

Understanding Intimate Partner Violence

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TERMINOLOGY:

- Wife Beating/Battering
- Spousal Abuse
- Date Rape/Dating Violence
- Family Violence
- Domestic Violence (DV)
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Statistics

- An estimated 1.3 million women are victims
- 85% of domestic violence victims are women.
- Females who are 16-24 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.

Texas Statistics

- **196,713** Family Violence Incidents
- **111** women killed by their intimate partner
- **12,213** Adults received shelter from their abusive relationships
- **15,905** children received shelter

*Texas Council on Family Violence 2009 Report on prevalence in Texas/Texas Health and Human Services Commission

HARRIS COUNTY 2010 SERVICES

From our Community Partners:

EMERGENCY
SHELTER

5308

NON
RESIDENTIAL

14,891

HOTLINE

82,087

PROTECTIVE
ORDERS
GRANTED

1143

**Definition of IPV-
Intimate Partner
Violence**

A pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors including:

**Physical
Attacks**

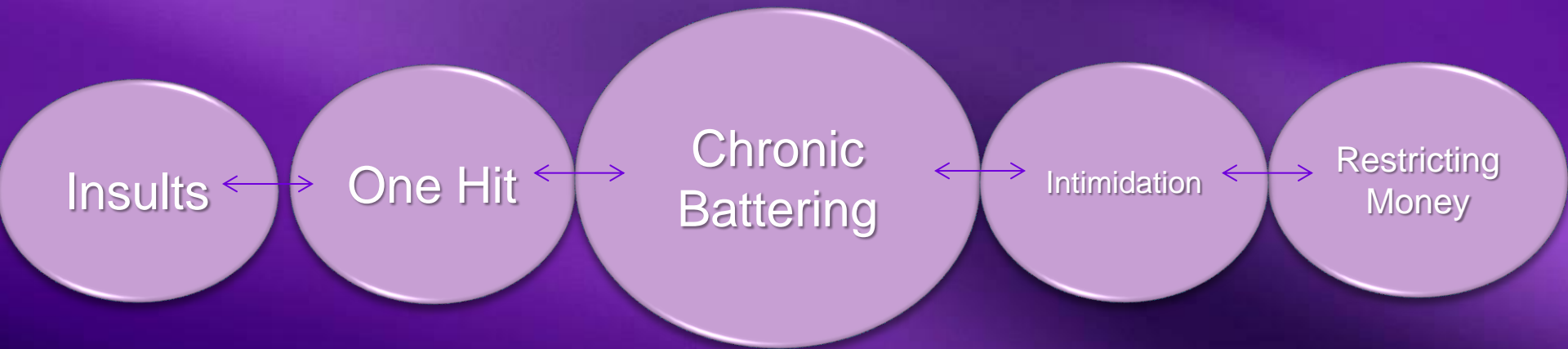
**Sexual
Attacks**

**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:



**FAMILY VIOLENCE:
LEGAL DEFINITION**

“Family Violence” is defined in the Texas Family Code (Section 71.004) as:

An act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.

True or False...
Only a small part
of the population
are affected by
DV?

- One out Three Women
- Every 15 seconds in the US

True or False...
DV only occurs in
poor, uneducated
and minority
populations?

Occurs regardless
of age, race,
ethnicity, or socio-
economic status.

True or False...
Alcohol and Drugs
cause domestic
Violence?

Not a causal
relationship.

TRUE OR FALSE...

**WHEN THERE IS VIOLENCE IN
THE FAMILY, ALL MEMBERS OF
THE FAMILY ARE
PARTICIPATING IN THE
DYNAMIC, AND THEREFORE,
ALL MUST CHANGE FOR THE
VIOLENCE TO STOP?**

Only the batterer has the ability to stop the violence.

Battering is a behavioral choice for which the batterer must be held accountable.

TRUE OR FALSE...

**BATTERED WOMEN ARE
MASOCHISTIC AND
PROVOKE THE ABUSE. THEY
MUST LIKE IT OR THEY
WOULD LEAVE?**

Victim provocation is no more common in domestic violence than in any other crime. Battered women often make repeated attempts to leave violent relationships, but are prevented from doing so by increased violence and control tactics on the part of the abuser.

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**

Why Battering Occurs:

Unclear
Consequences

Cultural
Influences

Historical
Perspective

Physical
Dominance

Religious
Beliefs

Learned
Behavior

Power and
Control

Anger
Management vs.
Battering
Intervention
Programs

**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

What we know...

- Increased risk of violence during pregnancy may lead to injuries to fetus
- If IPV in first six months of life, child is 3.4 times likely to be victim of physical abuse by age 5
- Evidence of physical, emotional and mental damage to children
- Relationship to adverse childhood experiences (ACE)

EXPOSURE TO DV...



