

Working With Batterers

Challenges, Characteristics and Treatment

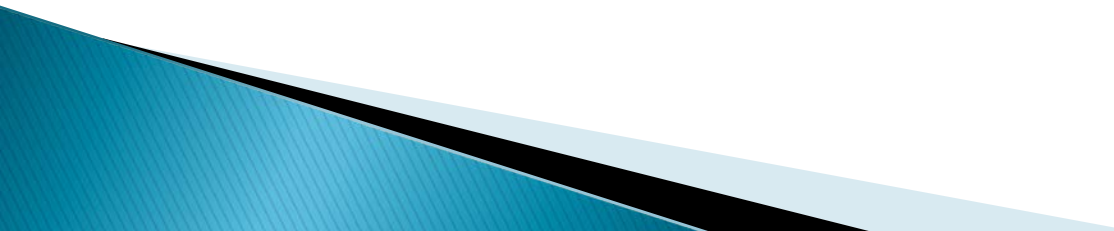
Sherri Kendall, M.Ed., LPC

Battering Intervention and Prevention Program Director

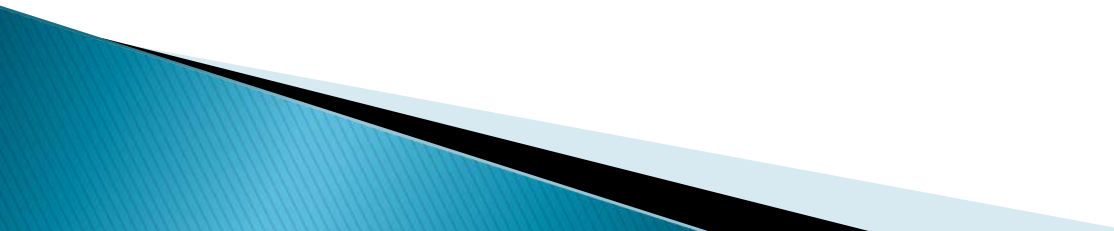
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA)

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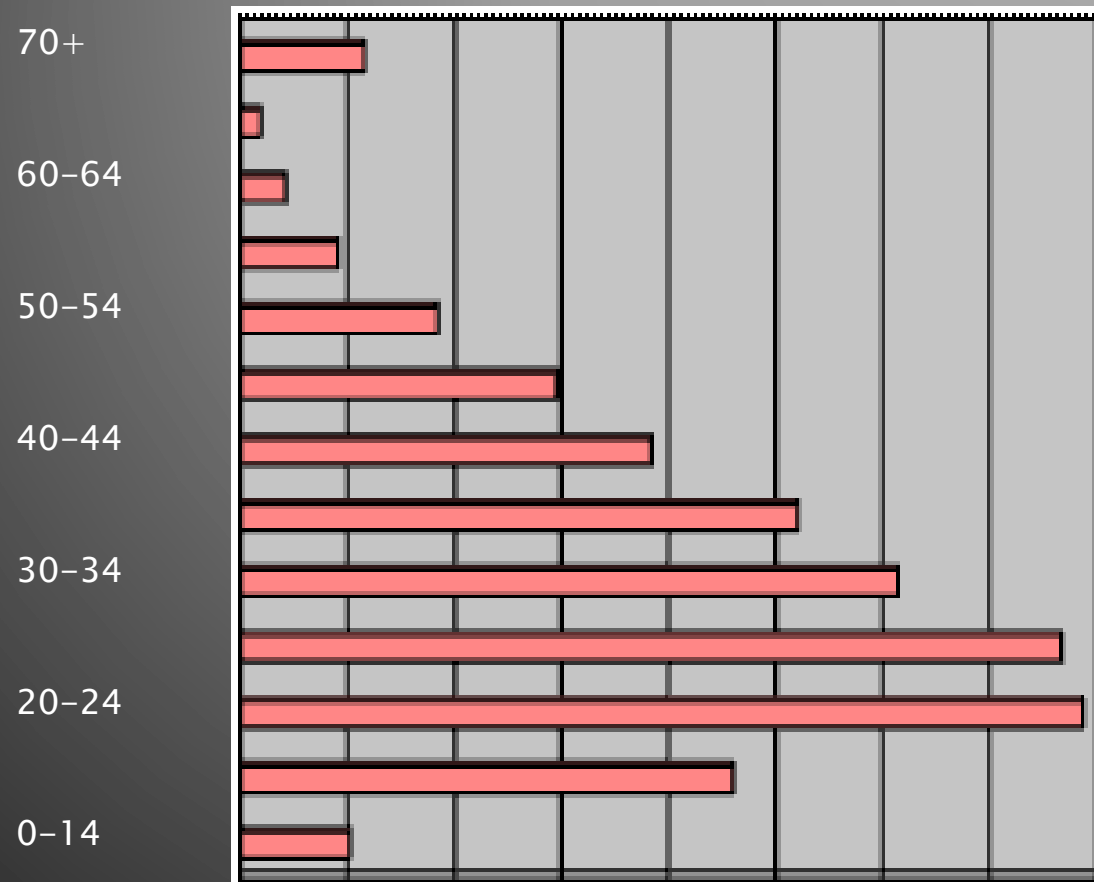
Defining Domestic Violence

