

Domestic Violence: Working Intelligently with the Scary Topic

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Introduction to the Issue: Domestic Violence and Relationship/Marriage Education

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Resources of NHMRC

- In general

www.healthymarriageinfo.org/

www.twoofus.org

- Later, specific to domestic violence

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Overview of Issues in Addressing Safety

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What are we going to cover?

- Safety
- Making distinctions
 - Types
 - Intensity
 - Danger level
- To screen or not to screen
- Using strategies appropriate to services

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Viewpoints on domestic violence: intensity, danger, types: What matters most?

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Definition of Battering

- When advocates who work with domestic violence services say “domestic violence,” they are usually thinking of battering.
- Battering can be defined as repeated physical and/or sexual assault by an intimate partner within a context of coercive control (Campbell & Humphreys, 1993).

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General Terms Researchers Use

- Domestic violence
- Domestic aggression
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
 - A generic term for the problem, regardless of severity or type.

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Foundation: Crucial Understandings

- Domestic violence, aggression, and coercive control of any type is always potentially very dangerous.
- Domestic violence, aggression, and coercive control is always wrong (unless it is in self-defense, of course)

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Foundation: Crucial Understandings

- No matter what type, women are much more likely to suffer long term psychological (and sometimes physical) damage.
 - This is true even where it is only the woman who hits the man.
- Children are deeply affected and at greater risk when adults in home are violence.

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An (abating) Controversy

- DV exists on a continuum, all along which the underlying dynamic is male power and control.
- DV comes in different types, and if there are different types, there may be different approaches to dealing with it most effectively.

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Young People Have Many Acts of Physical Aggression

- Among 625 premarital couples applying for marriage licenses, 36% reported physical aggression in the past year (by male, in this case; McLaughlin, Leonard, & Senchak, 1992)
- Among 272 premarital couples, asked within one month of their wedding, . . .
 - 57% of the couples reported at least one incidence in the prior year, by male or female or both
 - 31% reported by male; 44% reported by female (O'Leary, et al., 1989)

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Differentiation by Severity

- For example, Heyman, Slep and colleagues' work with military
- Differentiating by risk and severity
 - Prior injury, past 6 months
 - Significant fear

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Differentiation by Type

- Models that focus more on causes and motivation:
 - Peter Neidig (two types)
 - Mike Johnson (three types and more)
 - Amy Holtzworth-Munroe's Model (three types)

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Mike Johnson's Model

- Situational Couple Violence
- Intimate Terrorism
- Violent Resistance

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Amy Holtzworth-Munroe's Model

- Family Only Violence (FO)
- Borderline Personality Disorder Types (BD)
- Generally Violent-Antisocial (GVA)

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“Bubba” Theory

- Crazy Bubbas
- Rambo Bubbas
- Ordinary Bubbas

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Truth of Assumptions Vary by Type

- Domestic violence or aggression usually progresses and gets worse over time.
 - not true for what Mike Johnson calls situational couple violence
- Most violence in the home is male on female.
 - true for intimate terrorism
 - not true for situational couple violence

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Youth and Aggression

- Fact: Aggression in relationships is far more prevalent among younger people.
- Various studies show that it decreases over time.
 - e.g., Kim, H. K., Laurent, H. K., Capaldi, D. M., & Feingold, A. (2008). Men's aggression toward women: A 10-year panel study. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70, 1169–1187.
- Theoretically, the types most likely to continue or even get worse are those characterized by Johnson's term, intimate terrorism.

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- Fact: Women are at least as likely to hit men as vice versa.
- BUT!
 - Intimate terrorists are almost always men.
 - Women suffer more long-term damage associated with IPV no matter who hits whom.

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Arguments Pro and Con for Making Distinctions

- Pros
- Cons

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Pro

- Some people who are in the greatest danger may not recognize this because they are around many others who have hitting in their relationships.

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SIGNS OF GREATEST DANGER (from *Within My Reach*)

- You are scared of your partner.
- You feel afraid in the relationship.
- Your partner has injured you.
- Your partner tries to control you.
- Your partner keeps you from working or makes you dependent.
- Your partner interferes with you going back to school.
- Your partner tracks who you talk with.
- Your partner threatens to hurt you or your children.
- Your partner threatens to kill you or your children if you leave.
- Your partner is "hyper-jealous."
- Your partner is hostile toward women (or men) in general.
- Your partner is abusive, then expresses remorse and sorrow, promises to change, but . . . no change happens.
- Your partner forces you to have sex or do things you are not comfortable doing.

A Time of Greatest Danger

- The time of leaving a dangerous relationship is often the time of greatest danger.

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Pro

- There are different implications for interventions of different types.
- Legal system can make poor decisions without differentiating: for example, a woman who uses violence in self-defense but is forced into treatment for batterers.

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Cons

- Distinctions may appear to trivialize dangerous situations: “Oh, don’t worry, that’s the good kind of domestic violence!”
- Batterer’s attorneys are attempting to use the data on symmetry in situational couples violence to reduce culpability for clients.

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To Screen or Not to Screen

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To Screen or Not to Screen

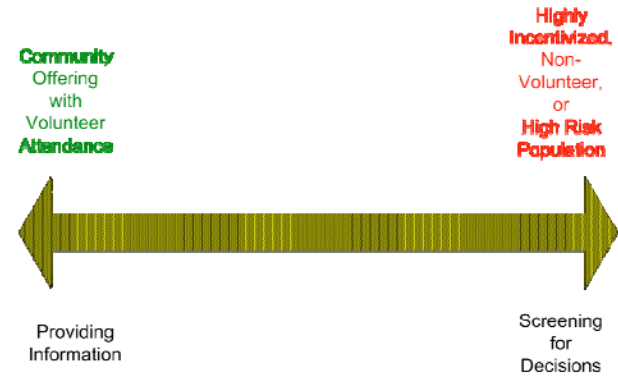
- Is it screening or assessing?
- Creating opportunities to disclose
- The importance of screening goes up to the degree that services are:
 - non-voluntary
 - highly incentivized
 - with couples wherein perpetrator will be present

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Types of Service

- Community wide, volunteer attendance
- Non-voluntary setting but high control over risk behavior
- Community recruiting for more intense services
- Highly incentivized programs
- High risk population
- Non-voluntary settings with low control over risk behavior

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Model programs and cautionary tales

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Crisis Response

What do you do when someone is in immediate danger?

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Tools You Can Use

- Information sources - NHMRC
- Handouts
 - Oklahoma/PREP's universal referral document:
http://www.prepinc.com/main/docs/gettingmorehelp7_22_03_generic_fnl_posting.pdf
- Screening systems
 - Screening interview/questions
 - Decision making process

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Web Links

- NHMRC - www.healthymarriageinfo.org
- DV resources:
www.healthymarriageinfo.org/about/domesticviolence.cfm
- NRCDV - www.nrcdv.org and www.vawnet.org

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