

Understanding Intimate Partner Violence

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Statistics

- An estimated 1.3 million women are victims
- 85% of domestic violence victims are women.
- Females who are 20-24 years of age are at the greatest risk
- Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.
- Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.
- Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.
- 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.

**Definition of IPV-
Intimate Partner
Violence**

A pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors including:

**Physical
Attacks**

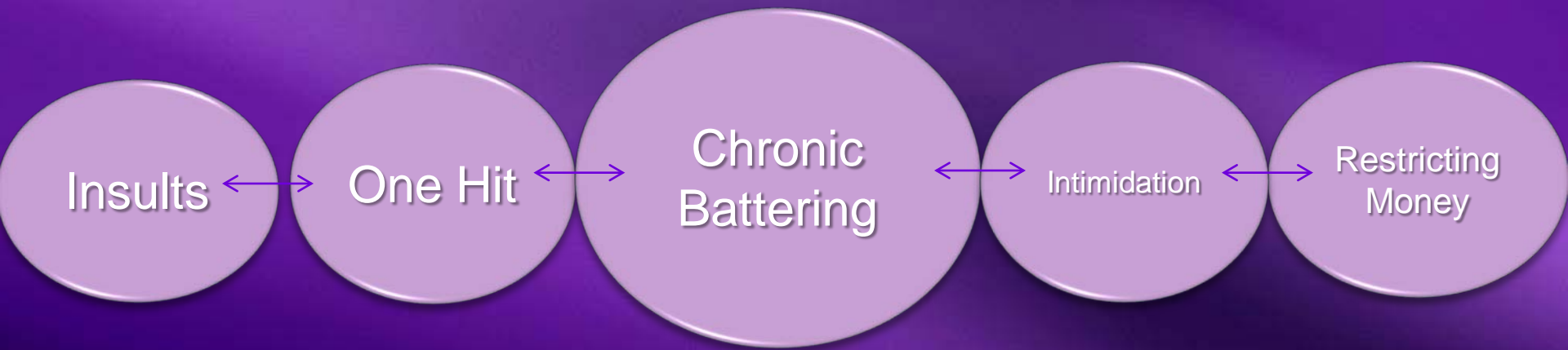
**Sexual
Attacks**

**Psychological
Attacks**

**Economic
Coercion**

by an adult or adolescent against their intimate partner.

- By a current or former; married, cohabitating or dating partner
- May be of the same gender
- Varies in frequency
- Occurs on a spectrum of presentations:



Power and Control



Adapted from
 Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
 206 West Fourth Street
 Duluth, MN 55806

BARRIERS TO LEAVING:

FEAR

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**NO
WHERE
TO GO**

**The impact of
IPV on
Children**

THE OVERLAP

Approximately
1 Million
Children
Maltreated

30-60%

Approximately
2 Million
Women
Abused

Child Maltreatment

- Occurs in 33-77% of families in which there is abuse of an adult

Children of battered mothers

- 6-15 times more likely to be abused

DHHS, 1998 and Tjaden & Theones, 1998, In Harm's Way: Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment

Young children and their caregivers need to be safe...

Two kinds of difficult decisions.

- First, how will she protect herself and her children from the physical dangers posed by her partner?

- Second, how will she provide for her children?