Includes:

- Seeing the act
- Seeing the results
- Hearing the act
- Hearing the abuser's threats
- Hearing the destruction of property
- Hearing the mother's screams and cries



Children who experience childhood trauma, including witnessing incidents of domestic violence, are at a greater risk of having serious adult health problems including tobacco use, substance abuse, obesity, cancer, heart disease, depression and a higher risk for unintended pregnancy.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study is one of the largest investigations ever conducted to assess associations between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well-being. The study is a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente's Health Appraisal Clinic in San Diego.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention

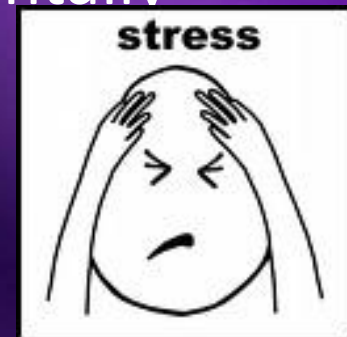
Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACE)

- Examined the relationship between
 - abuse + social dysfunction in childhood
 - health outcomes in adulthood

The Effects of Childhood Stress on Health Across the Lifespan: US Dept. of Health and Human Services, CDC www.cdc.gov/injury

What is an ACE?

- Recurrent physical abuse
- Recurrent emotional abuse
- Emotional or physical neglect
- Contact sexual abuse
- Mother is treated violently
- An alcohol and/or drug abuser in the household
- An incarcerated household member
- Someone who is chronically depressed, mentally ill, institutionalized, or suicidal
- One or no parents



ACE: Outcomes

Risk in the following health conditions increases in a strong and graded manner

- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Depression
- Fetal death
- Health-related quality of life (decrease)
- Illicit drug use
- Ischemic heart disease
- Liver disease
- Risk of IPV
- Multiple sexual partners
- STDs
- Smoking
- Suicide attempts
- Unintended pregnancies
- Early initiation of smoking and sexual activities
- Adolescent pregnancy

Effects of Childhood Stress

People with six or more ACEs died nearly 20 years earlier on average than those without ACEs

It has been estimated that the danger to a victim increases by 70% when she attempts to leave, as the abuser escalates his use of violence when he begins to lose control.

Domestic Violence and Homicide:

- 40-50% of US women are killed by Husband, Boyfriend, or Ex-Partner (9 times rate killed by stranger)
- 7th leading cause of death to women, #2 cause of death to African American women
- Women are most at risk at the time they leave the relationship
- In approximately 19% of Intimate Partner Homicides, children are also killed
- For every one Femicide, there are 8-9 attempted femicides

(Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN)

RISK 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

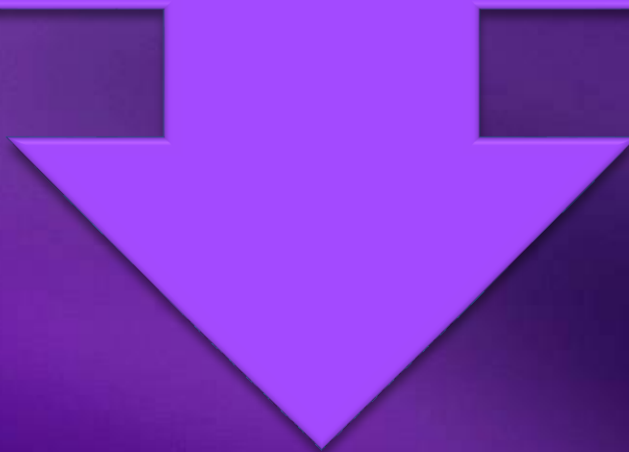


↓ Current possession or past use of weapons

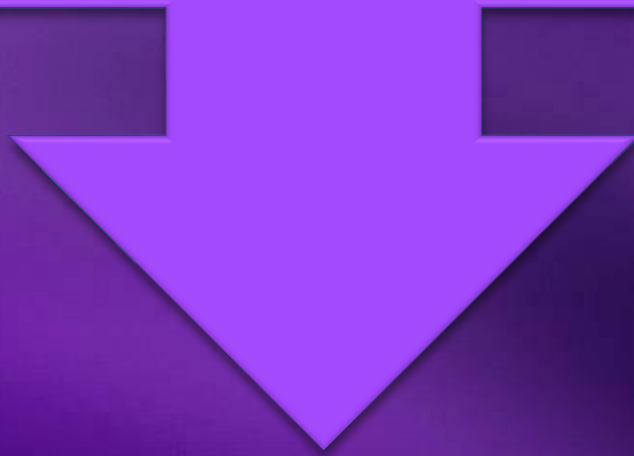
↓ Pursuit and preoccupation of victim

↓ Access to the victim

↓ Isolation of the Abuser

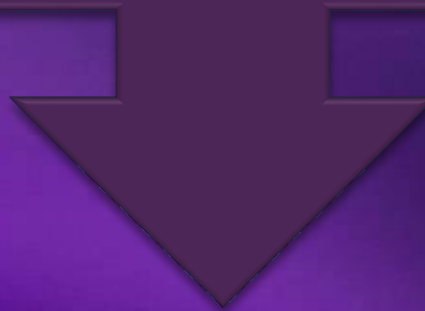


- ↓ Violence in previous relationships or prior separations from current partner
- ↓ Mental Illness or Neurological Impairment
- ↓ Children by Former Partners
- ↓ Age of victim



