

# **Family Violence: A Growing Public Health Concern**

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# Domestic Violence



# Who is Family?

- A spouse or former spouse
- Someone with whom the person resides or has resided
- Someone the person has or had dated
- Continued.....

# Who is Family?

- Someone the person is or has had a sexual relationship
- Someone who is related or was formerly related to by marriage
- Someone with whom the person has a child

# What is Abuse ?

- The Physical, Emotional/Psychological and Economic Control of Another.
- Abuse is about Power and Control and not Love.

# Physical Abuse

- Pushing and Shoving
- Pulling Hair
- Punching
- Biting
- Sexual Coercion

# **Emotional Abuse**

Belittling/Put Downs

Taunting

Threats to Her or Her Family

Destruction of Things She Loves

# Economic Abuse

- Demanding an Accounting of Every Penny Spent
- Absolute control over their Money



# Digital or Cyber Stalking

- Teens can be victims of someone who demands they respond with a picture with a clock to prove they are not out with someone else.
- Teen's parents may not be aware their teen is a victim until they are harmed.

# Who Can Be Abused ?

- Young or Old
- Male or Female
- Straight or Gay
- Rich or Poor
- Educated or Illiterate
- Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere,

# Violence Against Women

1 in 5 murders in the U.S. are DV related

Women abused during pregnancy have a threefold increase in risk of being murdered

In the U.S., the percentage of women killed by an intimate partner rose from 40% to 45% over a 10-year period

- Data significantly underestimate prevalence of DV

# Assault

- M Civ JI 115.01 Definition
- An assault is any intentional, unlawful threat or offer to do bodily injury to another by force, under circumstances which create a well-founded fear of imminent peril, coupled with the apparent present ability to carry out the act if not prevented.

# Battery

- M Civ JI 115.02 Definition
- A battery is the willful or intentional touching of a person against that person's will [by another / by an object or substance put in motion by another person].



- Michigan Uniform Crime Reports 2011

**95,024 Offenses of DV  
including Rape were  
Reported in 2011**

# Human Costs of Abuse in Michigan

- 3,290 cases of rape in 2011
  - 576 children were under 10 years old
- Michigan Uniform Crime Report (2011)

# WHY ?

- *No single factor explains why one person and not another behaves in a violent manner. Violence is a complex problem rooted in the interaction of many factors*
- *Biological, Social, Cultural, Economic and Political,” (WHO, 2002).*



**He Can Stop!**  
**Past Behavior Predicts**  
**Future Behavior!**



# Abuser Characteristics

- Charming at first
- Quick Commitment
- Isolation
- Verbal Abuse
- Threats
- Cruelty to animals and children

# **Abuse Is A Choice**

- **Drugs and Alcohol do not Cause Abuse**
- **Stress does not Cause Abuse**
- **His Partner did not Cause the Abuse**
- **Abuse is Learned Behavior**
- **Abusers, Abuse to get what they Want**

