

## Increasing Awareness and Responding to Domestic Violence in the Care of Torture Survivors and their Families

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## Learning Objectives

- Define the Fundamentals of Domestic Violence and Describe its Consequences
- Summarize Factors of Domestic Violence in Treating Torture survivors
- Evaluate the Challenges and Solutions of Addressing Domestic Violence in Torture Treatment Programs.

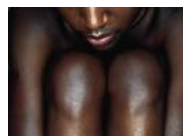
## Interpersonal Violence

Includes:

- Violence between family members and intimate partners
- Violence between acquaintances
- Violence between strangers that is not intended to further the aims of any formally defined group or cause.
- Occurs in the home, on the streets and other public settings, in the workplace, and in institutions such as schools, hospitals and residential care facilities

WHO 2004

## Domestic Violence (DV) Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)



A pattern of abusive behavior in a relationship that is used by the perpetrator to gain or maintain power and control over his/her intimate partner.

(U.S. Department of Justice,  
Office on Violence Against Women)

## Domestic Violence

- A public health issue
- A human rights violation
- Has a global prevalence
- Women are victims of domestic violence in significantly greater proportion than men

For example, in the U.S. 4 in 5 victims who report DV were women (2013).

In the U.K. 45% of women surveyed compared to 26% of men had experienced one incident of interpersonal violence (2004)

- IPV/DV is an ongoing pattern of coercion and control that includes a range of tactics designed to intimidate and harm an intimate partner.
- IPV/DV involves creating an environment of fear and disempowering restrictions that impact psychological, physical, economic, and emotional well-being.

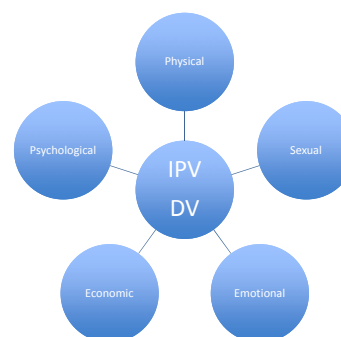


<http://www.apildv.org>

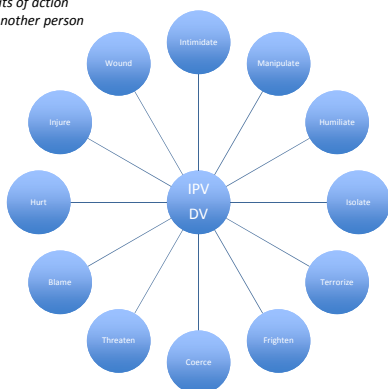
## DV/IPV

- Occurs in adult and adolescent dating, married, cohabiting or separating relationships
- Occurs among heterosexual and LGBTQI couples
- Can involve a current or former intimate partner
- Is an ongoing pattern of domination and control
- Often includes a combination of actual or threatened physical violence, sexual assault, economic control, psychological abuse, and emotional abuse

### Domains of Abuse:



### Actions or threats of action that influence another person



## IPV and Adverse Health Outcomes

Physical health conditions result from physical violence, examples include:

- bruises
- knife & gunshot wounds
- broken bones
- traumatic brain injury
- back or pelvic pain, headaches & chronic pain

Other adverse impacts include:

- cardiovascular
- gastrointestinal
- endocrine and immune systems through chronic stress
- reproductive health

Black, M. Am J Lifestyle Med. 2011;5(5):428-439; Center for Disease Control  
<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/consequences.html>

### Physical violence and psychological abuse co-occur with psychological consequences such as:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Symptoms of PTSD
- Suicidality
- Low self-esteem
- Difficulty trusting others
- Fears about intimacy
- Emotional detachment
- Sleep disturbances
- Substance use



Black, M. Am J Lifestyle Med. 2011;5(5):428-439; Center for Disease Control  
<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/consequences.html>

## Global Statistics

- In 48 WHO population surveys from different countries, 10%-69% of women reported being physically assaulted by a male partner at some point in their lives
- WHO studies show that 40%-70% of female murder victims are killed by husbands or boyfriends.

## Countries of Origin and DV



## IPV Survey Kigali, Rwanda

- In 2009, WE-ACTx HIV Primary Care Clinic screened 414 women for DV
- 256 (62%) reported a history of domestic violence that included:
  - Forced sex after refusal
  - Withholding money for food and rent
  - Refusal of own HIV care, but use of her ART medications

Cohen, M et al APHA presentation 2010

## IPV Survey Shimbela Refugee Camp Ethiopia

- In 2011 a community-based cross-sectional study with random sampling conducted interviews focusing on physical violence
- 422 women having an intimate partner participated
- 107 (25.5%) reported physical violence in last 12 months
- 131 (31%) reported physical violence during their lifetime

Feseha et al. BMC Public Health 2012, 12:125

## IPV Survey Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq

- Between October 2009 and March 2011, a convenience sample of 800 Kurdish women were interviewed by female doctors at two public hospitals
- 45.3% reported IPV in the last 12 months
- 58.6% endorsed an experience of IPV in their lifetime
- Similar findings in Baghdad study: Abdul Jabbar MA: The prevalence of violence among a group of married women attending two teaching hospitals in Baghdad. Iraq: Iraqi Council for Medical Specializations Thesis. Iraqi Council for Medical Specializations; 2006.

