

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a problem of epidemic proportions with far-reaching consequences for individuals, their children and their communities.

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What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.



Domestic Violence is Defined by

- The relationship context of the violence
- The perpetrator's behaviors
- The function those behaviors serve

Forms of Violence

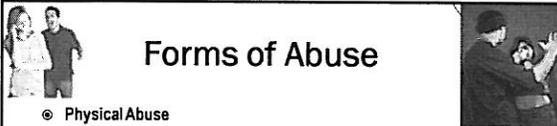
- **Battering**
 - an ongoing, patterned use of intimidation, coercion and violence to establish and maintain dominance over an intimate partner
- **Resistive/reactive violence**
 - violence used by victims to resist domination, end battering, retaliate against abuse, and establish some parity in relationships
- **Situational violence**
 - violence used to achieve goals without any pattern of control, intimidation and domination
 - intimate partners often use violence against each other to express anger, disapproval or reach an objective



Praxis International: Ellen Pence

Forms of Abuse

- **Physical Abuse**
 - Physical acts meant to inflict pain or harm another person
 - Examples: hitting, kicking, biting, scratching, pulling hair, pushing, shoving, using objects as weapons, etc.
- **Verbal Abuse**
 - Use of words to emotionally control and hurt another person
 - Examples: calling names, berating, mocking, ridiculing, threatening, using put downs, spreading rumors, etc.
- **Sexual Abuse**
 - Forced sexual contact of any kind (absence of consent)
 - Examples: forced kissing, fondling, groping, forced exposure to pornography, forced intercourse, etc.



Statistics

- There are *nearly 5.3 million* incidents of intimate partner violence each year among U.S. women ages 18 and older.
- *One-in-four (25%)* women in the United States will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.
- On average, *more than three* women are murdered by their husband or boyfriend each day.

Statistics

- Studies show that **85%-95%** of domestic violence victims are women.
- Domestic violence is the most common cause of injury to American women between the ages of 15-44.
- A woman is beaten **every 9 seconds** by her husband or boyfriend.

Health Cares About IPV

- <http://www.healthcaresaboutipv.org/getting-started/>

Health Impact

- Domestic violence results in death, serious injury, and chronic medical and mental health issues for victims, their children, the perpetrators, and others.

Health Impact

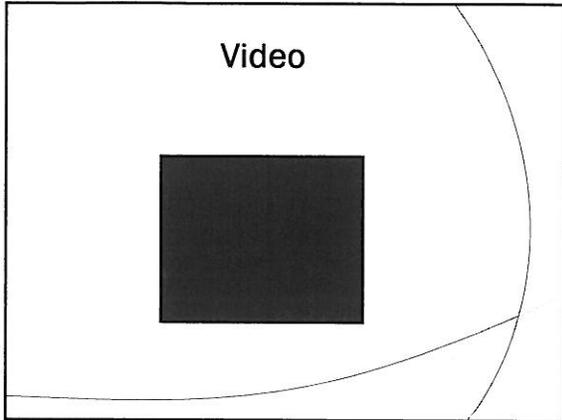
- For every homicide victim of domestic violence there are many victims struggling with major health problems who did not die when shot, stabbed, clubbed, burned, strangled, beaten or thrown by their abusers.

Health Impacts

- In addition to the immediate trauma caused by abuse, domestic violence contributes to chronic health problems.
 - depression
 - alcohol and substance abuse
 - sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS
 - obesity
 - tobacco use
 - ability of women to manage other chronic illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension.

Power and Control





Common Characteristics of Batterers

- Grandiose and self-absorbed
- Over-identifying with their strengths
- Ascribe to traditional and cultural sex-role stereotypes
- Exhibit exaggerated sense of worth and power
- Feel entitled to what they want when they want it
- Belief system allows the use of violence to get their needs, wants, and desires met
- Appear independent, strong and secure
- Usually emotionally dependent on their partner
- Often low on assertiveness skills
- Have trouble expressing their needs, wants, and desires verbally
- Become aggressive, manipulative, and demanding, often using force to get their needs met
- Avoid and deny personal responsibility and consequences for their behavior

Two Myths and Facts...

Myth: If a person wanted to, they could leave their abusive partner.

FACT: On average, an abused woman leaves her partner **6-8 times**. There are many reasons a person stays in an abusive relationship.

- The victim loves the abuser and values his/her good qualities
- The victim is economically dependent on the abuser
- Because the abuser has destroyed the victim's other relationships, the victim has no other emotional support
- Fear of failure
- Our culture places significant emphasis on the value of a successful marriage
- Religious beliefs about marriage
- Not wanting to deprive children of their other parent
- With each incident, there is a promise it won't happen again
- Fear of more violence

Myth: Alcohol and drug use cause domestic violence.