- ▶ Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
 - ▶ Family Violence
 - ▶ Abuse
 - ▶ Battering
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What's a Batterer Look Like?

- ▶ Gender
 - ▶ Socio-economic background
 - ▶ Ethnicity
 - ▶ Age
 - ▶ Employment/Education
 - ▶ Substance Abuse Issues
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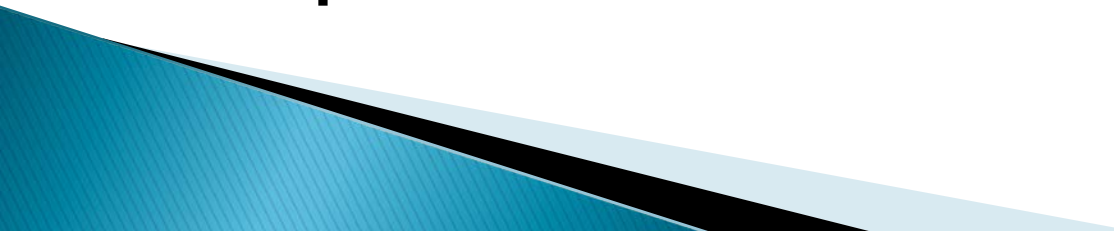
Family Violence Offenders by Age



Men's vs. Women's Violence

Is Abuse Symmetrical?

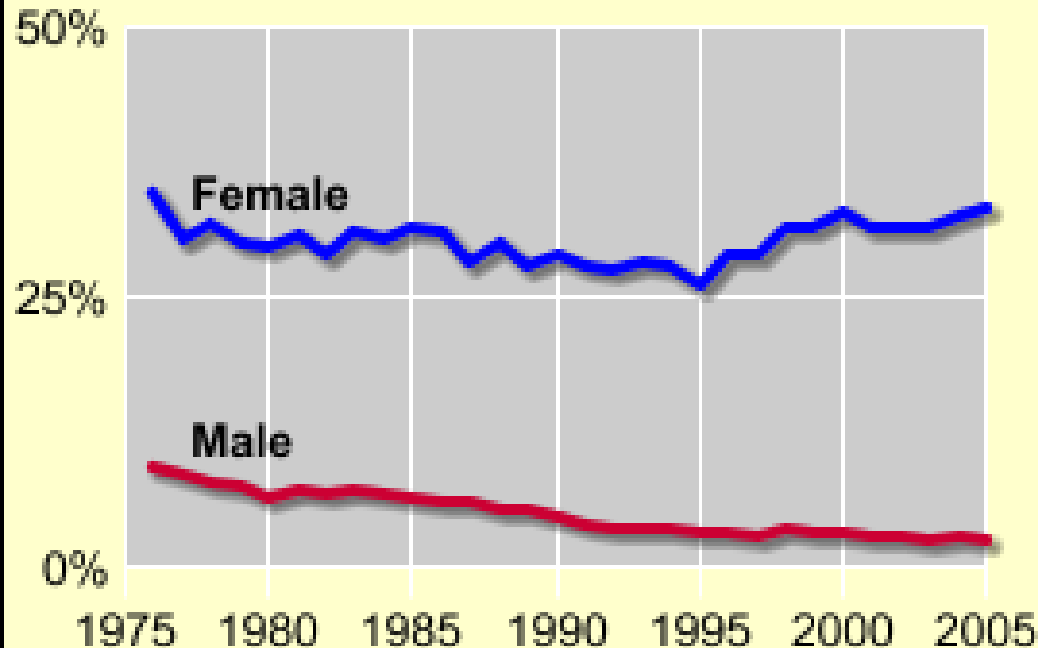
Consider:

