

Intimate Partner/Domestic Violence: The Fear of Opening Pandora's Box

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Faculty

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Disclosure

- The following people have no relevant financial, professional or personal relationships to disclose:
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- There are no commercial supporters of this activity

Objectives

- Define domestic/intimate partner violence
- Identify the dynamics of an abusive relationship focusing on the power and control issues
- Describe the characteristic of teen dating violence relationships

Objectives

- Describe signs of abuse in physical appearance, affect, and behavior
- List four questions that can be asked in a clinic setting to screen for domestic or teen dating violence

Case Study #1

- You have been seeing Theresa regularly for the past 8 months
 - Comes into the clinic every 3 months asking for pregnancy test
 - You have tried to discuss contraceptive methods with her but she deflects conversation and hurries out
 - Each test has resulted negative

Case Study #1

- Last month Theresa comes into the clinic and asks for another pregnancy test
 - 2 months have lapsed since her last visit
 - You ask if she has concerns

Case Study #1

- Complains of some pain and says she “doesn’t feel right”
- Agrees to STD test (in addition to the pregnancy test) and it comes back positive

Case Study #1

- While conducting a sexual assessment to examine risk behaviors, you find she has been engaging in sex work at the request of her partner
 - Discloses when she has refused to engage in sex work before, he beat her up

Case Study #1

- She says she doesn’t mind, but she doesn’t want to get pregnant until he marries her like he promised
- If she got pregnant by some stranger, he would be really mad and upset

Case Study #1

- He also doesn’t want her to use birth control because he said it will “mess her up” and she won’t be able to have his kids at all

Cast Study #1: First Thoughts

- How do you feel?
- What do you want to do?
 - Really... not what you think others would have you say
- What concerns do you have regarding interacting with this client?

Defining Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence

- How do you define D/IP Violence?
 - A continuum of abuse starting with verbal or psychological abuse that culminates with physical violence?
 - An on going pattern of physical violence?
 - Physical violence which may lead to death?

Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Is...

- A pattern of coercive behavior exerted by one intimate partner over the other with the goal of establishing and maintaining power and control

– <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html>

Power and Control

- Physical
- Sexual
- Economic
- Emotional/psychological

Physical

- Physical violence is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm

– <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html>

Physical

- Can include but not limited to:
 - Scratching – Slapping
 - Pushing – Punching
 - Throwing – Burning
 - Grabbing – Use of a weapon
 - Choking – Use of restraints or body, size, strength
 - Shaking
 - Biting

Sexual

- Three categories:
 - Physical force to engage in a sexual act against his or her will
 - Involving a person who is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act
 - Abusive sexual contact

– <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html>

Economic

- **Abuser has control over the victim's money and other economic resources**
 - **Involves a strict "allowance," withholding money at will, and/or forcing the victim to beg**
 - **Often the victim receives less money as the abuse continues**

Economic

- **Prevents finishing education or obtaining employment**
- **Intentionally squandering or misusing communal resources**

Emotional/Psychological

- **Involves trauma to the victim caused by acts, threats of acts, or coercive tactics**
- **It is considered psychological/emotional violence when there has been prior physical or sexual violence or prior threat of physical or sexual violence**

– <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html>

Emotional/Psychological

- **Can include but not limited to:**
 - **Humiliation**
 - **Controlling what can and cannot do**
 - **Withholding information**
 - **Deliberately doing something to cause embarrassment**

Emotional/Psychological

- **Isolation from friends and family**
- **Denying access to money or other basic resources**

Modes

- **Threats of physical or sexual violence can be:**
 - **Words**
 - **Gestures**
 - **Weapons**

Modes

- Perpetrators utilize these modes to communicate the intent:

- Death
- Disability
- Injury
- Physical harm

– <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html>

Stalking

- Often included among the types of emotional and psychological IPV

Stalking

- Generally refers to:
 - *“Harassing or threatening behavior that an individual engages in repeatedly, such as following a person, appearing at a person’s home or place of business, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects, or vandalizing a person’s property”*

– From Tjaden & Thoennes 1998

Sexual Coercion

- The act of persuading or coercing a minor into engaging in an unwanted sexual activity through physical force, threat of physical force, or emotional manipulation
 - Many young teens consent to sex without thinking they have a choice

Sexual Coercion

- Coercive situations may use threats, humiliation, and anger as means to convince a partner to consent to sexual behavior
- The coerced individual often agrees to the activity because he or she does not feel able to say “no” and have that response respected

– Definition adapted from Sexual Coercion Among Adolescents: A Training Guide for the Family Planning Clinician, Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics.

