Course Overview

Course Design
CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control recommendations for Training Materials and Programs for Health Care Providers.

Major Objectives
- Acquire a core body of knowledge about domestic violence.
- Identify & document cases of domestic violence.
- Intervene with cases of domestic violence in terms of safety planning and referral.
- Develop relationship with local community organizations and referral sources.

Course Overview

COURSE OUTLINE
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- Attendance policy
- Requirements
  - Participation
    (www.hsc/columbia.edu/ltc/nursing/m6930)
  - Quizzes
  - Paper
- Readings
- Guest speakers

What is interpersonal violence?

- A systematic pattern of abusive behaviors
  - usually occurring over a period of time
  - done for the purpose of control, domination and/or coercion

What is interpersonal violence?

Includes
- verbal abuse and threats
- physical, psychological & sexual abuse
- destruction of property and pets
- criminal and non-criminal
Criminal Abuse

- assault
- assault & battery
- assault with a dangerous weapon
- aggravated assault
- murder
- rape
- stalking

Forms of DV

- Beating
  - pulling hair
  - shoving
  - striking
  - pulling
  - punching
  - slapping
  - hitting
  - Choking
- biting
- pointing weapons
- throwing things
- threatening
- harassing
- sexual abuse
- stalking
- homicide

What is a “Domestic” relationship?

- Are or were legally married
- Live or lived together (co-habitants)
  - can be same or opposite sex couples
- Related by blood or marriage within 2nd degree
- Persons who share a child in common (biological)
- Pregnant woman and man presumed to be father
- Dating or engaged relationship
- Biological children or stepchildren
- Biological parents or stepparents
Major Forms of Violence in the Family

Physical Abuse

The use of force or threat of force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain or impairment.

- The signs of physical abuse may be external, internal or both. Physical injuries that are untreated in various stages of healing might indicate an approximate time of injury.

Sexual abuse

- Nonconsensual sexual contact of any kind. Sexual contact with a person incapable of giving consent, including a minor.
- Weapons, force, threat of force, and/or implied force may be associated.
- Sexual conduct includes (but is not limited to)
  - unwanted touching
  - rape
  - sodomy
  - coerced nudity
  - sexually explicit photographing
Emotional/psychological Abuse

Intentional infliction of anguish, pain or distress designed to control the victim. Verbal or nonverbal forms include verbal assaults, insults, threats, frightening intimidation, humiliation and harassment.

Neglect

Failure or refusal to provide care or services for a person when there is an obligation to do so. There is a resulting harm due to action or inaction.

Examples include:
- failure to provide children or elders with food, water, clothing or shelter
- leaving a young child unattended

Signs include:
- malnutrition, untreated bedsores, untreated health problems, unsanitary living conditions, or abandonment

Financial exploitation

Illegal or improper use of an elder’s funds, property or assets.

Theft, fraud, or unfulfilled promises.

Can be done through misrepresentation, undue influence, coercion, or threat of force.
Major Categories of Violence in the Family

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.

Prevalence

- Women are 5-8 time more likely than men
- 1-4 million women per year
- 1998 Commonwealth Fund Survey reports
  - 2 in 5 women have been physically/sexually assaulted or have been victim of DV in their lifetime
  - 1 in 5 reports being raped in her lifetime
- 28% of female murders are committed by their husbands or boyfriends.
**Child abuse**

- Non-accidental physical injury, sexual abuse or exploitation,
- emotional or psychological injury and
- neglect or maltreatment to any person under 18 (or age specified by law).

**Prevalence**

- Child Abuse is most hidden.
  - 3 million reported in 1995.
  - 1977-1986, 300 parents of adolescent children were killed by their children
  - Most common among white, non-Hispanic.

- 1998 Commonwealth Fund Survey reports
  - 1 in 6 women experienced physical &/or sexual abuse during childhood

**Elder abuse**

Physical, sexual or emotional and involve neglect, abandonment or financial exploitation.

- Domestic
- Institutional

- 5-10% of older Americans are abuse victims
- Neglect is the most common form.
Theories of Interpersonal Violence

Theories

- Micro-Oriented Theories:
  - Social Cognitive/Learning Theory
  - Personality Characteristics & Psychopathy
  - Biological & Physiological Explanation

- Macro-Oriented Theories:
  - Feminist Theory
  - Family Violence Perspective

Social Cognitive Theory

Micro-oriented

- Individuals learn through modeling and reinforcement
- Victims as Victimizers (cycle of violence)
  (Victims of childhood abuse later become perpetrators of violence)
- Clarke et al found that victims of childhood abuse were 3.6 times more likely to be victimizers.
  X SCT alone does not explain violent behavior.

**Feminist Theory**  
*Macro-oriented*

- Patriarchy, Male-Dominated Culture, Power, Gender
- Violence against women is a result of the subordinate position of women.
- Rape is a result of a long-held tradition of male-dominance
- Too general, does not predict individual thought or actions, and cannot account for violence by women.

**Family Violence Perspective**  
*Macro-oriented*

- The problem is in the Family Structure.
- Corporal punishment
- Conflict Tactics Scale
- Too minimizes the idea of women being victims of the societal/patriarchal ideology.

**As a result....**

- Violence is associated with:
  - Being a victim of abuse.
  - Family structure supportive of violence.
  - Drug and alcohol use.
  - Stress (unemployment, homelessness,...)
  - Cultural acceptance and peer-support
  - Psychopathy
  - Patriarchy
Cultural and Legal Issues for Health Care Providers

Cultural Competency

- Recognizing that people have different perspectives based on their diversity.
- Awareness of other’s biases.
- Being self-reflective & open minded.

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion
- Age
- Class
- Immigration Status
- Disability status

Ground Rules for Cultural Competency

- Challenge your own assumptions and beliefs
- Listen to new ideas and different perspectives.
- Do not blame, judge, or criticize.
- Do not discuss issues beyond your own comfort level.
- Honor personal information shared in the session.
Legal Issues

- To facilitate patient's access to potentially life-saving resources.
- Practice of good risk management:
  legal requirements and considerations for health care providers and institutions.

Legal Options

Criminal Justice Intervention
  - Civil Protection Orders
  - Child Custody and Visitation Orders
  - Divorce & Support Actions
  - Immigration Remedies

Criminal Justice Intervention

- Inform patients that they might be a victim of crime.
- Inform patient of option to call police, respect patient assessment whether appropriate/safe, and discuss likely outcomes.
- Discuss rights, protections, safety when reaching out for the criminal justice system.
- Discuss advocacy support.
Advocacy Services

- Telephone crisis services.
- Shelters, transitional housing, and support groups.
- Outreach services for battered women.
- Legal advocates and victim services.
- Specific cultural services.
- Perpetrator intervention programs.

Other Issues

- Child Custody & Visitation
- Divorce & Support Actions:
  - e.g. financial independence.
- Immigration remedies:
  - Under the federal Violence Against Women Act.
  - Referrals and resources.

Deportation fears

- Legal immigrants
  - fear of loosing the green card, causing their partner’s deportation, jailing the abuser, loosing job, making family/friends angry.

- Undocumented immigrants
  - Fear that calling police, seeking medical attention, or requesting protective orders may lead to deportation.
  - fear if they try to escape that they will lose custody of their children, or abusers will have them deported.
Legal Considerations

- JCAHO standards and state laws for domestic violence protocol and education.
- Practicing good risk management.
- Accurate documentation.

Mandatory Reporting Laws

- Immunity from liability?
- Penalties for failure to report?
- What, who, when?
- Confidentiality of reports?

The End