



Understanding the Language We Use

As a variety of partners are working to prevent different forms of violence and abuse throughout Oregon, it's valuable to understand how these varying partners talk about what they are trying to do. This document looks at two of these partners, Child Abuse Prevention Practitioners and Domestic and Sexual Violence Preventionists. We will look at some examples of common issues we are trying to address.

Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Practitioners (CAPI)

These practitioners are predominantly working to address child abuse throughout Oregon. Prevention services are offered to youth and/or adults. Intervention services are commonly for people under the age of 18, however, some practitioners provide services to adult survivors and adults with developmental disabilities.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Preventionists (DVSA)

These practitioners focus on different forms of violence that occur across the lifespan. This means that they work with people of all ages, from children to elders. This also means that people in this sector have varying expertise, and not every person is an expert in serving every age group.

Neglect

This is a common issue seen by Oregon's CAPI organizations, primarily referring to a failure to care for a child properly, including meeting basic needs.

Failure to provide the care, supervision or services necessary to maintain physical and mental health

Neglect

This commonly occurs when an abuser controls quality of life for a survivor and children, including causing neglect by interrupting the ability to offer/receive care or resources.

Physical Abuse

This is commonly what people think of when they think of child abuse. Some examples include hitting, shaking, kicking, and restraining a child.

Any intentional and unwanted contact with someone or something close to a person's body which causes harm

Physical Violence

This is what people commonly think of when they think of domestic and sexual violence. Some common examples of this may include: pushing, slapping, strangulation, and striking objects/ the wall, etc. as a threat of violence.

Sexual Abuse/Assault

Commonly used to describe sexual violence to people under 18 years of age. This is what Oregon's Child Sex Abuse Prevention Education Law (Erin's Law) is working to address. This type of abuse may include: any sexual contact with a child or any behavior that is meant to sexually arouse the abuser, like making a child pose for pictures.

Any nonconsensual sexual act, or any sexual act where "no" is not a viable option for any person involved (including from pressure/coercion)

Sexual Violence

The "umbrella" of sexual violence encompasses abuse, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment, as well as other societal/ cultural practices that utilize sex and sexuality to oppress people, including: the propagation of child pornography, incest, female genital mutilation, commercial sexual exploitation and sex slavery, & systematic mass rape as a weapon of war.

Sexual Harassment

For CAP practitioners, this often occurs in school settings. It may include: sexual talk/comments/whistling, sexual touching or gestures, threats or implied rewards.

A pattern of unwanted sexual behavior towards someone

Sexual Harassment

Sexual favors may be demanded or suggested as a condition of employment, academic success, friendship, etc. or a hostile environment may be created through sexual comments, jokes, pictures, or touching.

Stalking

This comes up in conversations around teen dating abuse, school and community safety, and grooming.

A person repeatedly monitors, follows or harasses someone, making them feel afraid or unsafe

Stalking

This may include: someone following you/showing up where you are, sending unwanted gifts or messages, damaging your things, monitoring your phone/computer use, threatening to hurt you, or those you love, and posting information or spreading rumors.

Dating Abuse/Domestic Abuse

Describes violence experienced in a dating relationship or at home. One of the common ways CAPI Organizations address this is addressing violence that children/youth may have witnessed in their home, and/or providing services to children who have experienced this form of abuse directly.

A pattern of behaviors one person uses to gain and maintain power and control over a partner

Dating/Interpersonal/Domestic Violence

Domestic violence can happen in all kinds of intimate relationships, including: married couples, couples who live together, people with children, same-sex or gender-nonconforming partners, ex-partners, teen dating relationships, etc. This often includes emotional, social, sexual, and financial abuse tactics to control a partner. Dating violence is what Oregon's Healthy Teen Relationships Act (HTRA) is working to address.