



# How to Identify, Address and Prevent Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse



Victimology




Forensic  
Psychology




Criminology



# Victim Advocacy

- ▶ shelter & counseling
  - ▶ legal advice
  - ▶ education
  - ▶ direct aid to victims
  - ▶ support during court proceedings
  - ▶ information on compensation programs
- 



A married couple (Bryan and Melissa) is arguing over finances. They do not seem to make ends meet, their debt is growing, so Bryan (sole breadwinner in the family) is tired and frustrated. Some careless words and insults are thrown, the couple's voices escalate. Melissa slaps Bryan. In a fit of rage, he clenches his fists, and punches a hole in the wall. He leaves in anger, slamming the door.

# Intimate Partner Violence





# Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

– physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current/former partner/spouse.

## Includes:

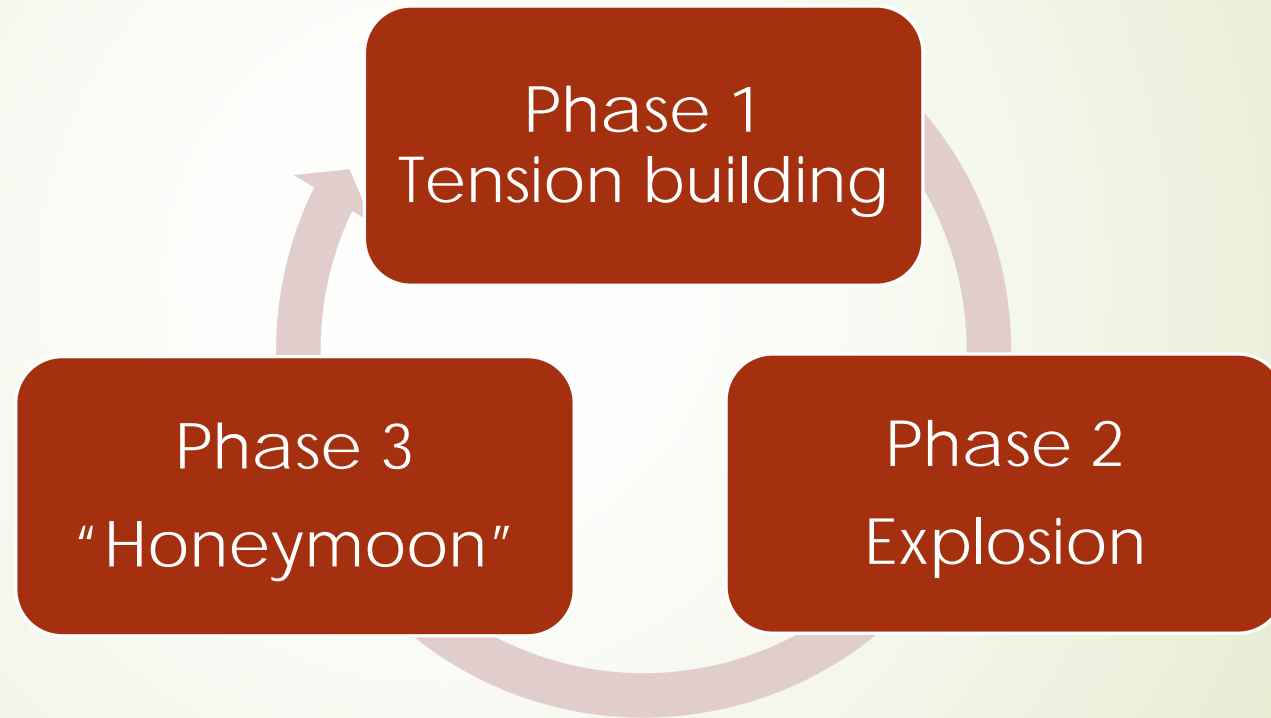
- ▶ Stalking
- ▶ Rape
- ▶ Spousal abuse
- ▶ Child abuse & neglect




# Types of Domestic Abuse

- Psychological
  - Emotional
  - Economic
  - Sexual
  - Physical
  - Legal
- 

# Cycle of Violence










# Warning Signs of Potentially Abusive Partner

- Is this person jealous or possessive? Will they not let you have friends, or will they not accept breaking off the relationship?
- Does this person try to control you by giving orders, being bossy, insisting on making all the decisions and not taking your opinion seriously?
- Are you fearful about how this person will react to things you say or do? Does this person threaten or scare you?
- Does this person have a history of violence? Fighting with others? Losing their temper frequently? Or bragging about mistreating others?
- Does this person pressure you for sex even though you say no? Do they make statements like "If you really loved me you would..."?
- Does this person abuse drugs or alcohol?
- Do they have a history of bad relationships or poor employment?
- Has this person pushed, choked, kicked or physically abused you in any other way?
- Do they blame you when you are mistreated? Do they tell you that you caused it or that it is your own fault?



