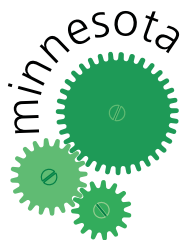


Minnesota Male Engagement Survey Report 2012



men's action network

Alliance to Prevent Sexual & Domestic Violence

Acknowledgements

This survey was made possible through funding from the federal U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women and from the Minnesota Department of Health, Sexual Violence Prevention Program. We thank them for their ongoing support and commitment to preventing sexual and domestic violence. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Ericka Kimball from the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) located on the campus of the University of Minnesota. Ericka was instrumental in survey development and analysis.

Minnesota Male Engagement Survey Report

Development and Distribution

In the fall of 2011, the Minnesota Men's Action Network: Alliance to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence (MNMAN) conducted a survey to ascertain men's involvement in ending sexual and domestic violence. The survey sought to determine: a) if men's involvement to end men's violence had increased in recent years; b) the number of men involved in efforts to end violence; c) activities men were involved in, and; d) the strategies used to engage men in efforts to end sexual and domestic violence.

The questionnaires were designed for three distinct audiences: 1) advocacy programs 2) men, and 3) the general population. The questionnaires were distributed through grant partner list serves and email lists. The partners included the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA), the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC), the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW), and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN). The questionnaires were also distributed to members of the Minnesota Alliance to End Violence a United Way statewide initiative and MNMAN members and associates.

After four weeks of distribution, we received one hundred and fifty five completed responses. We received twenty percent (n=31) of our total responses from the advocacy program questionnaires, thirty three percent (n=51) of our responses from the men's questionnaire, and forty seven percent (n=73) of our responses from the general community questionnaires. Of the 73 general survey responses, 51 were from females and 22 were from males.

Summary of Findings

Increased Male Involvement

Of the 31 advocacy programs responding to our advocate survey, 59% reported an increase in male involvement in their programs over the past several years, and 47% reported an increase in male involvement to end sexual and/or domestic violence in their communities. (Figure 1)

Of the 51 male respondents to the men's survey, 55% indicated their personal levels of involvement had increased in recent years and 67% reported that they believed men's involvement in their community had also increased. (Figure 2)

Of the 73 respondent to our general community survey, 56% indicated an increase in male involvement on their campus or in their community. (Figure 3)

Over the past several years, do you think the level of male involvement in ending sexual and/or domestic violence in your community end/or campus and agency...
 (For this question, agency involvement would mean men involved as staff, volunteers, board members, or close collaborating partners.)