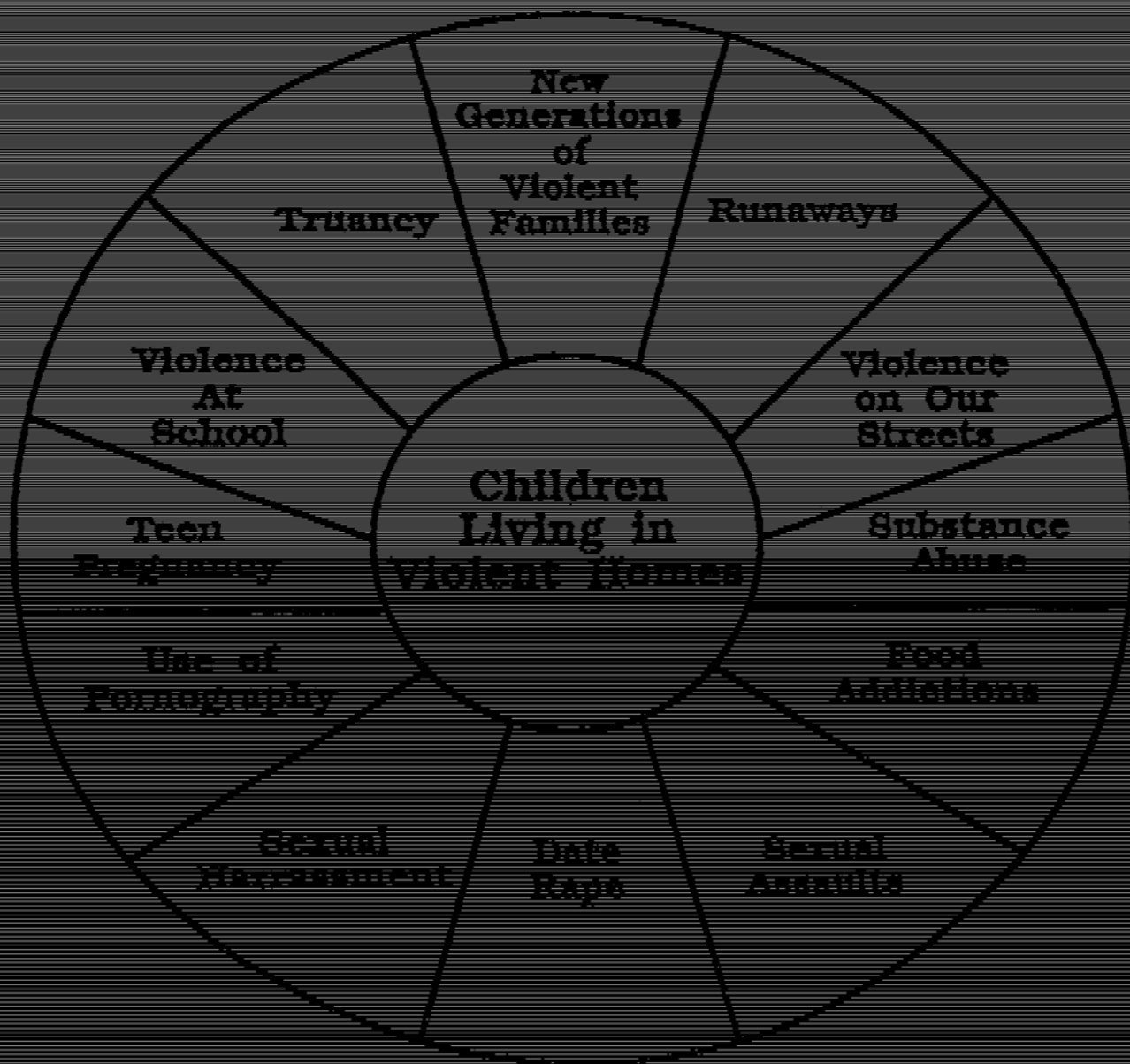


Children who live with domestic violence face increased risks:

- the risk of exposure to traumatic events
- the risk of neglect
- the risk of being directly abused
- and the risk of losing one or both of their parents

Effects on Children:

- **Developmental Regression**
- **Fear, Anxiety, Depression**
- **Impairments in learning**
- **Impairments in social/emotional learning**
- **Risk of coincident or bystander victimization**
- **PTSD**
- **Risk of Future Victimization, perpetration**



Lethality Assessment:

By identifying all types of violence that exist within the family, chances of effective intervention are greatly increased.



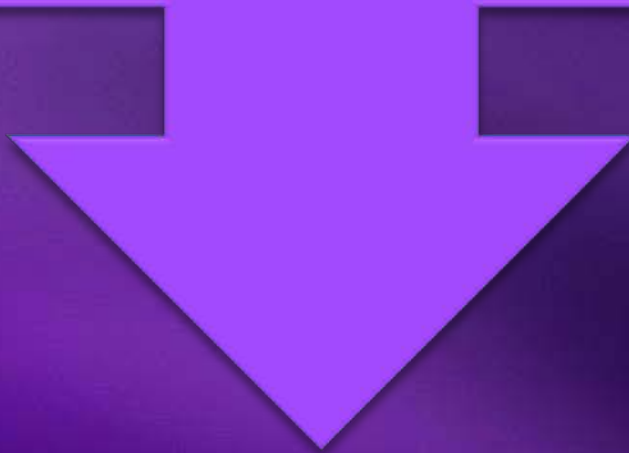
The following behaviors are indicators of increased risk of assault:

↓ Abuser's threat of homicide or suicide

↓ Abuser's fantasies of homicide or suicide



- ↓ Occupational History
- ↓ Previous Criminal History/Activity
- ↓ Drug or Alcohol Abuse
- ↓ Increased use of Threats and Violence



↓ Current possession or past use of weapons

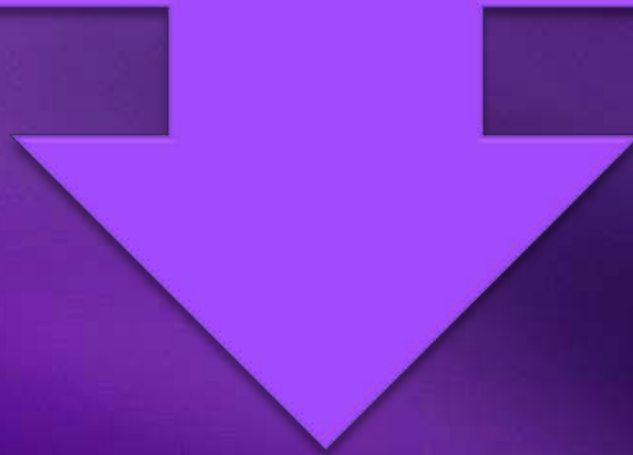
↓ Pursuit and preoccupation of victim

↓ Access to the victim

↓ Isolation of the Abuser



- ↓ Violence in previous relationships or prior separations from current partner
- ↓ Mental Illness or Neurological Impairment
- ↓ Children by Former Partners
- ↓ Age of victim