IF YOU ANSWER YES TO ANY ONE OF THESE  
QUESTIONS, SERIOUSLY CONSIDER  
TERMINATING RELATIONSHIP OR SEEKING  
COUNSELING.



# Recognizing a Potentially Homicidal Partner

- ▶ Threats / fantasies of homicide / suicide
- ▶ Weapons
- ▶ Obsessiveness about partner or family
- ▶ Pet abuse
- ▶ Rage



# Battered Person's Syndrome

- ▶ – physical & psychological condition of a person who has suffered (usually persistent) emotional, physical or sexual abuse from another person.

## Symptoms:

- ▶ Fears for life
- ▶ Fearful for more than 2 weeks
- ▶ Manipulated through threats of violence, unwanted sex, degradation, isolation, etc.
- ▶ Performance at work or other important daily life activities impacted
- ▶ Dislikes their body and experiences somatic health issues
- ▶ Sexual intimacy issues
- ▶ Hyperarousal/hypervigilance



# Battered Person's Syndrome

## Attitudes & beliefs:

- ▶ Thinks the violence was his/her fault
- ▶ Is unable to place the responsibility for the violence elsewhere
- ▶ Fears for his/her life and/or the lives of loved ones whom the abuser might or has threatened to harm
- ▶ Has an irrational belief that the abuser is omnipresent and all-powerful



# Ways Out & Ways to Help

- ▶ How to Get Out


- ▶ Leave secretly. Do not announce intentions
- ▶ Seek help from domestic violence shelters, local law enforcement
- ▶ Seek shelter in a safe house (location - confidential)

- ▶ How to Help

- ▶ Provide any support you can without putting yourself in danger
- ▶ Do not share information about their location if entrusted with it
- ▶ If want to intervene – do not go alone

# Sexual Assault





► Situation #1

Ashley met Jake at a club. He bought her a couple of drinks, they talked and danced. Jake was the life of the party, charming, intelligent, handsome. Ashley felt at ease with him. But a few hours later she started feeling funny – sleepy, dizzy and a little nauseated. Thinking she had had a little too much to drink, she asked Jake to take her out for some fresh air. The rest of the night is blurry and she doesn't remember much. All she knows is that she woke up at her place, naked and sore. Jake is gone.

► Situation #2

Let's go back to Bryan and Melissa. Bryan spends time outside, cools off. When he comes home, he tries to make up with Melissa. They talk, but tension is still there. Bryan tries to kiss Melissa, and even attempts to initiate sex to make up after the argument. Melissa does not like it, and says no. Thinking that they need to move on, Bryan presses the issue, ignoring Melissa's misgivings. He becomes more assertive verbally and physically, saying that he wants to make up to her for getting so angry earlier. Under the physical and verbal pressure Melissa gives in to her husband.





Sexual Assault

The diagram consists of a large dark red circle with the text 'Sexual Assault' centered inside it. Within this large circle, there is a smaller white circle with a dark red outline, containing the text 'Rape'. This visualizes that rape is a specific type of sexual assault.

Rape



# Sexual Assault

- nonconsensual intimate contact.
- ▶ Study of over 1000 women on college campus:
  - over 50% - some sort of unwanted sexual encounters
  - of them: 12% - with casual dates
  - 43% - with steady dating partners
- ▶ **Rape** – forced sexual intercourse, including both psychological coercion and physical force.
- ▶ 22% women and 2% men – victims of completed/attempted rape
- ▶ Young adults - 2/3 had a previous relationship with rapist



# Types of Rape

- ▶ Stranger rape
  - ▶ Marital rape
    - ▶ Force-only rape
    - ▶ Battering rape
    - ▶ Sadistic/obsessive rape
  - ▶ Date rape
- 



DRINKING/CELEBRATING ≠ INVITATION  
TO SEXUAL ACTIVITY

INTIMACY AND PRIOR RELATIONS DO  
NOT IMPLY CONSENT



# CONSENT

IT'S SIMPLE AS TEA



# Date Rape Drugs

- ▶ Alcohol
  - ▶ not a “date rape drug” but affects judgement and behavior, and can put a person at risk for unwanted/risky sexual activity
  - ▶ Effects: memory loss, blackouts, impaired decision making, weakened resistance to sexual assault.
- ▶ GHB (gamma hydroxybutyric acid)
  - ▶ Form: liquid with no odor/color, white powder, pill (sometimes tastes salty).
  - ▶ Effects: relaxation, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, problems seeing, unconsciousness, seizures, memory loss while drugged.