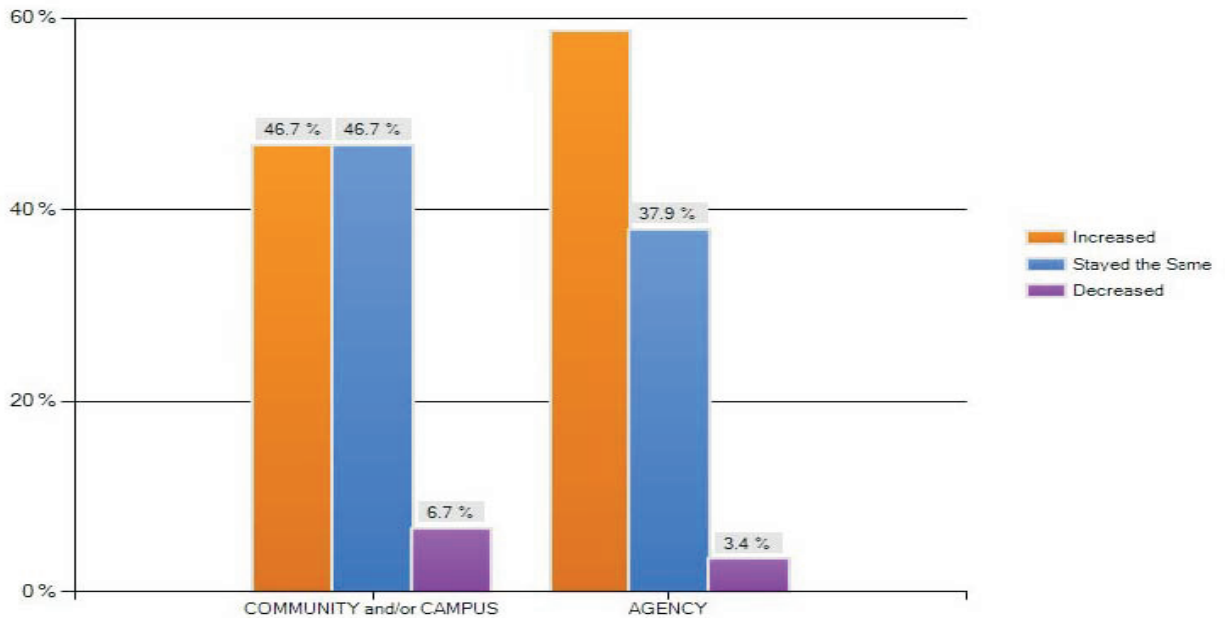


Figure 1: Advocacy Survey

For these next set of questions, please rate how YOUR level of involvement and that of MEN in general has changed over the last several years.