Al-Atrushi et al. BMC Women's Health 2013, 13:37

## Promising Practices/Model Programs

National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health (NCDVTMH) project:

- Structured interviews were conducted during August and September 2013 with representatives from 15 U.S. torture treatment programs
- In addition to information about populations served and trauma-informed and evidence-based practices, informants were asked about the identification and response to domestic violence.

## Interview Summary

- 8 programs are part of larger organizations or institutions
- 7 programs are independent organizations
- 15 programs identified as trauma specific serving survivors of torture, war trauma, and associated risks.
- 15 programs identified as trauma-informed, citing attention to cultural and linguistic needs of clients and a welcoming environment as important components of service. Context of client behaviors and requests are also important considerations.

### Training

- 7 of the 15 programs stated they have trainings for staff and volunteers on identifying and responding to DV
- Most programs indicated the training was not annual, but in response to a DV incident

### Identification

- 1 program stated they specifically asked about domestic violence in the intake
- 14 programs indicated an awareness and sensitivity to DV, but did not directly ask at intake
- 15 programs stated they believed there is a gap in services for domestic violence in the torture survivor community

### Response

- 4 programs have developed a system to respond to identified DV
- 11 programs report that DV is handled case by case with consideration of the couple involved and family/community supports
- 7 programs have internal DV specific resources that they refer to

### Networks & Resources

- 6 programs indicated they have established a network of collaborative programs
  - 2 programs utilize community workers that receive annual training on DV
- 2 programs stated they are part of a consortium or working group on DV issues
- 15 programs expressed concern about the lack of "cultural safety" in shelters
- 7 programs indicated they have provided training and consultation for DV shelters on a case by case basis

### What are the Challenges?



### Identified Challenges

- Funding deficits
- Greater demand than capacity to serve
- Measuring outcomes for evidence-based results
- Creating *sustainable* systems to respond to diverse needs of clients
- Gaps in care
- Cultural and religious "safety" in DV systems of care

## Identified Challenges

### Torture Treatment Programs

- Funding deficits
- Greater demand than capacity to serve
- Measuring outcomes for evidence-based results
- Creating *sustainable* systems to respond to diverse needs of clients

### Domestic Violence among Torture Impacted Communities

- Silent problem
- Gaps in care
- Cultural safety
- Religious beliefs
- Community attitudes



## Problem Solving



## Creative Models

### Khmer Health Advocates

Community Health Workers (CHW) are:

- Trained in trauma-informed care, health assessment, supportive services, and interpretation
- Work on a cross-cultural multidisciplinary team
- Provide in-home services, identify family issues and domestic violence
- Receive DV training and access to culturally sensitive DV consultation

## Creative Models

### International Rescue Committee – Tucson

Refugee Well-being Promotion Program:

- Well-being Promoters are successfully resettled, bilingual women from refugee communities are trained as health educators with basic counseling skills
- Provide in-home visits to share information and model adjustment
- Receive annual training on domestic violence and work with local domestic violence programs
- Work with program's behavioral health staff

## Closing Remarks from your Colleagues

- Know your local and national DV resources.
- Tap into the strengths in each individual and community.
- Listen to others and work together – collaborate.
- Try new strategies.
- Careful documentation
- Share your humanity.
- Care for each other.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”



James Baldwin  
African-American author

## Resources

National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health (NCDVTMH)  
Training, support, and consultation to advocates, mental health and substance abuse providers, legal professionals, and policymakers  
<http://www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org>

Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence (APIIDV)  
Consultation, technical assistance and training, research and advocacy  
<http://www.apiidv.org>

National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities  
Training, consultation, technical assistance, research and policy  
<http://www.nationallatinonetwork.org/>

Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC)  
Outreach, training, and technical assistance to communities, research and advocacy  
<http://www.idvaac.org/index.html>

## Resources

World Health Organization  
[http://www.who.int/topics/gender\\_based\\_violence/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/gender_based_violence/en/)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Intimate Partner Violence  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/index.html>

US DHHS Administration on Children & Families, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/programs/family-violence-prevention-services>

U.S. Department of Justice,  
Office on Violence Against Women  
<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov>