

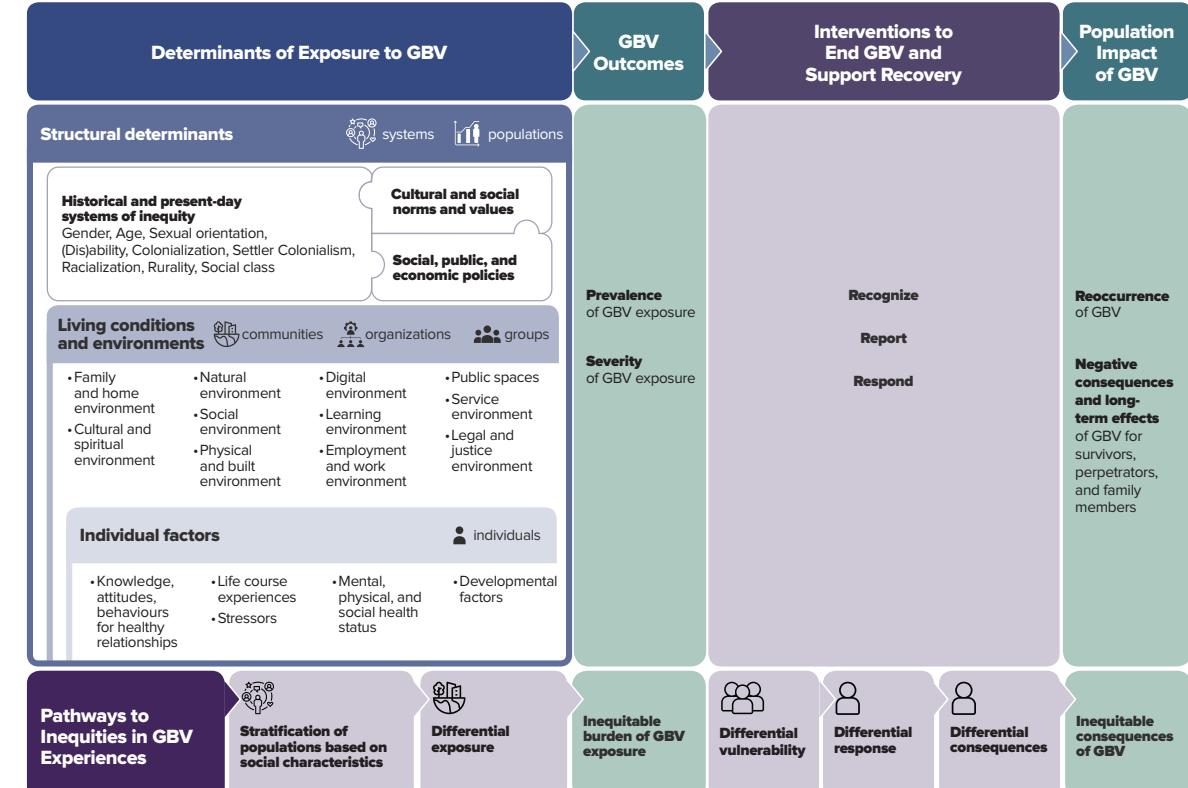
An Equity-Focused Population Health Approach to Gender-Based Violence Prevention



GBV is predictable and preventable when viewed through the lens of a population health approach. Everyone has a role to play in ending GBV and fostering healthy, safe, and equitable relationships.



What shapes GBV exposure and inequities in the population?