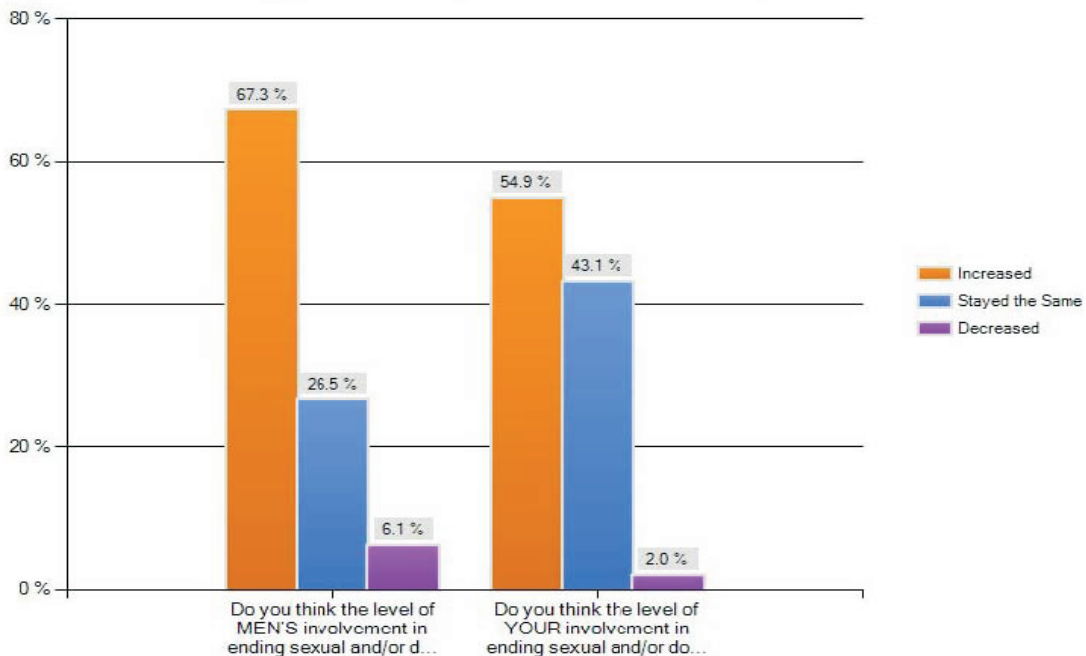


Figure 2: Men's Survey

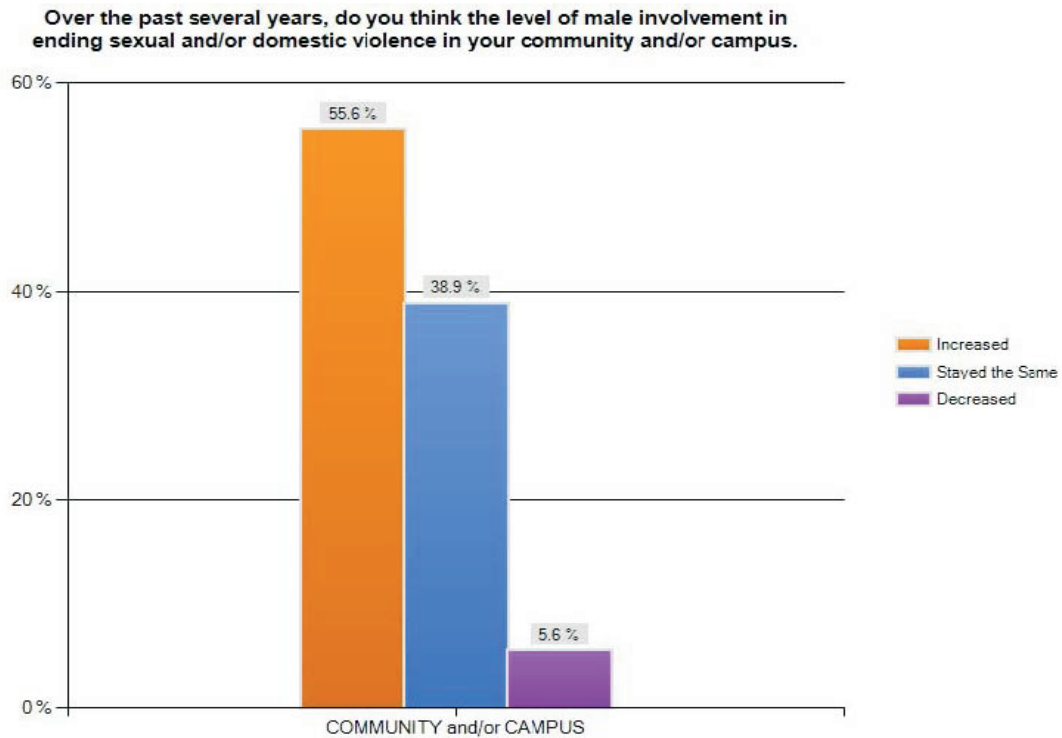


Figure 3: General Community Survey

Numbers of Men Involved in Efforts

The following question was asked participants **“Please provide your best estimate of the NUMBER of different men that had low, medium, and high levels of involvement in the COMMUNITY and/or CAMPUS within the past year, to end sexual and/or domestic violence.”** Participants were asked to provide information related to three distinct levels of involvement with “Low” meaning involved in one activity per year, “Medium” meaning 2-4 activities per year, and “High” meaning 5 or more activities per year.

In total 7,103 men were reported to be involved in three distinct levels of activity to end sexual and domestic violence. Here are the results:

- Advocacy Survey:** Of the 311 total men reported involved:
1. Low involvement equaled 143 men or 46% of the total
 2. Medium involvement equaled 59 men or 19% of the total
 3. High involvement equaled 109 men or 35% of the total.

- Men’s Survey:** Of the 2,665 total men reported involved:
1. Low involvement equaled 1,306 men or 49% of the total
 2. Medium involvement equaled 811 men or 30% of the total
 3. High involvement equaled 548 men or 21% of the total.

- General Community:** Of the 4,127 total men reported involved:
1. Low involvement equaled 2,304 men or 56% of the total
 2. Medium involvement equaled 913 men or 22% of the total
 3. High involvement equaled 910 men or 22% of the total.

Several participants reported no men were involved in their communities or campuses.

