

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH

## EDUCATING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ABOUT THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE & ABUSE

Health professionals are uniquely positioned to address the impact that violence and abuse has on the health and well-being of patients and clients. In health care settings, professionals have the opportunity to prevent, identify, address, and treat the adverse effects of violence and abuse. Addressing violence and abuse improves the health and well-being of patients and enriches therapeutic relationships.

Education on the health effects of violence and abuse must be incorporated into the training of all health professionals to ensure that our health community is well equipped to assist those whose health is affected by violence and abuse.

### VISION

The recognition, treatment, and prevention of the health effects of violence and abuse are fully integrated into healthcare and society so that people of all ages are safe and healthy.

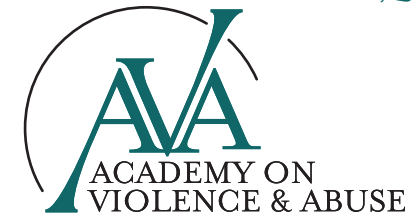


The AVA is a global healthcare professional society focused on the health effects of violence and abuse throughout the life course.

### MISSION

AVA will advance health education and research on the recognition, treatment, and prevention of the health effects of violence and abuse throughout the life course.

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING, BETTER CARE



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[avahealth.org](http://avahealth.org)  
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## HEALTH EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE & ABUSE THROUGHOUT THE LIFE COURSE

The health effects of violence and abuse are recognized as a major public health problem around the world. Hundreds of millions of people are impacted by violence and abuse every year.

In children, exposure to violence and abuse disrupts neurodevelopment, alters brain structures, hormonal function, inflammatory response, and genetic expression. Violence and abuse during childhood contributes to later high-risk behaviors including smoking, substance abuse, and risky sexual behavior and is associated with higher rates of physical, mental, and social problems later in life.

Adolescent relationship abuse, peer victimization, and youth violence are widespread and lead to serious long-term health effects.

20 adults/minute (12 million people/year) are raped, physically assaulted or stalked in the US. Intimate partner violence is a major health-related problem requiring specialized expertise and resources.

One in 10 elders report being abused, neglected, and/or exploited. Elder abuse and neglect result in numerous health problems and premature deaths.

AVA strives to develop leaders to address the immediate and long-term effects of violence and abuse, educate others, and collaborate to improve global health and wellness.

New members receive access to AVA's ACE Study Videos, affinity groups, and AVA meeting discounts.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

**[avahealth.org](http://avahealth.org)**

Regular Membership \$100/yr  
Student Membership \$25/yr

Opportunities for members to learn, participate and to contribute

- Affinity Groups
- Core Competencies Links
- Expert Updates
- Global Networking
- Regional Academies
- Scholars Programs
- PowerPoint archives
- Video Presentations

Membership supports AVA's activities, website and public educational resources.

## INCREASE PUBLIC AND POLICY AWARENESS

Through its pre-conferences, global health summits, and regional academies, AVA works to increase community awareness about the immediate and long-term health effects of violence and abuse throughout the life course. The magnitude of these impacts warrants a response on par with other major health problems like heart disease and cancer. AVA promotes the evolving science and healthcare best practices addressing the health effects of violence and abuse, resilience, protective factors, throughout the life course with the goal of improving public health and well-being.