# Date Rape Drugs

- ▶ Rohypnol (flunitrazepam)
  - ▶ Form: a pill that dissolves in liquids (new pill turns blue when put in liquids, but old is still available with no color change).
  - ▶ Effects: low blood pressure, sleepiness, muscle relaxation, loss of muscle control, drunk feeling, nausea, memory loss while drugged, problems talking.
- ▶ Ketamine (ketamine hydrochloride)
  - ▶ Form: white powder.
  - ▶ Effects: hallucinations, loss of sense of time and identity, distorted perceptions of light and sound, feeling out of control, impaired motor function, problems breathing, convulsions.



# Date Rape Prevention

- ▶ Do not accept drinks from other people.
  - ▶ Open containers yourself.
  - ▶ Keep your drink with you at all times, even in the restroom.
  - ▶ Do not share drinks.
  - ▶ Do not drink from punch bowls or other large common open containers.
  - ▶ Do not drink anything that tastes or smells strange.
  - ▶ Have a sober friend with you to make sure nothing happens.
- 





# Effects of Rape

- STDs
- Pregnancy
- medical side effects
- start pulling away from family and friends// become clingy, needy, fearful
- **Rape Trauma Syndrome** – fear, helplessness, shock, flashbacks, self-blame, anger, depression, sexual dysfunction, insomnia (type of PTSD)



# Rape Trauma Syndrome

- ▶ Acute and reorganization phases
- ▶ Acute phase – complete disruption of life resulting from experienced violence
  - crying, shouting, swearing, laughing inappropriately
  - shock and disbelief
- ▶ Reorganization – survivors reorganize themselves and their life
  - they learn to cope again with help of family and friends



# Effects of Rape

- ▶ Long-term effects:
  - ▶ chronic headaches
  - ▶ fatigue
  - ▶ sleep disturbance
  - ▶ nausea
  - ▶ eating disorders
  - ▶ menstrual pain
  - ▶ sexual dysfunction
  - ▶ suicide attempts




# Responding to Victims

- ▶ Prosecution can be very difficult.
- ▶ Victim may have been exposed to STDs.
- ▶ Victim should test themselves and push for offender to be tested.
- ▶ Victim should seek psychological and medical help to avoid long-term effects.
- ▶ If you know someone who has survived a completed or attempted rape, try to convince them to report/prosecute the offender. If victim refuses, be there for them emotionally, try to understand that they are struggling.
- ▶ Although professional therapy is highly encouraged, there have been many cases when the victim managed to overcome their trauma through the support of their family and friends.

# Child Abuse





Let's imagine you are working as an elementary school teacher. One of your students' name is Peter. He is a happy, friendly 8-year-old, who steadily gets good grades. You have met his parents, they are both upstanding citizens from what you can see. They always attend parent-teacher conferences and you have established a good relationship. However, one Monday Peter comes to school unprepared. He is distracted, quiet, and will not socialize with classmates. Over the course of the week, his behavior does not change, and his grades drop. On Wednesday in PE you notice a sizeable bruise on his arm.




# Child abuse

– any act or failure to act which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation of a child.

- ▶ Neglect – most common (followed by physical, sexual abuse)
- ▶ Most perpetrators – parents and other caregivers (OVER 75%)
- ▶ 57.8% perpetrators – female (spend more time with child)



# Types of Child Abuse


- Physical abuse
  - Emotional abuse
  - Sexual abuse
  - Neglect
- 






# Signs of Potentially Abused Child

- ▶ Shows sudden changes in behavior/school performance
- ▶ Has not received help for physical/medical problems brought to parents' attention
- ▶ Has learning problems or difficulty concentrating that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes
- ▶ Is always watchful as though preparing for something to happen
- ▶ Lacks adult supervision
- ▶ Is overly compliant, passive, and withdrawn
- ▶ Arrives early and does not want to go home



It is important to pay home visits, speak to parents often, observe parent-child relationship, and pay close attention to signs of distress in the child's artistic and literary expressions.