FACT: There is little evidence to support this theory. It should be noted that many people who abuse their partners report no history of addiction or misuse of alcohol or any other substance. Similarly, many people who do misuse alcohol and other substances do not abuse their partners.

Remember, leaving an abusive partner is a process, NOT an event

How to Help



- ⦿ **Listen**
 - Give your undivided attention
 - Remind them the violence is NOT their fault and they have done nothing to deserve such treatment
- ⦿ **Believe**
 - Believe what is being told to you. Recognize that disclosing to you takes a great deal of strength and courage. People rarely lie about violence.
- ⦿ **Help devise a safety plan**
 - It is essential to talk about physical safety. An example of a way to begin this dialogue might be "I'm concerned for your physical safety. Could we talk about how you might try to be safe?"
- ⦿ **Support their right to control their life**
 - Sometimes we think we know what is best for a friend. Don't expect her/him to follow your advice. Remember that ultimately she/he must be the one to make decisions regarding her/his own life. For example, you might say "I know this is a decision only you can make. Whatever you decide, remember that I'll stand by you."
- ⦿ **Provide helpful resource information**
 - Call the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center (701) 293-7273 to learn where to get help. Place the initial call if your friend so wishes—Encourage medical attention, if needed.

Clinical Response

- ⦿ Disclosing limits of confidentiality
- ⦿ Assessment Tools
- ⦿ Support and harm reduction
- ⦿ Supported referral
- ⦿ Documentation

Screening Tools

- ⦿ Abuse Assessment Screen (AAS)
- ⦿ Partner Violence Screen (PVS)
- ⦿ Woman Abuse Screening Tool (WAST)
- ⦿ Danger Assessment

ABUSE ASSESSMENT SCREEN

1. Have you ever been emotionally or physically abused by your partner or someone important to you?

2. Within the last year, have you been hit, slapped, kicked, pushed or shoved, or otherwise physically hurt by your partner or ex-partner?

If YES, by whom
Number of times

3. Does your partner ever force you into sex?

4. Are you afraid of your partner or ex-partner?

Helton & McFarlane, 1986

Mark the area of any injury on body map.



Partner Violence Screen (PVS)^{1,2†}

Have you been hit, kicked, punched, or otherwise hurt by someone in the past year?

Yes No

If so, by whom?

Person in current relationship

Person from previous relationship

Someone else

Do you feel safe in your current relationship?

Yes No

Is there a partner from a previous relationship who is making you feel unsafe now?

Yes No

Woman Abuse Screening Tool (WAST)

- In general how would you describe your relationship?
- Do you and your partner work out arguments with:
- Do arguments ever result in you feeling put down or bad about yourself?
- Do arguments ever result in hitting, kicking, or pushing?
- Do you ever feel frightened by what your partner says or does?
- Has your partner ever abused you physically?
- Has your partner ever abused you emotionally?
- Has your partner ever abused you sexually?

Health care reforms improve benefits for women

- ⦿ Among the benefits that are now included due to the health care reforms are: routine breast and pelvic exam checkups, screenings for sexually transmitted infections and domestic violence, and gestational diabetes, prenatal care, breast feeding supplies, pap tests, and contraceptives.

Preventing Domestic Violence

- ⦿ Educate yourself on personal violence issues.
- ⦿ Be an active bystander—don't stand idly by when you see or hear something that's wrong.
- ⦿ Be aware of pop culture's messages-don't let messages in the media dictate your behavior.
- ⦿ Speak out-when your friends tell a joke about rape or abuse, tell them you don't find it funny. Use your voice.
- ⦿ Choose words carefully-when you use words to put women down, you support the belief they are less than fully human. It's easier to ignore women's well-being when they are seen as inferior. Choose language that respects women.



Questions?

Contact:

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rape and abuse
 crisis center
 advocacy • counseling • education

References

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- Ⓢ Domestic Abuse Project, Duluth, MN
- Ⓢ Centers for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvfacts.htm>
- Ⓢ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence,
<http://www.ncadv.org>
- Ⓢ Men Can Stop Rape Curriculum <https://mencanstoprape.org>
- Ⓢ <http://www.endabuse.org/resources/facts/>
- Ⓢ http://healthyminds.org/factsheets/LTF-Domestic_Violence.pdf
- Ⓢ United States Department of Justice,
<http://www.ojp.gov/bjs/abstract/cnh05.htm>
