

insights & impact

preventing violence in the homes of military families



blue  of california
foundation

Blue Shield of California Foundation is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Shield Association



Since 2009, Blue Shield of California Foundation has supported efforts to prevent violence in the homes of military families. Service members experience extreme trauma and stress, often brought on by multiple Iraq and Afghanistan deployments. When that stress follows them home, it affects their safety and the safety of their families.



Military families make a sacrifice for all of us. As the largest funder of domestic violence services in California, it was our turn to help them. In total, the Foundation has invested more than \$2 million in:

- **Research** to better document and understand domestic violence in the context of post-combat trauma;
- **Prevention strategies** that can be applied widely to mitigate the high rates of domestic violence in the homes of veteran and military families;
- **Policy and advocacy** to bring the issue of domestic violence among military families to the attention of leaders who can make wide-scale changes; and
- **New cross-sector partnerships** in support of military families and violence prevention.



seeing success

conducting research to understand the problem

insight

There was no up-to-date research on the prevalence of domestic violence in military families or accurate information on the correlation between combat-related trauma and intimate partner abuse.

impact

There is now documentation and research into veteran mental health (including post-traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety) and the corresponding rates of psychological and physical aggression toward partners.

investing in practical ways to prevent future violence

insight

There was a dearth of evidence-based and scalable methods to effectively mitigate domestic violence among over-stressed military families.

impact

We've piloted two effective evidence-based models to support healthy reintegration of combat veterans with their families.

putting the issue on the policy agenda

insight

There were few policy solutions to address domestic violence among current military and returning veteran populations. Philanthropy wasn't effectively engaged.

impact

Today, domestic violence is one of the issues policymakers consider when developing legislation to support service members and their families. Philanthropic organizations and their networks are helping to generate momentum for this policy shift.

creating partnerships and awareness

insight

Few organizations had military cultural competence. And few military service organizations had been previously aware that veterans managing combat-related mental health issues might be at risk for domestic violence.

impact

Police officers, domestic violence service providers, and mental health clinicians in a dozen California counties are now routinely given veteran cultural competency training. Military service providers are also integrating tools for domestic violence prevention into their family support resources.

our partners

Progress on this issue in recent years is a credit to the passion, expertise, and diligence of our grant partners:

Alternatives to Domestic Violence

The Aspen Institute

Blue Star Families

Council on Foundations and San Diego Grantmakers

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Foundation's (IAVA)

National Center on Family Homelessness

NCIRE Veteran's Health Research Institute

San Jose State University

Swords to Plowshares

learn more

Blue Shield of California Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of all Californians, particularly the underserved, by making health care accessible, effective, and affordable, and by ending domestic violence.

Visit www.blueshieldcafoundation.org to learn more about the Foundation's efforts to prevent violence in the homes of military families.

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