- ▶ Learned Behavior
 - ▶ Motivation/Intent
 - ▶ Fear and Ability to Control
 - ▶ Implications for Treatment
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Intimate Partner Homicide

Proportion of all homicides involving intimates by gender of victim, 1976-2005

Percent of victims killed by an intimate

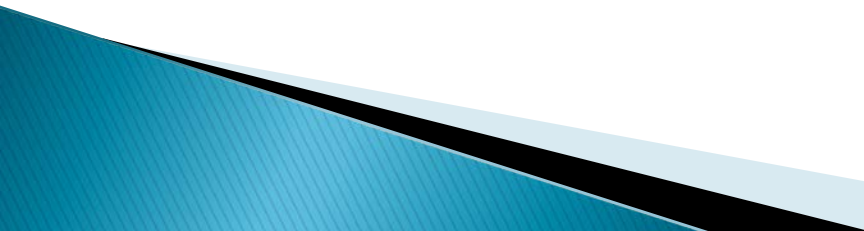


Power & Control Wheel

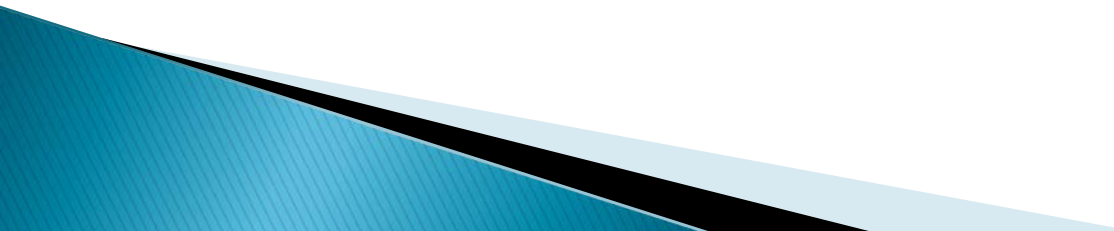


CONTRIBUTING FACTORS (not causes)

COMPOUNDED by but not
CAUSED by:

- ▶ Mental illness
 - ▶ Substance abuse
 - ▶ Poor impulse control
 - ▶ Generational violence
 - ▶ Communication deficits
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Signs of a Batterer

- ▶ Quick involvement
 - ▶ Extreme jealousy
 - ▶ Controlling behavior
 - ▶ Isolation
 - ▶ Blames / minimizes / denies
 - ▶ Verbally abusive
 - ▶ Rigid gender roles
 - ▶ Past battering behavior
 - ▶ Threats of violence
 - ▶ Promises of changes
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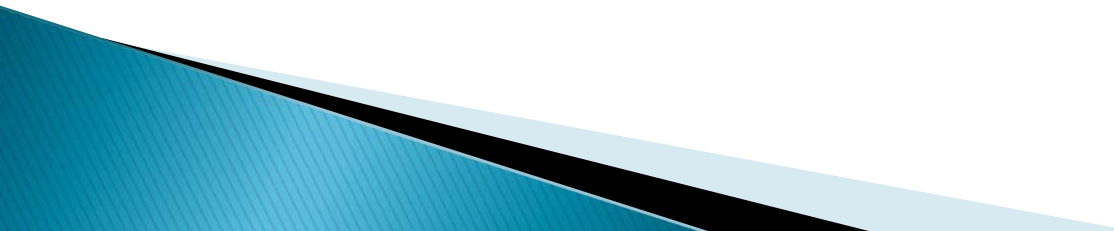
Top 5 Lethality Factors (USDOJ)

1. Weapons use or threat
2. Threats to kill or injure
3. Strangulation attempts
4. Extreme jealousy
5. Forced sex

“I think I’m working with a batterer. Now what?”

