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Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence



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Objectives

1. Recognize and understand indicators of domestic and intimate partner violence.
2. Discuss the consequences of domestic and intimate partner violence for the victims and greater community.
3. Identify relationship factors that can contribute to potential domestic and intimate partner violence.

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Goals

- **Recognize and understand indicators of domestic and intimate partner violence**
- **Discuss the consequences of domestic and intimate partner violence for the victims and greater community**
- **Identify relationship factors that can contribute to potential domestic and intimate partner violence**

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Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

- **Domestic violence (DV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) are a national public health issue: The American College of Emergency Physicians stated that “domestic violence is a serious public health hazard that EMS personnel will encounter” (2012 as quoted by Donnelly 2016)**

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Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

- **DV and IPV overlap but are different (Walker-Descartes et al. 2021):**
 - **DV occurs within a household and can include a parent, child, siblings, and/or roommates**
 - **IPV occurs between partners who may or may not live together**
 - **neither is limited to physical aggression**
 - **both encompass the “desired endpoint of isolation from family and friends or financial control”**

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Exposure to DV/IPV

- **Exposure to DV/IPV can be traumatizing for all**
- **Walker-Descartes (2021) report that victims often die: “Homicide often is the tragic endpoint of many battering relationships”**
 - **in the U.S. 1 out of 5 murder victims are killed by a spouse or intimate partner**
 - **IPV accounts for 40-50% of murdered women in U.S. – 67-80% of them were physically abused before the murder**

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Exposure to DV/IPV

- **Physical injuries include:**
 - **contusions/abrasions**
 - **lacerations**
 - **strain/sprains**
 - **internal organ injuries**
 - **fractures**
 - **face** ▪ **upper trunk**
 - **finger** ▪ **hand**

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Community-Based Resources

- YMCA defines the following:
 - Intimate Partner Violence: any situation in which a current or former intimate partner exerts power and control over another person
 - physical
 - sexual
 - emotional
 - financial
 - cultural
 - spiritual
 - stalking

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Community-Based Resources

- YMCA defines the following:
 - Domestic Violence: parties in the same household or family, who commit crimes against other, exerts power and/or control
 - Physical: bodily injury, sexual, slapping, stalking, pushing, any type of assault or a fear of harm

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- **IPV is not experienced equally by all groups**
 - the following women are impacted by sexual or physical violence and stalking:
 - 57% of multi-racial
 - 48% of American Indian/Alaskan Native
 - 45% of non-Hispanic Black
 - 37% of non-Hispanic White
 - 34% of Hispanic
 - 18% of Asian-Pacific Islander

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- **IPV is not experienced equally by all groups**
 - the following men are impacted by sexual or physical violence and stalking:
 - 42% of multi-racial
 - 41% of American Indian/Alaskan Native
 - 40% of non-Hispanic Black
 - 30% of non-Hispanic White
 - 30% of Hispanic
 - 14% of Asian-Pacific Islander

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CDC Intimate Partner Violence

- **Physical violence** is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force
- **Sexual violence** is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act, sexual touching, or a non-physical sexual event (e.g., sexting) when the partner does not or cannot consent

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CDC Intimate Partner Violence

- **Stalking** is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a partner that causes fear or concern for one's own safety or the safety of someone close to the victim
- **Psychological aggression** is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm a partner mentally or emotionally and/or to exert control over a partner

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Lethal Interactions

- **Intimate partner violent aggression can escalate to lethal interactions (Nesset et al. 2020)**
- **According to Nesset, women who are exposed to “potentially lethal violence are more likely to seek help from police or health services and the police have an important role to play in reducing the risk of harm by removing the male perpetrator through arrest and acting as a ‘gatekeeper’ for the female victim to access immediate protection and further help”**

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Next Steps After Identifying Potential Perpetrators

- **First responders will benefit from awareness of identifying factors and traits of potential perpetrators (Nesset et al. 2022)**
 - **identify and estimate violence risk**
 - **educate community**
 - **create safety plans for potential victims**
 - **have awareness about managing perpetrator**

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Next Steps After Identifying Potential Perpetrators

- **This awareness can cause additional stress on first responder, proper training is key to mitigate:**
 - depression
 - substance use
 - post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

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Identifying Factors of Potential Perpetrators

- **Identified contributing factors to domestic violence and intimate partner violence for first responders to recognize:**
 - environments of verbal aggression
 - commanding and controlling behaviors
 - anxiety, fear that leads to feelings of inadequacy (Sharp et al., 2022)

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Identifying Factors of Potential Perpetrators

- It is recognized that the above variables that contribute to violence against loved ones and intimate partners can be experienced in stressful work environments

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Types of DV/IPV

Types of DV/IPV (Kyle, 2021)	Attributes
Intimate partner violence	Physical, sexual, stalking and/or psychological harassment and aggression
Physical violence	Intentional use of force with potential to cause harm, pain, disability, or death
Sexual violence	Completion or attempt of a sexual act without consent, or is unable to consent or refuse
Stalking	Repeated and unwanted attention and/or contact that causes distress or fear for safety
Psychological aggression	Use of verbal and/or nonverbal communication to physically or mentally harm another person, attempt control or exert power over another person