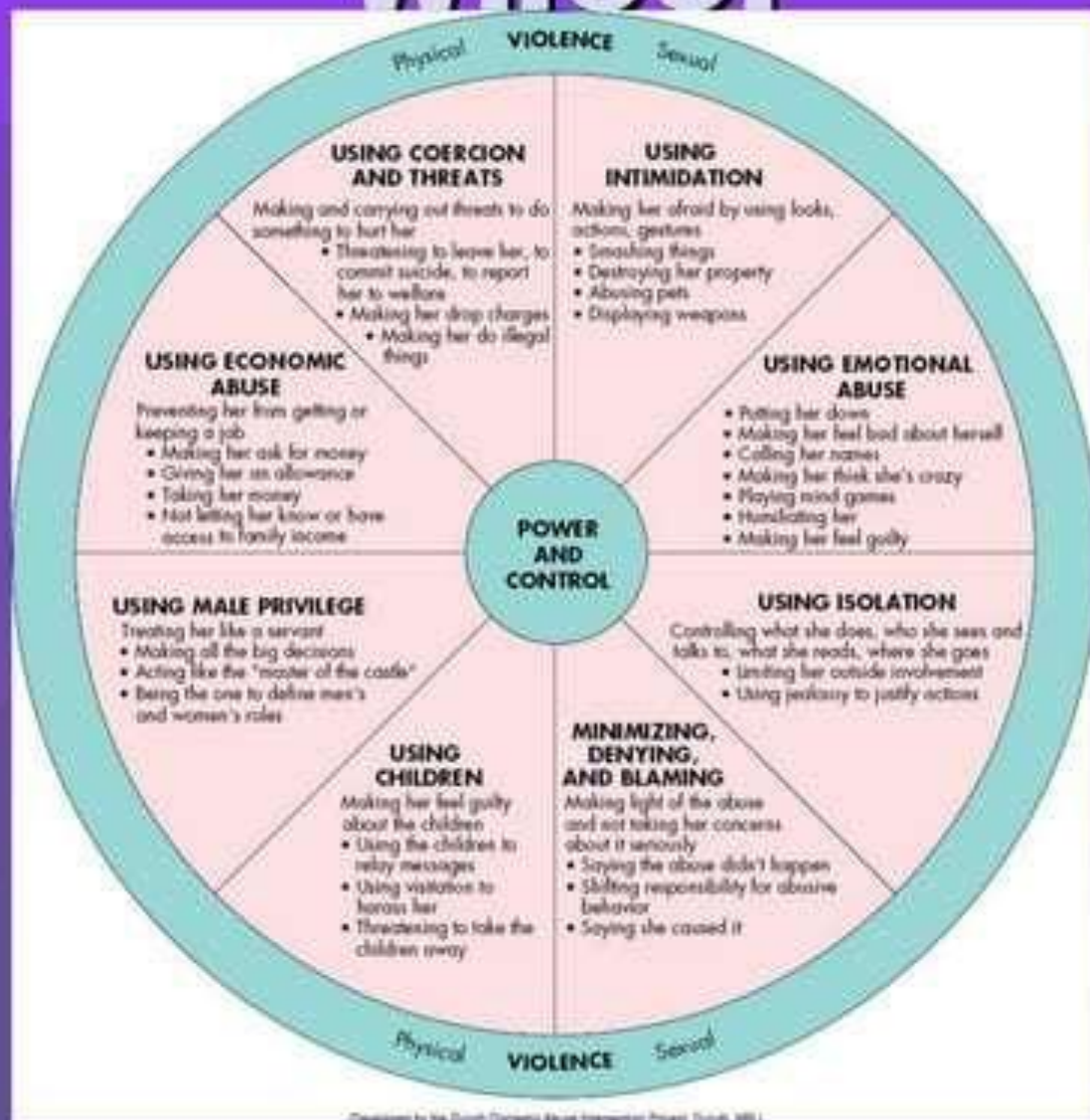
# **Characteristics of People in Abusive Relationships**

- **Traditional Female Roles or Characteristics**
- **Low Self-Esteem or Self-Blame**
- **Depression or Vulnerability**
- **Lack of Social Support**

# **Myths of Abuse**

- **He Promised Never to do it Again**
- **I Pushed his Buttons**
- **If I am Just Good Enough he will Stop**
- **I can Help him get Better**
- **He Would Never Hurt the Baby**
- **It's My Fault**

# Power and Control Wheel



# **Subordination of the Abused Person**

- **Culture**
- **Religion**
- **Women Viewed as Property**
- **Vulnerable Elderly**
- **Dependent Children**
- **Vulnerable Mentally Incompetent**

# **Gorman's B. S. Trajectory of Violence**

- Building--Shouts
- Bullying--Shoving
- Battering--She's to blame
- Begging--Sorry, Sorry, Sorry
- Believing--Shame--flowers at work
- Burying--Suffering has ended--flowers again; this time for the ground



# **Cultural Barriers to Care**

- **Religion**
- **Family Norms**
- **Traditions of Silence**
- **The Man is the Head of the Household**

# **Structural Barriers to Care**

- **Transportation**
- **Economics—Financial Dependence**
- **Communication—No Phone or Computer Access**
- **Locked in the House**