Coercion, Not Rape

- It differs from rape in that the coerced individual consents to the sexual activity for a variety of reasons
- Coerced individual feels it is easier to consent to sexual activity than decline due to an imbalance of power

Coercion, Not Rape

- Coercive situations may not be obvious, even to the coerced individual

Case Study #2

- Jasmine T., 16 year old African American female
 - Came into the clinic one week ago complaining of lower abdomen pain
 - She had a fat lip and heavy bruising along the left side of her face

Case Study #2

- Though she was wearing long sleeves you noticed some bruising around her wrists when she signed the intake forms
 - Faded bruising that had the shape of a handprint

Case Study #2

- While discussing her symptoms and pain, you ask her some questions about the bruising you have noticed
 - She discloses very matter-of-factly that she and her boyfriend had a fight the other day

Case Study #2

- Jasmine indicated that he gets really angry sometimes; she said it's because she acts too young sometimes
 - He's 25 years old – sometimes she acts too much like a kid and she's trying to be more mature for him

Case Study #2: First Thoughts

- How do you feel?
- What do you want to do?
 - Really... Not what you think others would have you say
- What do you think is going on?
- What are your concerns about working with this client regarding her IPV issues?

Barriers to Detecting IVP

Barriers

- **Lack of inquiry**
 - **78% patients want to be asked**
 - **7% are asked**
 - **Ob/Gyn/ Primary Care ask 10%**
 - **Screen 79% with injury**
- **Lack of skill/training**
- **Lack of resources for referral**

Barriers

- **Fear of offending patient**
- **“Special beliefs”**

Psychology of Abuse

Misconception

- **Domestic violence does not result from:**
 - **Poor communication skills**
 - **Stress**
 - **Anger**
 - **Addiction**
 - **Mental illness**
 - **External events**

It's Structural

- **The roots of DV are firmly embedded in sexism and other ideologies of group oppression**
- **There are age-old legal and social traditions that permit and support male domination over women**

Structural

- A continued tolerance for DV is reflected in current practices within formal/informal community systems

Psychology of Abuse

- Patterns of coercion can progress very slowly, making it hard to identify in the early stages
- The pattern of coercive behavior may include physical violence, but does not always include physical violence
- Coercive behaviors are intentional and deliberate

Psychology of Abuse

- The goal of the pattern of coercion is to establish and maintain control over the victims
- Abusers batter because they believe they have a right and entitlement to control their intimate partners

Psychology of Abuse

- Escalation of DV is often necessary in order for an abuser to continue to maintain control over the partner
 - Not because they “lose control”
- Nothing a victim does or doesn’t do is likely to have any effect over the abuser’s decision to use violence and coercion

Power and Control



Using Intimidation

- Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures
- Smashing things, destroying her property
- Abusing pets
- Displaying weapons

Using Emotional Abuse

- Putting her down
- Making her feel bad about herself
- Calling her names
- Making her think she's crazy
- Playing mind games
- Humiliating her
- Making her feel guilty

Using Isolation

- Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads, where she goes
- Limiting her outside involvement
- Using jealousy to justify actions

Minimizing, Denying and Blaming

- Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously
- Saying the abuse didn't happen
- Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior
- Saying she caused it

Using Children

- Making her feel guilty about the children
- Using the children to relay messages

Using Male Privilege

- Treating her like a servant
- Making all the big decisions
- Acting like the master of the castle
- Being the one to define men's and women's roles

- ### Using Economic Abuse
- Preventing her from getting or keeping a job
 - Making her ask for money
 - Giving her an allowance
 - Taking her money
 - Not letting her know about or have access to family income

- ### Using Coercion and Threats
- Making and/or threatening to do something to hurt her
 - Threatening to leave her, commit suicide, or report her to welfare
 - Making her drop charges
 - Making her do illegal things



Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence is NOT an EVENT, it is an ONGOING Part of a Victim/Survivor's Life

Teen Dating Violence

- ### Teen Dating Violence
- Dating violence is a type of intimate partner violence
 - It occurs between two people in a close relationship
 - The nature of dating violence can be physical, emotional, or sexual

Teen Dating Violence

- Physical
 - Occurs when a partner is pinched, hit, shoved, or kicked
- Emotional
 - Threatening a partner or harming his or her sense of self-worth
 - i.e. name calling, shaming, bullying, embarrassing on purpose, keeping him/her from friends and family

Teen Dating Violence

- Sexual
 - Forcing a partner to engage in a sex act when he or she does not or cannot consent

– http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/TeenDatingViolence_2010-a.pdf

Teen Dating Violence

- Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime
 - Dating violence often starts with teasing and name calling

Teen Dating Violence

- These behaviors are often thought to be a “normal” part of a relationship
 - These behaviors can lead to more serious violence like physical assault and rape

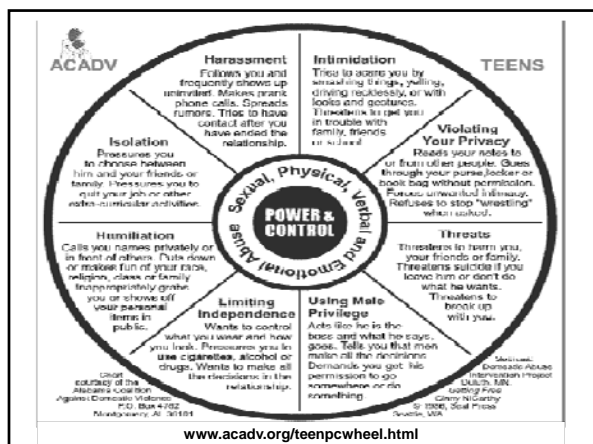
– http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/TeenDatingViolence_2010-a.pdf

Teen Dating Violence: Statistics

- Dating violence is a serious problem in the United States
- Many teens do not report it because they are afraid to tell friends and family
 - 72% of 8th and 9th graders reportedly “date”

Teen Dating Violence: Statistics

- 1 in 4 adolescents report verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse from a dating partner each year
- About 10% of students nationwide report being physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past 12 months



Possible Screening Questions

Possible Questions to Ask

- Do you ever feel unsafe at home?
- Are you in a relationship in which you have been physically hurt or felt threatened?
- Have you ever been or are you currently concerned about being harmed by your partner or someone close to you?

Possible Questions to Ask

- Have you ever felt afraid of your partner or ex-partner?
- Has a partner or ex-partner currently or ever:
 - Pushed, grabbed, slapped, choked or kicked you?

Possible Questions to Ask

- Forced you to have sex or made you do sexual things you didn't want to?
- Threatened to hurt you, your children, or someone close to you?
- Stalked, followed, or monitored you?

Woman Abuse Screening Tool

1. In general, how would you describe your relationship?
 - ___ A lot of tension
 - ___ Some tension
 - ___ No tension

Woman Abuse Screening Tool

2. Do you and your partner work out arguments with:
- Great difficulty?
 - Some difficulty?
 - No difficulty?

Woman Abuse Screening Tool

3. Do arguments ever result in you feeling down or bad about yourself?
- Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never

Woman Abuse Screening Tool

4. Do arguments ever result in hitting, kicking, or pushing?
- Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never

Woman Abuse Screening Tool

5. Do you ever feel frightened by what your partner says or does?
- Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never

Woman Abuse Screening Tool

6. Has your partner ever abused you physically?
- Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never

Woman Abuse Screening Tool

7. Has your partner ever abused you emotionally?
- Often
 - Sometimes
 - Never

- London Middlesex, developed by Dr. B. Lent

S.A.F.E.

- **Screen** for IPV/DV at intake
- **Assess** safety/risk
- **Follow-up** with every abused client
- **Empathize** with clients' feelings

H.E.L.P.

- **Help** clients access IPV/DV services
- **Evaluate** all potential referrals and interventions for safety
- **Leave** clients in control
- **Plan** for safety with clients, not for them