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Physical Health Impact

- **Health-related consequences to all forms of physical and psychological violence include (Kyle 2022):**
 - acute illness, including respiratory
 - urinary tract infections and pelvic pain disorders
 - sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
 - chronic pain disorders, including fibromyalgia
 - irritable bowel, gastrointestinal disorders
 - headaches/migraines
 - maternal health (and pregnancy) issues and outcomes

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Physical Health Impact

- **Psychological injuries reported include (Walker-Descartes et al., 2021):**
 - manipulation
 - isolation
 - intimidation

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Mental Health Impact

- **Mental health issues arise as elements of DV/IPV**
 - **depression**
 - **PTSD**
 - **anxiety disorders**
 - **suicidal ideation**
 - **substance use and abuse**

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Mental Health Impact

- **Women who have experienced violence are twice as likely to experience depression (Kyle, 2022)**
- **“A cross-sectional study in England found that among those who had attempted suicide in the past year, nearly 50% had experienced IPV during their lifetime, with 23% experiencing IPV in the past year” (Kyle)**
- **DV/IPV survivors are twice as likely to attempt suicide**

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Financial/Economic Abuse

- **Financial hardship is an indicator of potential violence or “violence subtype”**
 - economic insecurity
 - stressful job environment/strain
 - limiting access to financial resources
 - restricting finances for control
 - limiting self-sufficiency

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Financial/Economic Abuse

- **Women who have experienced IPV suffer:**
 - job instability
 - unstable housing
 - negative outlook
 - increased substance abuse
 - aspects of PTSD vary based on whether a weapon was used (Ranher et al., 2021)

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Financial/Economic Abuse

- **According to Kyle (2022), “medical and mental health services for patients with an IPV history cost an estimated \$10.4 billion yearly”**

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DV/IPV Relationship Factors

- **There are different relationship factors that can comprise DV and/or IPV (Kyle, 2021) situations**
 - **single-parent households**
 - **cohabitating relationships**
 - **high relationship conflict status**

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- **Maladaptive relationships**
 - dominance and control of one partner
 - financial restrictions
 - dependence
 - isolation
 - limited resources
 - emotional trauma
 - situational violence

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Community Factors

- **Identifiable community factors indicating higher risk of violence include:**
 - areas with high rate of economic instability
 - limited educational opportunities
 - low community support
 - neighborhood barriers to intervention

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Community Factors

- **Engaged communities may have greater cohesion and connectedness**
 - may have resources to support those vulnerable to violence
 - can act as a buffer
 - provide access to jobs
 - limit social isolation
 - access to resources and support

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U.S. Preventative Services Task Force

- **Community-based organizations can collectively address DV/IPV with available social services and support networks**

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U.S. Preventative Services Task Force

- **The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force has recommended screening for IPV to identify those needing support, as do the following entities:**
 - **American Medical Association**
 - **American Association of Family Physicians**
 - **American Academy of Pediatrics**
 - **American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology**
- **Screenings can potentially mitigate violence and provide support to those with a need**

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DV/IPV Screening Tools

- **Recommended DV/IPV screening tools suggested for:**
 - **women of childbearing age**
 - **older or vulnerable adults**
- **Screenings can unveil needs for expanded service provision and safety**

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First Responders and DV/IPV

- **First responders should understand the following pertaining to IPV/DV (Walker-Descartes et al., 2021):**
 - **DV and IPV contribute equally to the establishment of a culture of violence in vulnerable households**
 - **providers can screen for the existence of this culture of violence by adapting DV/IPV screening tools (as approved by community)**

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First Responders and DV/IPV

- **First responders should understand the following pertaining to IPV/DV (Walker-Descartes et al., 2021):**
 - **women and children remain particularly vulnerable when there is the presence of a gun in the household – a key contributor to the escalation of DV/IPV to homicide**

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Children and Young Adults

- **DV can involve children and is most often committed by a familiar person (Stanton and Laraque-Arena (2021))**
 - **physical, sexual, and psychological/emotional violence**
 - **infant neglect**
 - **bullying – physical, psychological, or social harm**
 - **youth violence – occurs in community settings, with or without weapons (may involve gangs)**

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Children and Young Adults

- **DV can involve children and is most often committed by a familiar person (Stanton and Laraque-Arena (2021))**
 - **dating violence**
 - **sex trafficking**
 - **non-physical hostile treatment**

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DV/IPV Victim Responses

- **Rancher et al. (2021) reports:**
 - **30% of female victims who report IPV/DV claim first responders and law enforcement are “unhelpful, too impersonal, or unsympathetic” (Johnson as quoted by Rancher)**
 - **engaging females and children in reporting and addressing violence can be correlated to their response to first responder behavior and demeanor**

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DV/IPV Victim Responses

- **Rancher et al. (2021) reports:**
 - **some highly traumatized females have reported that investigators and first responders “made me feel like crap” and “yelled at me for wasting their time”**
 - **police interactions with traumatized adults can impact how they respond and report future conflicts**

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Steps to Address Potential Victims

- **Initiate conversation about conflict, but ask permission**
- **Confidentiality: ensure person is able to speak freely; share that conversation is private, but share any reporting issues**
- **Universal education: be supportive, refrain from judgement; provide information about relationship stress, healthy relationships, community support**

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Steps to Address Potential Victims

- **Empower and support: if the person shares, thank them, validate, be empathetic**
- **Provide community resource information: be trustworthy**
 - **teach safety**
 - **engage influential community members**
 - **talk about creating protective environments/community**
- **<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/communityviolence/>**

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