# **Domestic Violence Is A Crime**

- **Majority of states categorize DV as a misdemeanor**
- **DV may also be a Felony**

# **Pregnancy Increases DV**

- **Abuse often begins in Pregnancy**
- **Missed Appointments**
- **Late or Inadequate Prenatal Care**
- **LBW and Prematurity**
- **Homicide is the Leading Cause of Death for Pregnant Women**

# DV During Pregnancy

- Most women abused before pregnancy will be abused during pregnancy
- Abuse may happen for first time during pregnancy
- Peaks during the first trimester
- Pregnant adolescents are abused at higher rates than are adult women
- Risk of fetal injury is high

# **Intentional Injury to A Pregnant Woman**

## **Is Guilty of A Felony if both A and B Apply**

- (a) The person intended to cause a miscarriage or stillbirth by that individual or death or great bodily harm to the embryo or fetus, or acted in wanton or willful disregard of the likelihood that the natural tendency of the person's conduct is to cause a miscarriage or stillbirth or death or great bodily harm to the embryo or fetus.
- (b) The person's conduct resulted in a miscarriage or stillbirth by that individual or death to the embryo or fetus.

# Plan and Intervention

- **ABCDES** of caring for abused women
  - Alone
  - Believe
  - Confidentiality
  - Documentation
  - Education
  - Safety

# **Assessing for DV**

- **AWAY FROM HER ABUSER**
- **Every Woman at Every Visit**
- **Assess the Bathing Suit Area**
- **Document in Writing**
- **Photograph injuries**
- **Inpatients Referred to Social Services**



# How to Ask About DV

- Frame the questions
  - We ask all our clients if someone is hurting them, someone in their family or close to them. No one has the right to hurt you. I will ask you about your relationships, and if you are experiencing violence, we have resources and referrals for you.

# Three Questions to Ask

- Have you been emotionally or physically hurt by someone close to you? Y or N
- Within the last year have you been hit, slapped or otherwise physically hurt by someone? Y or N
- If yes, by whom and how many times?
  - TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

# Safety Planning

- You Don't Leave Something to go to Nothing
- Provide her Information
- Give her Choices
- **BELIEVE HER**
- Document What You Did
- Document What She Said

# Leaving the Relationship

- Leaving is a Process
- She Needs to Know She can Survive Without Him
- The Greatest Danger is when She Leaves
- Only She can Decide When to Leave, OR IF TO LEAVE!

# Care For Sexual Assault

- Collaborative care
  - Sexual assault examination-Same Gender
    - Preservation of dignity during the examination
  - History
    - Collection of evidence
    - Documentation
  - Physical examination and laboratory tests
  - Immediate care

# Prevention is worth a Pound of Cure

- Violence against women is a major social and health care problem
  - Thousands of lives
  - Billions of dollars in direct and indirect health care costs
- DV includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse

# Key Points

- Cultural influences regarding violent behaviors and relationships sensitize the nurse to the special needs of women from various ethnic groups
- Battering affects young, middle-aged, and elderly of all races; all socioeconomic, educational, religious groups, and pregnant women

# Key Points

- Follow-up and collaborative care important in all instances of abuse
- Public Health Providers need to be knowledgeable about reporting requirements and available community service for women who have been sexually assaulted



# Mandatory Reporting

- Children
- Elderly
- Vulnerable
- **BUT Other Adults Make Their Own Decisions**

# Reporting Abuse, Neglect



If you **suspect abuse or neglect**, call **855-444-3911** any time day or night. This toll-free phone number allows you to report abuse or neglect of any child or adult to the Michigan Department of Human Services.

# Why Doesn't She Leave?

- I will not leave him, because we live with his parents. I have nowhere to go.

My parents are old and sick. I lost my job

when they found out I was pregnant.

I want to leave, but I do not have papers, and I do not speak English. At least with him, the kids have food, clothes and a warm bed.



# **Help Her Make the Call**

- **National Domestic Violence Hotline at:  
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)  
or TTY for the Deaf:  
1-800-787-3224**
  - **[www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)**
- **[www.michigan.gov/domesticviolence](http://www.michigan.gov/domesticviolence)**

# Questions?

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