Activities Men Were Involved In

Participants were asked to select, to their knowledge, all the activities men were involved in during the past several years related to sexual and/or domestic violence. The activities included:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employee of an organization addressing sexual violence. 2. Employee on an organization addressing domestic violence. 3. Volunteer of an organization addressing sexual violence 4. Volunteer of an organization addressing domestic violence 5. Serve on Board of Directors of an organization addressing domestic violence 6. Serve on a Board of Directors addressing sexual violence 7. Serve on a Sexual Violence/Domestic Violence Task Force, SART/SMART team, primary prevention committee, or other committee | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Public speaking and/or facilitation of trainings or events 9. Fundraising 10. Participate in event planning 11. Attend community or campus event (NOT sponsored by your program) focused on ending sexual and/or domestic violence. 12. Attend program sponsored community or campus event 13. Participate in community or campus group focused on ending sexual violence 14. Participate in Community or campus group focused on ending domestic violence 15. Other |
|--|--|

The following graphs indicate the percentages of participant's indicating male involvement in the following activities.

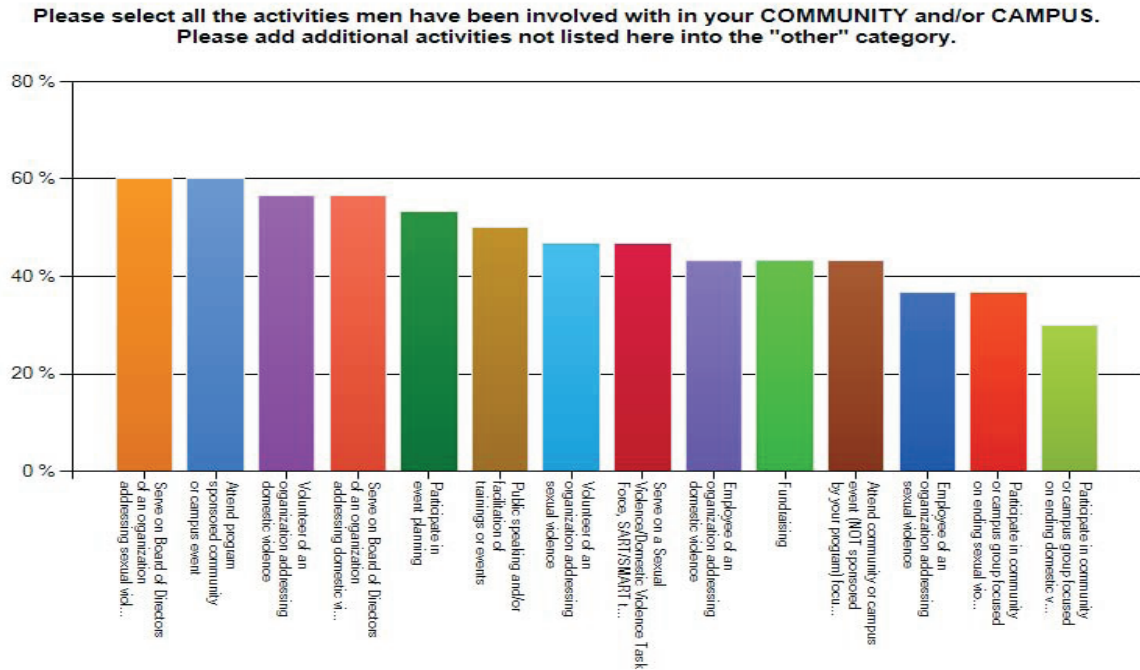


Figure 4: Advocacy Survey

The most common activity for men was involvement in programmatic activities such as serving on the board of directors or volunteering and/or participating in program sponsored community events. The least common activity was male involvement in community or campus groups specifically focused on ending sexual and/or domestic violence.