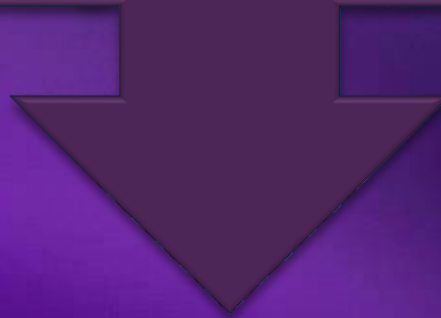
*Elements of Safety
Planning:*

Safety Plans include thinking about safety when staying in relationships and when leaving relationships.

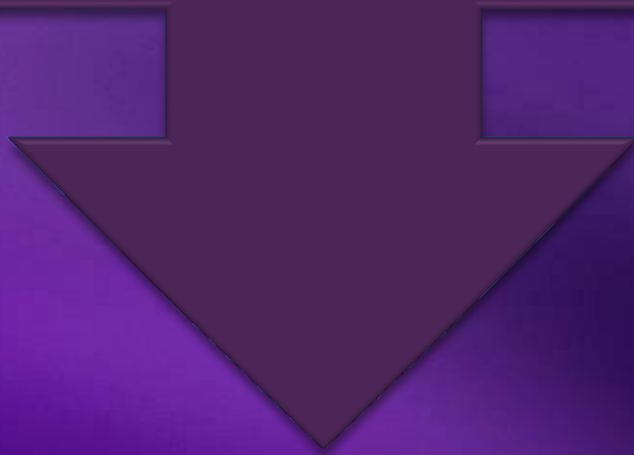


Elements of Safety Planning:

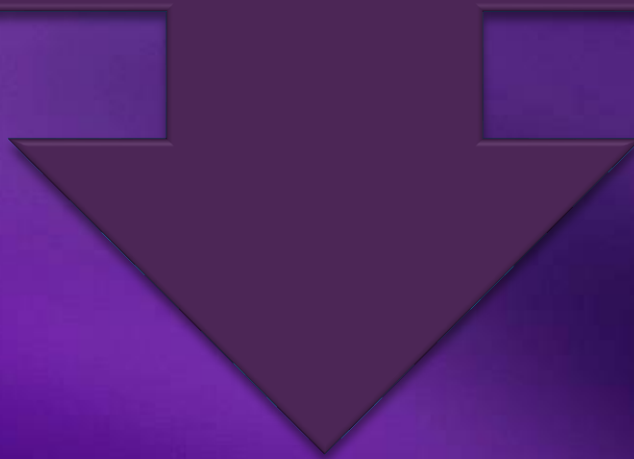
- ↓ Safety Signal for neighbors/friends/family
- ↓ Ready Bag
- ↓ Travel Routes
- ↓ Childcare Arrangements



- ↓ 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



Things to Think About:

- Having easy access to the victim during any court or mediation proceedings
- When planning to leave, don't tell the person face to face that you are leaving (Christine's Story)
- Be alert to depression and suicidal behaviors

Stages of Behavioral Change

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



Prochaska JO, 1997

Zimmerman GL et al, 2000

RESOURCES:



- A woman is in a relationship with a man, where he is constantly threatening to assault and even kill her. Assaults happen on a regular basis. One evening mother is holding her four month old-baby girl, and her partner comes in very angry and argumentative. Things escalate quickly as is common in the relationship. A physical altercation occurs where mother is physically restrained and punched in the face and body. During this incident, the baby the mother is holding is struck. Looking on in the background are the two other children ages 3 and 8. The 8 year-old charges into to help mother, and is pushed aside.

Questions?

Is IPV a toxic stressor for children?

Is exposing a child to toxic stressors
abusive or neglectful?

Is IPV child abuse?

SCREENING VICTIMS...

Has your intimate partner ever pushed, slapped, hit or hurt you in some way?

Has your intimate partner ever hurt or threatened you?

Has your intimate partner ever forced you to do something you did not want to do?

Is there anything that goes on at home that makes you feel afraid?

Does your intimate partner prevent you from eating or sleeping, or endanger your health in other ways?

Has your intimate partner ever hurt your pets or destroyed your clothing, objects in your home, or something you especially cared about?

Has your intimate partner taken the children without permission, threatened to never let them see you again, or otherwise harmed them?

Screening Perpetrators:

- Within the past few years, have you hit, slapped, kicked, pushed, shoved, or otherwise physically hurt a family member, a person with whom you were in a relationship, or a person to whom you were a care giver?
- Within the past year, have you forced anyone in your family, or anyone with whom you have been in a relationship, to participate in sexual activities against their will?
- (If yes to either above): Do you think that you may do it again?
- A yes to any of these questions would indicate that a more formal assessment be completed by a qualified professional.



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