health outcomes of survivors, their families, and the communities in which the violence occurred.

The Indiana Health Advocacy Coalition has made its 2022 impact goal to educate the public on the long-term effects of violence and to create a dialogue on ways in which health care, legal, and other professionals can work together to reduce violence and its impact on Indiana residents. We hope that you will join us in this effort by starting a dialogue in your community on how to reduce violence and how to support survivors of violent crimes.

Best regards,

Rakuya K. Trice, Board President

### DID YOU KNOW???

Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation. Domestic Violence can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, income, or other factors.

- ◆ 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.
- ◆ On a typical day, local domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 19,159 calls, an average of approximately 13 calls every minute.
- ◆ In 2018, domestic violence accounted for 20% of all violent crime.
- ◆ Abusers' access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner femicide at least five-fold. When firearms have been used in the most severe abuse incident, the risk increases 41-fold.
- ◆ 65% of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner; 96% of the victims of these crimes are female.

Click [here](#) for more information on Indiana statistics.

**The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, has promoted the Healthy People 2030 Objective.**

“Crime and violence experienced by individuals living in a community is an important public health issue. People can be exposed to violence in many ways. They may be victimized directly, witness violence or property crimes in their community, or hear about crime and violence from other residents.

Violence can lead to premature death or cause non-fatal injuries. People who survive violent crime endure physical pain and suffering and may also experience mental distress and reduced quality of life. Repeated exposure to crime and violence may be linked to an increase in negative health outcomes. For example, people who fear crime in their communities may engage in less physical activity. As a result, they may report poorer self-rated physical and mental health. One study found that people who perceive their environment to be less safe from crime may also have higher body mass index scores and higher levels of obesity due to reduced physical activity.

Exposure to violence in a community can be experienced at various levels, including victimization, directly witnessing acts of violence, or hearing about events from other community members. It can also include property crimes that result in damage to the built environment. Crime rates vary by neighborhood characteristics. Low-income neighborhoods are more likely to be affected by crime and property crime than high-income neighborhoods.

Children and adolescents exposed to violence are at risk for poor long-term behavioral and mental health outcomes regardless of whether they are victims, direct witnesses, or hear about the crime. For example, children exposed to violence may experience behavioral problems, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Children exposed to violence may also show increased signs of aggression starting in upper-elementary school. Children exposed to several types of violence over long periods of time are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems compared to children with only moderate exposure to violence.

The effects of exposure to violence in childhood may be seen in adulthood and can result in greater risk for substance use, risky sexual behavior, and unsafe driving behavior. Individuals exposed to violence at any age are more likely to engage in and experience intimate partner violence. Women exposed to intimate partner violence have an increased risk of physical health issues such as injuries, and mental health disorders such as disordered eating, depression and suicidal ideation.

There are serious short- and long-term health effects from exposure to crime and violence in one’s community. Addressing exposure to crime and violence as a public health issue may help prevent and reduce the harms to individual and community health and well-being. Additional research is needed to increase the evidence base for what works to reduce the effects of crime and violence on health outcomes and disparities. This additional evidence will facilitate public health efforts to address crime and violence as a social determinant of health.”

Healthy People 2030 organizes **the social determinants of health** into 5 domains:

1. Economic Stability
2. Education Access and Quality
3. Health Care Access and Quality
4. Neighborhood and Built Environment
5. Social and Community Context

**Crime and Violence are key issues in the Neighborhood and Built Environment domain.**

For more information, visit [Healthy People 2030](#).

## Trainings & Conferences in 2022

### Upcoming Webinars

- ◆ **“Understanding the Intersection and the Increased Impact of Social Determinants of Health: [Social Determinants of Health’s Impact on Marginalized Communities](#)”** **March 10, 2022, 3:30—4:15 p.m.** This webinar, sponsored by the Indiana Coalition against Domestic Violence, will address how living at the intersection of being a survivor of domestic violence and living with HIV increases the impact of social determinants of health. We then will discuss how advocates can apply this knowledge in their work with survivors. **[REGISTER NOW](#)**

# IHAC SPOTLIGHT...

## Kerry Hyatt Bennett, JD

Kerry has been the Chief Legal Counsel at the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) since 2005, and an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis for a decade, specializing in state and federal domestic violence law.