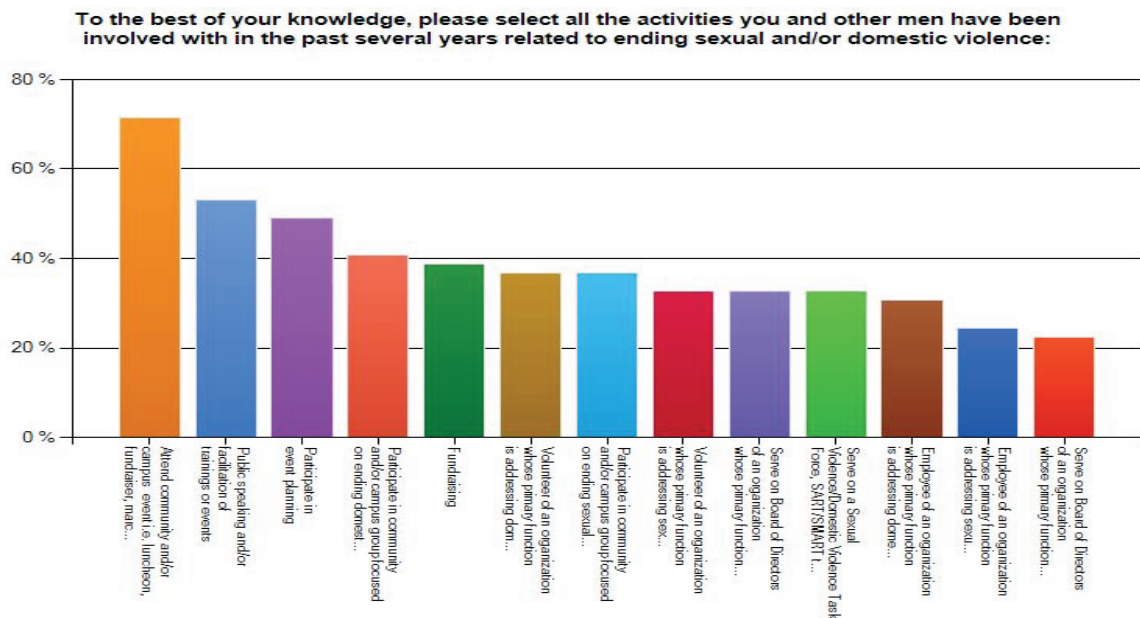


Figure 5: Men’s Survey

For the men’s survey, participating in a community event such as a luncheon, march, training or speaker event was the most common activity. The second most common was actually providing a public presentation or training. The least acknowledged activity from the men’s survey was serving on a board of directors for a sexual assault program.