- ▶ **Rule #1:** Victim Safety should always be your first priority.
- ▶ **Rule #2:** See Rule #1.

Ethical Principles Hierarchy

1. The Principle of Protection of Life
 2. The Principle of Safety for Victims
 3. The Principle of Equality & Inequality
 4. The Principle of Autonomy & Freedom
 5. The Principle of Least Harm
 6. The Principle of Quality of Life
 7. The Principle of Privacy and Confidentiality
 8. The Principle of Truthfulness & Full Disclosure
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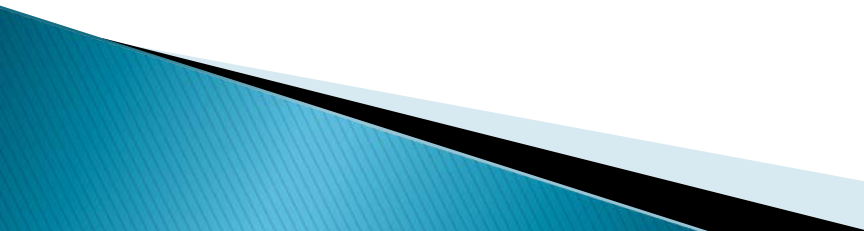
Batterer Treatment

Per **State BIPP Guidelines**, the following are **NOT** considered appropriate forms of *interventions for domestic abuse*:

- ✓ Family / couples counseling
- ✓ Anger Management
- ✓ Individual Therapy
- ✓ Substance Abuse*

*Be mindful of order of treatment for dual diagnosis.

BIPP Treatment Guidelines

- ▶ Duration: MINIMUM of 18 weeks
 - ▶ GROUP format only
 - ▶ No mixed gender groups
 - ▶ Confidentiality standards
 - ▶ Training standards
 - ▶ VICTIM SAFETY first priority
 - ▶ Link in community accountability chain
 - ▶ Accreditation standards set by State
 - ▶ Sliding Scale
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Why Group?

Program Curriculum

Psychodynamic format:

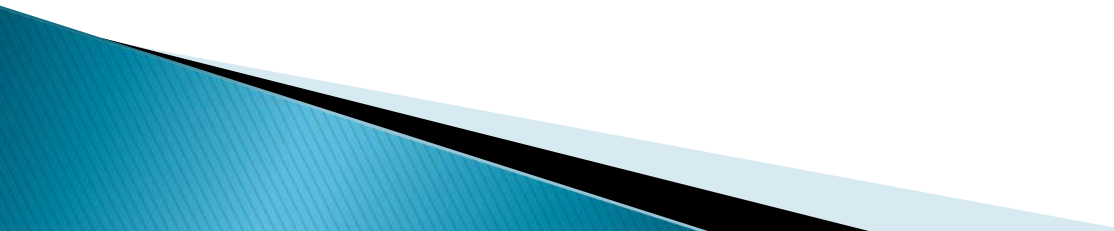
- ❑ Nature of dynamic violence
 - ❑ Non-violence planning
 - ❑ Attitude and belief changes
 - ❑ Maintenance of non-abusive behavior change
 - ❑ Effects of domestic violence on children
- Accountability/ Empathy/ Intervention**

Motivations for Change

- ▶ Risk of “jail therapy”
- ▶ Impact on their children
- ▶ Loss of partner (fear)
- ▶ Embarrassment / Shame
- ▶ \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Getting Batterers Into Treatment

Time is of the essence.

- AVDA has a “quick entry” BIPP, services within a week.
 - 18 weeks is a short duration in which to change a lifetime of learned (and practiced) behavior.
 - During the 18 weeks he/she is in treatment, victim has time to access services to enhance her/his safety.
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AVDA's BIPP Program

- ❖ 18-week format (per Guidelines)
- ❖ Quick entry
- ❖ 11 locations
- ❖ Daytime, evening, weekends
- ❖ Men/Women/Spanish groups
- ❖ Compliance Reports, assessments, absence notifications sent to referral

Call 713.224.9911 to register.

No More Excuses!

- “I just lost control.”
- “She made me do it.”
- “It was the alcohol.”
- “I didn’t know any better.”
- “She did it to me first.”
- “She bruises easily.”

It’s all about **CHOICE**