

ESCAPE Project

Enhancing State Capacity to Address Child and Adolescent Health through Violence Prevention

A Cooperative Agreement with the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Rebecca K. Odor, MSW
Director of Sexual & Domestic Violence Prevention
Division of Injury and Violence Prevention
Virginia Department of Health
804-864-7740
Becky.Odor@vdh.virginia.gov
www.vahealth.org/civp

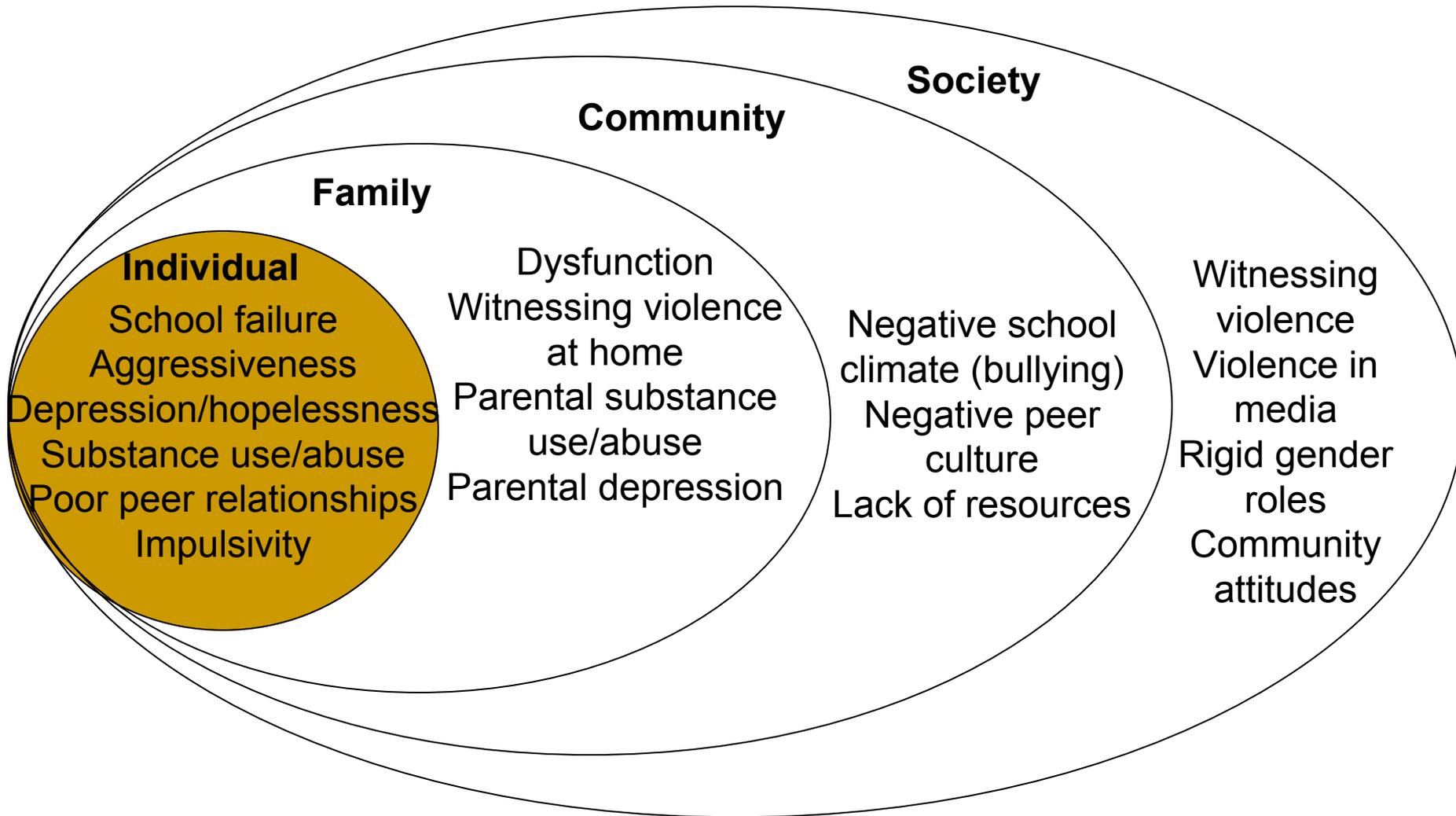
Timeline

- Sept 2004- August 2006: Virginia Department of Health (VDH) received a grant for \$155,769 from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the ESCAPE strategic planning process
- Sept 2006- August 2009: VDH received a competitive grant for \$871,845 to implement a statewide bullying prevention program through Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