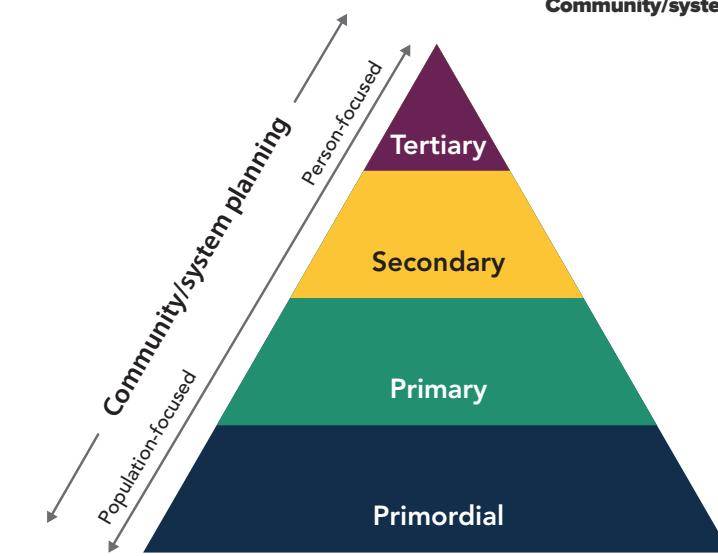
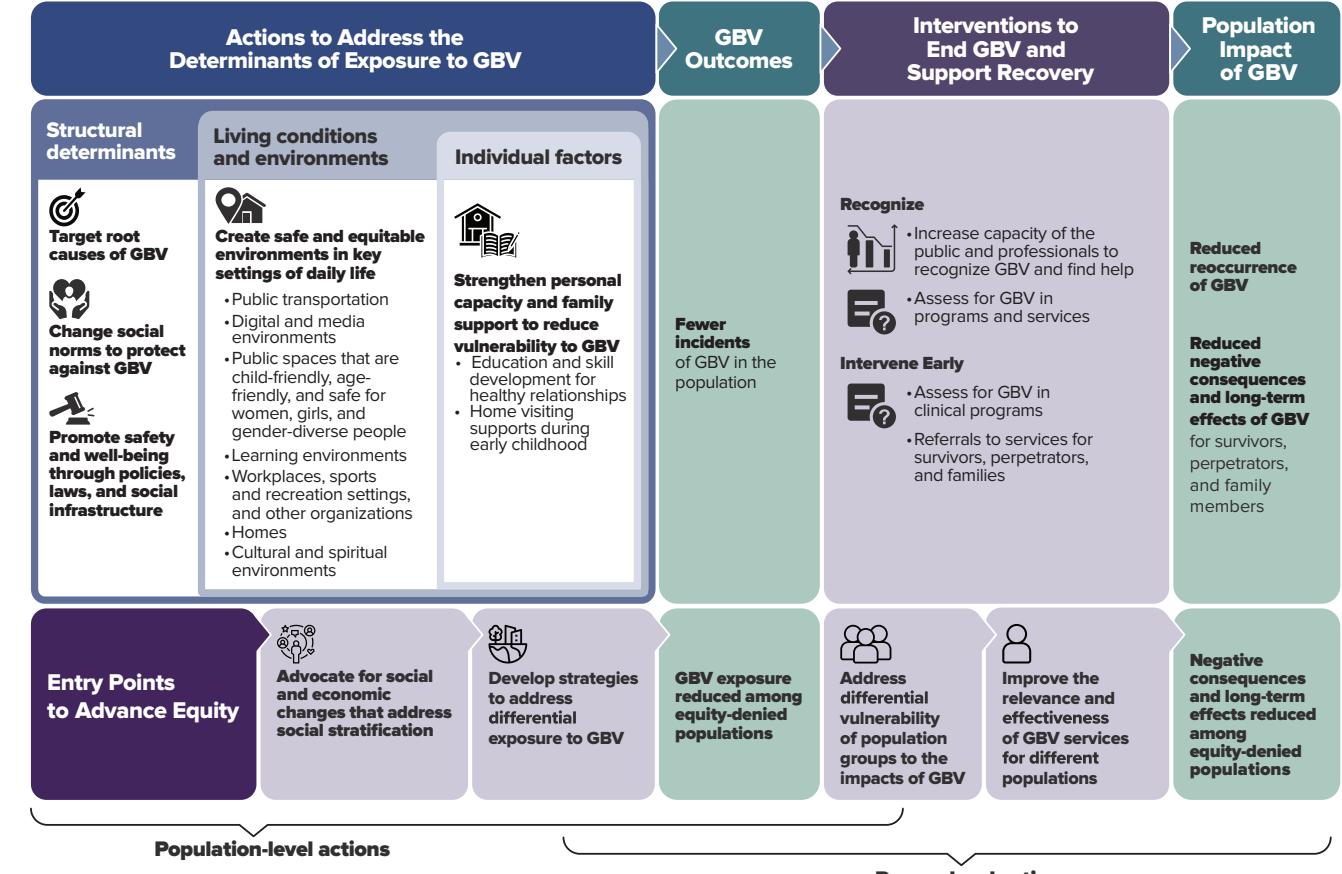
GBV occurs between individuals, but its likelihood is shaped by interconnected health determinants that occur at multiple levels. Structural determinants—such as systemic inequities—drive unequal exposure to GBV by:

- Shaping daily living conditions and environment (i.e., the social determinants of health), resulting in **differential exposure** to risk and protective factors among population groups.
- Creating concentrated disadvantages (e.g., poverty, social exclusion) and health conditions (e.g., mental health and substance use health concerns) within some population groups which can worsen the effects of GBV (**differential vulnerability**).
- Affecting access to appropriate services (**differential response**) and resources and supports which impacts people's ability to recover from GBV (**differential consequences**).

Each of the pathway to inequities is an entry point to advance health equity.

- Community/system planning actions** support a coordinated approach to GBV prevention by aligning efforts across the four tiers of prevention and improving overall impact. Given the complex causes of GBV, effective solutions require whole-of-government and society responses. Ontario's community safety and well-being framework offers a path for this planning.
- Population-level actions** benefit entire communities, including those affected by GBV. They focus on fostering healthy, safe, and equitable relationships across society by reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors, as well as building capacity to prevent, recognize, and respond to GBV.
- Person-level actions** are targeted, specialized interventions for individuals and families at higher risk of experiencing or using violence. They aim to reduce structural impacts, prevent recurrence, and support recovery. Public health's role here is limited, with a primary focus on population-level and system-wide efforts.

Three sets of actions to prevent GBV and advance health equity



Access the full GBV Framework to learn more: tbdhu.com/GBVFramework

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