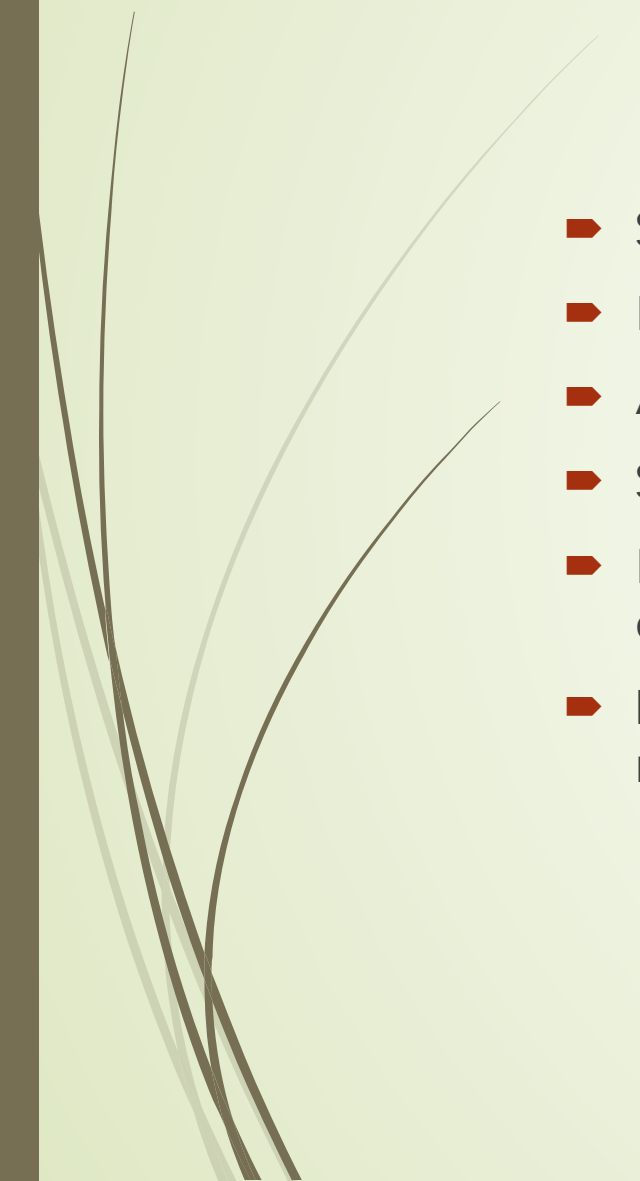


# Symptoms of possible sexual abuse

- ▶ Displays aversion to relative, neighbor, or babysitter
- ▶ Shows change in eating patterns
- ▶ Displays sudden lack of interest or achievement in school
- ▶ Expresses sudden desire for privacy or marked separation from family activity
- ▶ Has trouble sleeping, nightmares, bedwetting
- ▶ Irritation of genital areas
- ▶ Signs of increased anxiety or immature behavior



# Signs of a Potentially Abusive Parent

- ▶ Shows little concern for the child
  - ▶ Denies existence of or blames the child for problems in school or home
  - ▶ Asks teacher or caretakers to use harsh physical discipline on child
  - ▶ Sees the child as entirely bad, worthless, or burdensome
  - ▶ Demands a level of physical or academic performance impossible for the child
  - ▶ Looks primarily to the child for care, attention and satisfaction of emotional needs
- 




If spouse abuse is present, there is higher chance for child abuse.

Even if no child abuse is committed, children may suffer emotional consequences from witnessing violence in the home.




# Impact of Child Abuse

- ▶ If sexually abused when young:
  - ▶ More likely to commit sex crimes
  - ▶ Can develop PTSD
  - ▶ Can develop depression
  - ▶ Can develop aversion to sex
- ▶ Maltreated children:
  - ▶ Younger at the time of first arrest
  - ▶ Commit nearly twice as many offenses
  - ▶ Arrested more frequently



# Guidelines on How to Address Suspected Child Abuse Situations

- ▶ observe change in behavior
  - ▶ analyze art and writing
  - ▶ make home calls
  - ▶ speak with parents
  - ▶ speak with child
  - ▶ discuss concerns with other educators
  - ▶ report possible abuse to authorities
- 



# References

- <http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org>
- Angela Hattery, "Intimate Partner Violence", 2009
- <http://www.ncadv.org/> - National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- <https://www.rainn.org> – Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network
- <https://www.childhelp.org>
- <http://www.stopitnow.org>