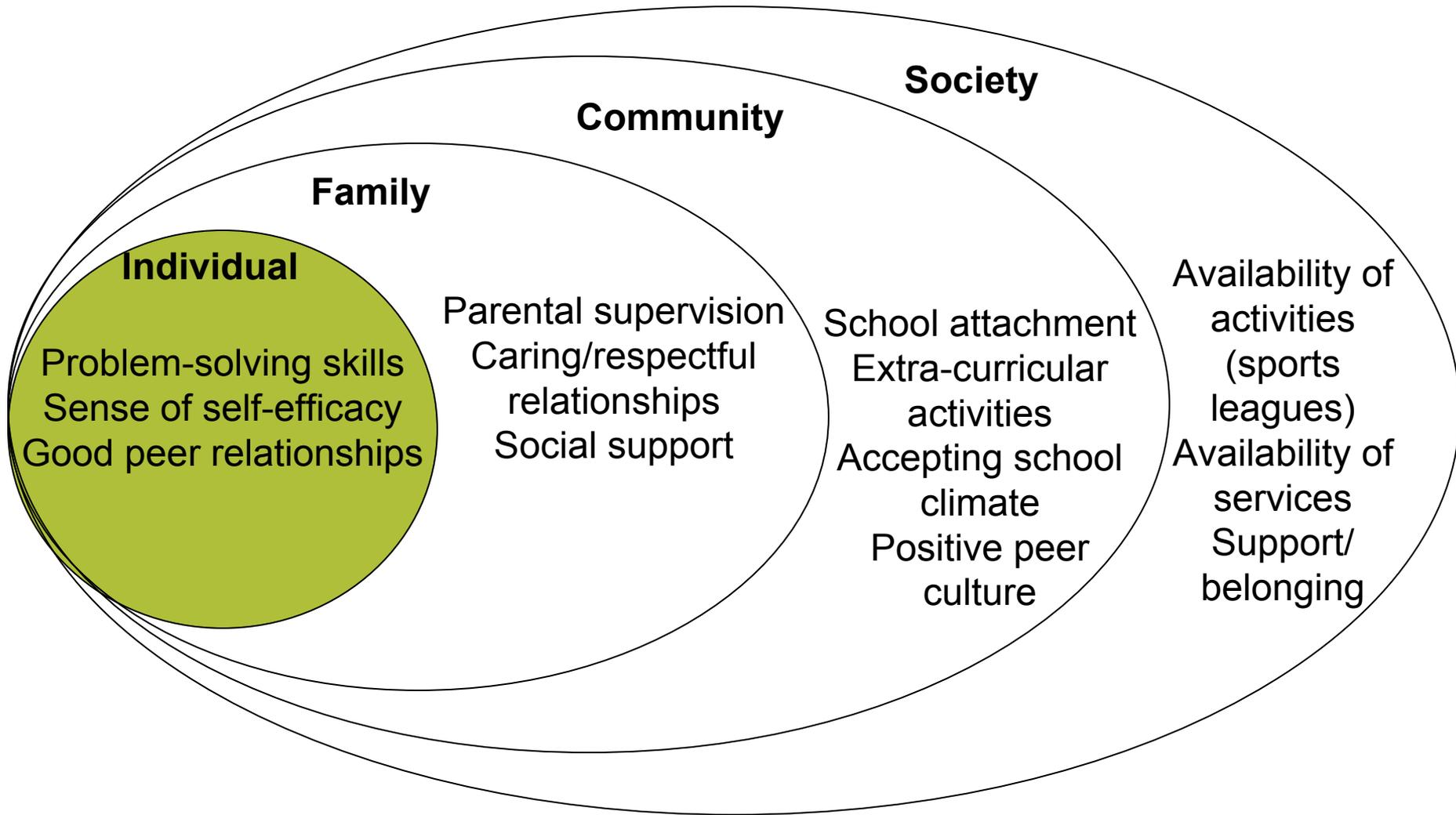
Framework

- Multiple forms of violence affect children and adolescents
 - Community violence
 - Domestic violence
 - Dating violence
 - Sexual violence
 - Suicide
 - School violence
 - Child maltreatment
 - Research indicates that different forms of violence often share similar sets of risk and protective factors
 - And, experiencing violence of one kind increases risk for other forms of violent behavior and victimization
 - By promoting strategies that address the shared risk and protective factors, violence toward and among adolescents is decreased
 - Integrating efforts across forms of violence can be both more efficient and potentially more effective in enhancing the health of children and adolescents
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Socio-ecological model of risk factors



Socio-ecological model of protective factors



Activities

- VDH convened an ESCAPe Work Group that included representatives from state agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities, service providers and the Commission on Youth
- VDH contracted with Old Dominion University's (ODU) Social Science Research Center to conduct several studies and assessments, including:
 - Assessing Virginia's youth violence prevention policies
 - Evaluating longitudinal data sources concerning youth violence in Virginia
 - Assessing Virginia's commitment, interest and readiness to fully engage in youth violence prevention efforts
 - Inventorying Virginia's current state-wide youth violence programs provided by public and private agencies
 - Exploring youth violence trends in Virginia

Activities (con't)

- The ESCAPe Work Group used all of the collected data and assessments to guide its development of the strategic plan
- VDH contracted with VCU Center for School & Community Collaboration to implement a statewide evidence-based bullying prevention program, the Olweus Program
- The ESCAPe Work Group continues to meet quarterly to implement the objectives listed in the strategic plan

Strategy One: Articulate a common prevention agenda

- Rationale: Efforts are needed to better coordinate the implementation of existing violence prevention plans in Virginia. A common prevention agenda is needed to help bring the various parties together to maximize efforts and resources.

Strategy Two: Improve the availability and quality of data resources

- Rationale: Consistent, reliable data concerning youth violence is difficult to obtain. Data-driven decisions are difficult to make due to inconsistent reporting practices and definitions.

Strategy Three: Increase advocacy efforts

- Rationale: Greater visibility and commitment are needed toward prevention efforts in Virginia. Decision-makers at the local and state level need to be better informed concerning the benefits of prevention.

Strategy Four: Reframe the prevention message for multiple audiences

- Rationale: New messages are needed to effectively reach targeted audiences to inform them about and engage them in prevention activities.

Strategy Five: Identify and promote data-driven decision-making

- Rationale: Local, regional and statewide prevention programs should increase their knowledge about and use of promising and documented prevention practices to increase program effectiveness.

Strategy Six: Create infrastructure for long-term implementation

- Rationale: A sustainable infrastructure is needed at the state level for long-term coordination and implementation of prevention initiatives.