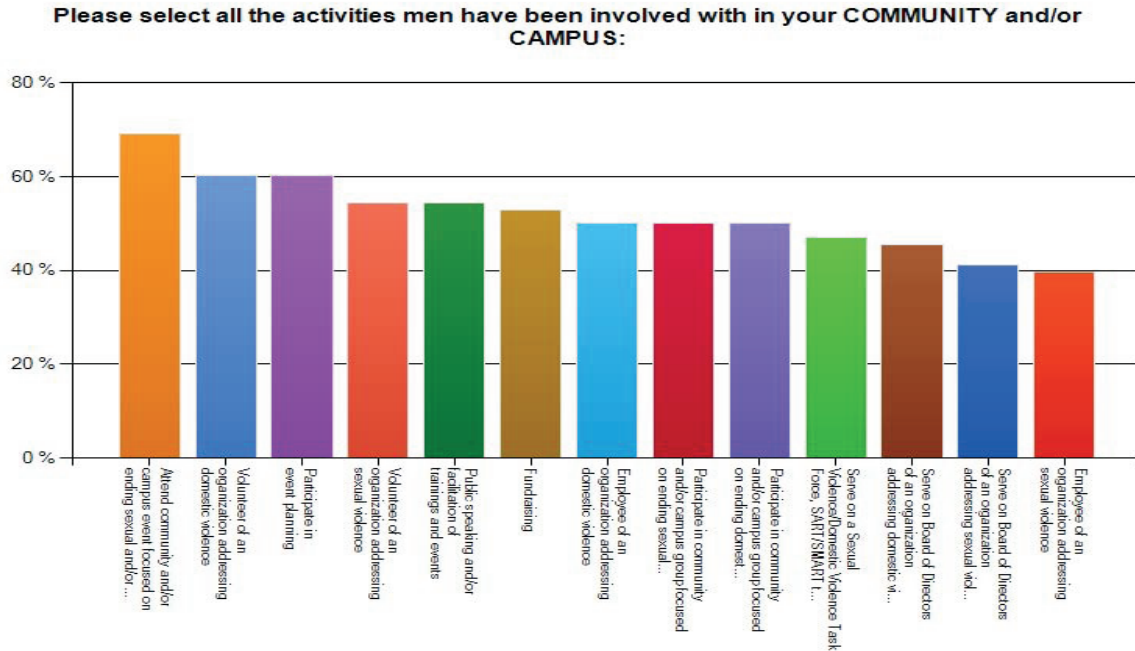


Figure 6: General Community Survey

Similar to the responses from both the advocacy and men’s surveys, the general community survey identified attending a community or campus event as the most common activity they have observed men at. They also identify event planning and volunteering at an advocacy program as very common activities as well. Being an employee or a board member of an advocacy program was ranked among the least observed activities men were involved in; however, more than 40% of the respondents identified male involvement in those activities.

Methods Used to Engage Men:

We asked advocacy programs what methods they used to engage men and what methods they found to be most successful. Face to face contact was the most notable method (93.1%) and also deemed the most effective (63%). (See figures 7 and 8.)