Stages of Behavioral Change

- Pre-contemplation
- Contemplation
- Preparation
- Action
- Maintenance



Prochaska JO, 1997

Zimmerman GL et al, 2000

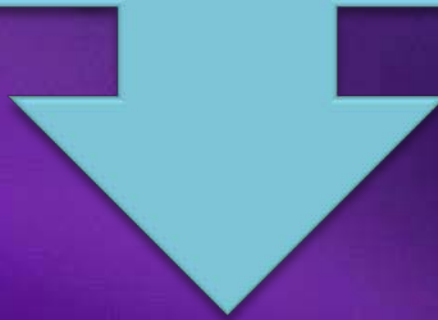
Social Work Assessment:

- **Immediate risk:** “If you return home, will you or your children be in immediate physical danger?”
- **Child Abuse:** “Is your partner hurting or threatening your children?”
- **Stage of readiness for change:** “What type of assistance would you like?” “Are there any changes you would like to make?” “What steps would help you towards those goals?” “What actions are you ready to take?”
- **Suicide:** “Have you had suicidal thoughts in response to your situation?”

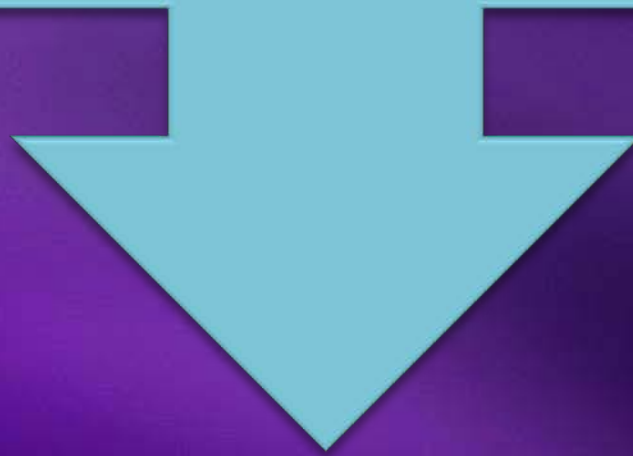


Elements of Safety Planning:

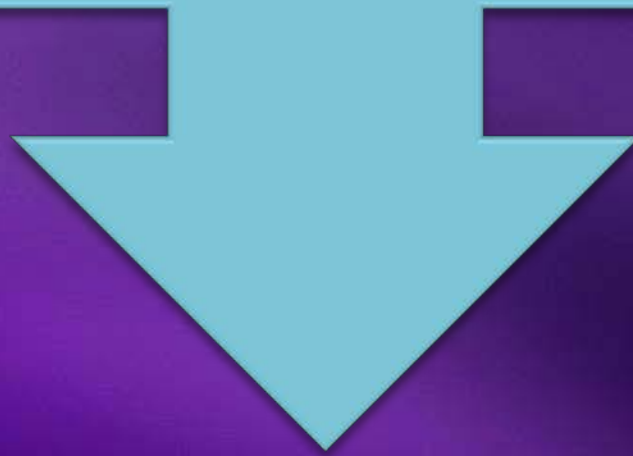
- ↓ Safety Signal for neighbors/friends/family
- ↓ Ready Bag
- ↓ Travel Routes
- ↓ Childcare Arrangements



- ↓ Protective Orders
- ↓ Code word with employer
- ↓ Safe place to go in case of emergency
- ↓ Children know where to go, what to do



- ↓ Escape route planned and practiced
- ↓ Contact children's school about pick-up
- ↓ Reporting of violation of stay away orders
- ↓ Understanding of the safety risks of consuming alcohol or drugs
- ↓ Explore Safety Planning with each child



RESOURCES:



What can I do?

- Listen to the victim and believe her.
- Tell her she is not alone and that help is available.
- Let her know that without intervention, abuse often escalates in frequency and severity over time.
- Seek expert assistance. Suggesting that she merely return home places her and her children in real danger.

What can I do?

- Hold the abuser accountable. Don't minimize his abusive behavior. Support him in seeking specialized batterers counseling to help change his behavior. Continue to hold him accountable and to support and protect the victim even after he has begun a counseling program.
- If reconciliation is to occur, it can be considered only after the above steps have taken place.

We all have a common goal:

LISTEN AND
VALIDATE

ASSESS AND
PROVIDE
REFERRALS

FOLLOW-UP WHEN
POSSIBLE

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