Poised for Prevention

U.S. Sexual Violence Prevention Policy

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Premise

Poised for Prevention

Advocacy Coalitions

Social Construction
Advocacy Coalitions

You Pick Two

feminists

public health
Social Construction

Policy Targets

women
Policy Trajectory

- **State**: 1970’s
- **FVPSA**: 1984
- **VAWA**: 1994
- **State**: Today
Policy Trajectory

feminist organizing

State
1970’s

FVPSA
1984

VAWA
1994

State
Today
Policy Trajectory

1st federal policy

State
1970’s

FVPSA
1984

VAWA
1994

State
Today

CALCASA
CALIFORNIA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT
Policy Trajectory

2000’s - DELTA

1970’s → FVPSA → 1984 → VAWA → 1994 → State → Today
Policy Trajectory

C. Everett Koop, "Violence is a public health issue."
Policy Trajectory

our favorite

State 1970’s
FVPSA 1984
VAWA 1994
State Today
Policy Trajectory

State
1970’s

FVPSA
1984

VAWA
1994

State
Today

RPE
Policy Trajectory

2000’s – RPE allocations
“Sex crimes provoke fear and anger among citizens, leading to the development of social policies designed to prevent sexual violence... “ (Levenson & D’Amora, 2007)
Policy Trajectory

educational standards

State 1970’s
FVPSA 1984
VAWA 1994
State Today
Policy Trajectory

Advocacy Coalitions

Feminist organizing → Koop → CDC

legitimacy to primary prevention
Implications

Advocacy Coalitions

Feminists → Public Health

“...the ACF predicts that stakeholder beliefs and behavior are embedded within informal networks and that policymaking is structured, in part, by the networks among important policy participants”

(Sabatier & Weible, 2009)
Implications

Advocacy Coalitions

Feminists → Public Health

Initiated Policy Response
Implications

Advocacy Coalitions

Feminists

Initiated Policy Response

Public Health

Primary Prevention

CALCASAA CALIFORNIA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT
1) Public health professionals see SV/DV as “their issue.”
2) SV/DV movements value public health approach.
Implications

Advocacy Coalitions

Feminists ➔ Koop ➔ Public Health

Primary Prevention as “Better Than” Other Approaches
≠ Replacement

Advocacy Coalitions

Feminists
Initiated Policy Response

Public Health
Primary Prevention
One Belief

sexual and domestic violence is unacceptable and must be addressed through policymaking

Feminists

strenthen policies

Public Health

shift approach
One Belief

sexual and domestic violence is unacceptable and must be addressed through policymaking

Feminists  
strengthen policies

Public Health  
change policymaker and public perceptions of what is valuable
One Belief

sexual and domestic violence is unacceptable and must be addressed through policymaking

Feminists

strengthen policies

current state of SV/DV policy

Public Health

change policymaker and public perceptions of what is valuable
“policy designs socially construct target populations in positive and negative terms and distribute benefits and burdens so as to reflect and perpetuate these constructions”  (Ingram, Schneider, deLeon 2009)
Implications

“This is an issue that affects you and that you should care about; this is an issue for everyone.”

Women ➔ Public

Opportunities leading to today’s “poised for prevention”
Implications

“this is an issue that affects you and that you should care about; this is an issue for everyone”

Women ➔ Public

Focus on women weakens, VAWA questioned
Implications

“this is an issue that affects *you* and that *you* should care about; this is an issue for *everyone*”

Women still matter, but *not as much*
Implications

“this is an issue that affects you and that you should care about; this is an issue for everyone”

Women → Public

Open door for other groups
Implications

“this is an issue that affects you and that you should care about; this is an issue for everyone”

- Push forward primary prevention policy
  - Stall overall VAW policy
  - Create barriers to VAW policy
A Complicated Picture

Social Constructions

Allowed policy to pass -> Promoted new policy direction -> Combined to stall both policy directions
SV Prevention Policy

Developed from initial feminist efforts

Prompted by Koop’s pronouncement

Cemented by shifts in power
Summary

• Policy development slow & continues today
• Factors that facilitated development of prevention policy
  – Impeded overall SV policy progress
  – Also Impeded SV prevention policy development
Summary

- No bad intent; 2 coalitions one policy sub-system
- Feminists created SV policy arena; allowed for prevention policy
- New public perception of SV
- Both work(ed) together
- Both relevant & needed today
Conclusion

comprehensive approach
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