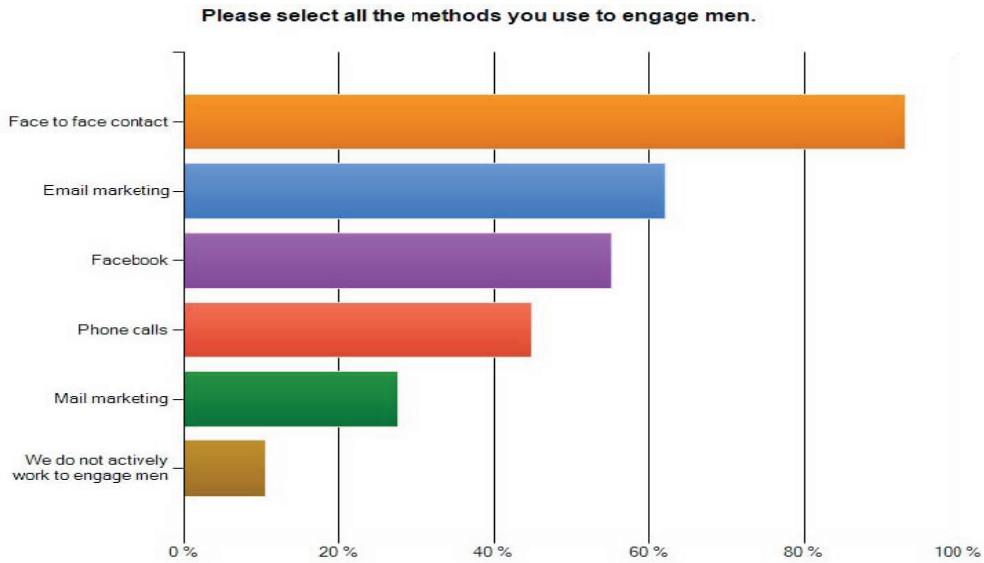


Figure 7: Advocacy Survey

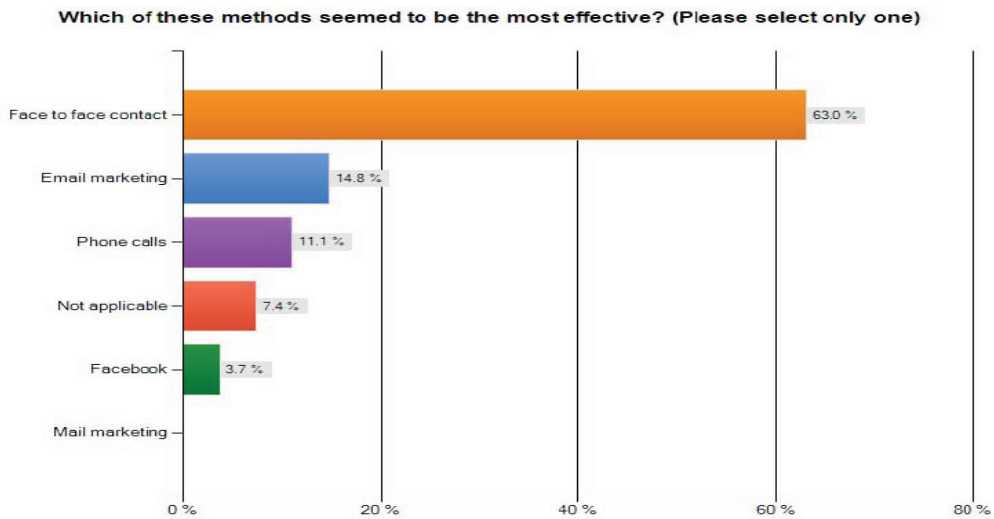


Figure 8: Advocacy Survey

Men’s Survey: What Keeps You Engaged?

Men’s survey participants were asked to identify one thing that keeps them involved in these efforts. Here are some of the comments we received:

“The suffering and the hope.”
 “Inner sense of Justice.”

“I want our Native Women to know that there are some Native Men who support and believe in the cause.”

I want to live in a community where all members are safe.”
Doing my part to make a difference in someone else’s life.”
It’s an issue of social justice – I care about systemic oppression.”
“Respect for women/girls.”
“The fact that I have a sister, a mother, and a great deal of female friends keeps me

involved in preventing sexual and domestic violence.”
“The ongoing violence against women.”
“Knowing the need is genuine.”
“My wife, daughters, daughter-in-law, co-workers, faith in practice, passion for prevention and health promotion”
“Sense of community”
“Collaboration, working with other men (and women) in the field”

Conclusions

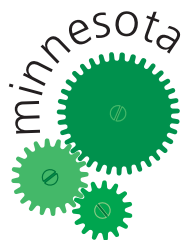
The majority of respondents reported that male involvement in ending sexual and domestic violence is increasing. At the same time, there was common narrative throughout the questionnaire indicating people’s wish to see more men involved. Both these sentiments are reflective of our experiences throughout the state.

We were quite surprised at the breadth of male involvement reported across a fairly wide spectrum of activity. Further, nearly half of the respondents (47%) stated that men’s involvement included more than just a onetime effort, with at least 22% of the men involved in five or more activities per year. We also believe it is significant to recognize that an overwhelming majority of men in this survey indicated they are involved in ending men’s violence for altruistic reasons. Often parties attempting to engage men believe it is necessary to identify for the men ‘what’s in it for them’ to get them involved. This survey, related surveys, and the experiences of MNMAN indicate that many men are engaged because they care about injustice and the suffering that both results from gender inequity and supports it. This has critical impact on how we strategize to engage men. It is our experience that linking the everyday experiences of men and male culture to the endemic rates of violence against women and children challenges men’s hearts, values and their principles to the point of action.

We are still in our infancy of male involvement. Some respondents identified few, if any, men involved in these efforts. But, the questionnaire results indicate that the majority of respondents in Minnesota are seeing men’s numbers increase in our collective efforts to end this violence. As the numbers of men engaged in efforts to end men’s violence increases, we believe we will see these efforts grow exponentially, and men predominantly sitting on the sidelines doing nothing, will become a thing of the past.

We are seeing glimpses of that future now. As that day, the day a strong contingency of men are working hand in hand with women to stop men’s violence moves toward the forefront of our experiences, the endemic levels of sexual and domestic violence will recede into the past as well.

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