### How did you get involved in IHAC?

I became involved in IHAC about two years ago by the invitation of former IHAC board member (and consummate overachiever) Barb Bachmeier. Barb is (somehow) an attorney, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and a retired officer in the military. She is also the first person I ever worked with who helped me “connect the dots” about the systemic relationships between law, healthcare, justice and safety. Law is traditionally such a reactive practice and thinking more broadly about the how the justice and healthcare systems interact is really a new and exciting way of thinking. I am still learning a lot, after 30 years of perhaps a more “traditional” practice of law. I am certainly still a novice in the MLP world.

### How have MLPs impacted your life and/or career?

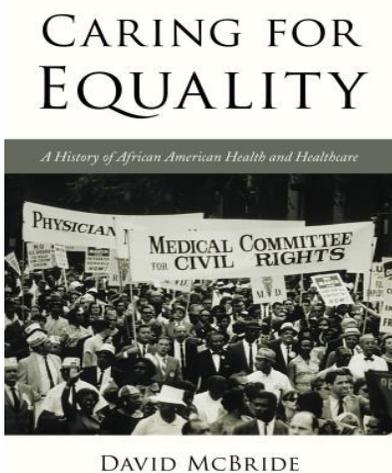
Learning more about MLPs has helped me think more broadly about access to justice issues, access to healthcare and how very often they are the same thing. It just makes sense to collaborate and offer a more holistic approach when it profoundly benefits the recipients; it is certainly more efficient.

### What are you most passionate about?

Justice. Sometimes its pretty amazing when it actually settles in your corner. It should not be a pleasant surprise.

### How do you spend your free time?

I work a lot. But I like my job. I think I will always work in some capacity—I think lawyers can do amazing work if they choose to use their powers for good. I also run (using the term very loosely) as an escape...more like trudge. But it’s therapeutic and lets me listen to books on tape about history.



## Suggested Reading...

African Americans today continue to suffer disproportionately from heart disease, diabetes, and other health problems. In *Caring for Equality* David McBride chronicles the struggle by African Americans and their white allies to improve poor black health conditions as well as inadequate medical care—caused by slavery, racism, and discrimination—since the arrival of African slaves in America. Black American health progress resulted from the steady influence of what David McBride calls the *health equality ideal*: the principle that health of black Americans could and should be equal to that of whites and other Americans. Including a timeline, selected primary sources, and an extensive bibliographic essay, McBride’s book provides a superb starting point for students and readers who want to explore in greater depth this important and understudied topic in

- ◆ *Violence as a Public Health Concern*, American Academy of Family Physicians, <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/violence-public-health-concern.html#Violence%20as%20a%20Public%20Health%20Concern>
- ◆ *Violence (Position Paper)*, American Academy of Family Physicians, <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/violence-position-paper.html> with charts and maps representing current incidents involving gun violence in the United States <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/charts-and-maps>

## WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE INDIANA LEGISLATURE?

**House Bill 1214 Residential Eviction Actions.** An eviction, or just the filing of a claim for possession, reflects negatively on a tenant’s rental history, making it difficult to rent. This bill would allow the record to be sealed and unsearchable when certain conditions apply and parameters have been met. Bill 1214 has been signed by the Speaker of the House.

**HB 1361: TANF and Child Care Assistance Eligibility.** This bill exempts \$10K of assets in determination which is great because we want families to be able to save and continue on towards economic security. The bill exempts the qualifying child’s primary residence and \$20K of equity in the vehicles belonging to members of the child’s family. This is important because current law combines the equity of all the cars together and can keep families from the wrap around services of TANF. The bill also exempts \$15K from the family’s CCDF eligibility if a household member is working on their first postsecondary degree, a workforce certificate, a pre-apprenticeship or an apprenticeship.

IHAC has been a primary promoter of the “medical-legal partnership” in Indiana for over a decade. We work to foster relationships between healthcare providers, legal advocates, and academic researchers - with the goal of using legal interventions to improve health outcomes.



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