Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- A threatened or actual use of physical or sexual force and/or psychological/emotional abuse against an intimate partner, which results or has the potential to result in death, injury, or harm.

- Any violence between intimate partners, including all adult intimate relationships between people regardless of sexual preference, marital status, or age of intimates.

Battering

- Term commonly used to refer to the pattern of violent and coercive behavior used to gain control in an intimate relationship.
  - Economic, social isolation, verbal and emotional assault, control through intimidation, coercion.

- Victims include men, women, heterosexual, and homosexual partners

- Not an individual act, but the violence in general
Intimate partners are:

- Current spouses (legal or common law)
- Current non-marital partners:
  - Dating (including first date)
  - Boyfriends or girlfriends
  - Same sex-partners
- Divorced, former, or separated spouses
- Former non-marital partners (boyfriends/girlfriends or same-sex partners)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- 1 in 4 women will be subjected to IPV during her lifetime
- 7.7/1,000 women.
- Women are 8 times more likely to be victimized by an intimate partner than men.

(US DOJ, 1998)

That reflects only physical violence and does not include psychological abuse and physical coercion.

Prevalence

- 1-4 million women/year (US DOJ, 1998)
- The battered woman is most frequent victim
  - 1998 Commonwealth Fund Survey reports
    - 1 in 6 women experienced physical &/or sexual abuse during childhood
    - 3 million women reported domestic abuse last year
    - 2 in 5 women have been physically/sexually assaulted or have been victim of DV in their lifetime
    - 28-30% of female murders are committed by their husbands or boyfriends.
Abuse prevalence

- Pregnancy
- Marital rape: hard to estimate; 1 in 10 wives
- Survey of 3,187 college women
  - 478 (15%) had been raped and of those...
  - 10% raped by strangers
  - 25% by non-romantic acquaintances
  - 21% by casual dates
  - 30% by steady dates
- Heterosexual women, heterosexual men, gays, and lesbians.

Risk Factors

Remember that Domestic Violence crosses all cultures, educational levels, races, ethnic backgrounds, socio-economic classes, religions, and gender.

- Alcohol and Drug use (3.6/3.5)
- Intermittent employment (3.1)
- Recent unemployment (2.7)
- Having less than a high-school education (2.5)
- Being a former/estranged husband/boyfriend (3.5)
- Homelessness


Dynamics of IPV
The Cycle of Violence

- Coercion and threats.
- Intimidation.
- Emotional abuse.
- Economic abuse.
- Isolation.
- Minimizing, denying, and blaming.
- Using children.
- Using male privileges.

Power and Control Wheel

The Cycle of Equality

- Non-threatening behavior.
- Respect.
- Trust & support.
- Honesty & accountability.
- Responsible parenting.
- Shared responsibility.
- Economic partnership.
- Negotiation & fairness.
Consequences of IPV: **Women**

- Physical injury.
- Death: Homicide, suicide, or maternal mortality related to high-risk pregnancy.
- STDs and HIV.
- Chronic pain syndrome.
- Psychological: depression, PTSD, drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders.

Consequences of IPV: **Children**

- Boys are more likely to become abusive adults.
- Girls are 300 times more likely to become involved in abusive relationships.
- People abused as children are 18 times more likely to commit suicide.


**Myths**

- Women are sadistic and like to be abused.
- Women want to be raped; they ask for it by dressing and acting provocatively.
- Women do something to make their partner angry.
- Some women deserve to be beaten.
- If violence was really bad as women claim, they would have left the relationship.
Barriers to leaving...
why does she stay?

- fear
- face
- full
- fantasy
- fix
- familiarity
- fatigue
- financial
- family
- failure
- faith
- father

Cultural Barriers

- Emotional abuse
- Economic abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Coercion and threats
- Using children
- Using citizenship or residency
- Intimidation
- Isolation
- Minimizing, denying, blaming

International Perspective
ON
Violence Against Women

_The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women_

“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats, of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”
Missed opportunities for identifying IPV

- Patient-related barriers
- Provider-related barriers
- Mutual barriers

The Health Care Providers
Are we part of the problem?

- Violating confidentiality
- Normalizing victimization
- Ignoring her need for safety
- Not respecting her autonomy
- Trivializing and minimizing abuse
- Blaming the victim
The Health Care Providers
Be part of the solution!

- Respect confidentiality
- promote access to services
- help in safety planning.
- respect her autonomy
- believe & validate her experiences
- acknowledge the injustice

Ask Ask Ask

- What are you afraid of?
- What would partner’s reactions be?
- Under what conditions would it be safe to leave?
- Do you have a safety plan?
- What are your safety needs if you plan to leave?
- What would your partner do to try & get you back?
- In what way would your partner try to continue to control your life?

Avoid labels

- Spouse abuse
- domestic violence
- battered woman
- emotional abuse
- Victim vs. Survivor
ALWAYS

Ask
Plan
Document
Refer

The End