

Effective DV Response
Why Changing Mindsets Improves Victim Safety



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PUBLIC FACE
versus
PRIVATE FACE...

Defining Domestic Violence

Definition:

Abuse Between Current or Former Intimate Partners

Defining Domestic Violence

Definition:

Why should we include Former Intimate Partners?

Defining Domestic Violence

According to the 1990 US Crime Survey:

70% of reported domestic violence assaults occur when the victim was out of the relationship.

Defining Domestic Violence

Types of Abuse:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Physical | Economic |
| Sexual | Emotional |
| Verbal | Coercion |
| Threats | Isolation |

Defining Domestic Violence

Definition of a Battering Relationship:

Fears the other

Fears for Safety

Physical Danger

Evidence of Assault & Control

Potential for Homicide

Dynamics of Domestic Violence-Details

Are victims of domestic violence safer once they leave their batterers?

Short run = more dangerous

Long run = it is less dangerous.

Dynamics of Domestic Violence-Details

Are victims who return to the batterer unlikely to leave for good?

“Battered women leave an average of 7 times before they leave for good!”

Dynamics of Domestic Violence-Details

Can DV victims leave their abusers if they really want to?

“Victims fail to leave or return because of barriers.”

Dynamics of Domestic Violence-Details

There are a multitude of barriers that keep victims from leaving or that cause them to return.

The reasons are valid!

Barriers to Leaving

- Low Self Esteem
- Promises of Change
- Hope
- Power
- Wealth

Barriers to Leaving

- Denial/Minimization
- Fear
- Isolation
- Prior Failures of Client
- Prior Failures of Response

Barriers to Leaving

- Lack of Shelter/Services
- Lack of Housing
- Lack of Advocates
- Lack of Legal Counsel
- Lack of Money
- Lack of Job

Barriers to Leaving

- Family Preservation
- Religious Beliefs
- Cultural Beliefs
- Alcohol/Substance Abuse
- Love

Barriers to Leaving

- Prior Conflict with Law
- Fear of Change

Barriers to Leaving

Housing is our number one problem with single female parents and with DV Victims!

Barriers to Leaving

Legal Services is our most difficult service area!

Victim Traits

- Show anger toward court personnel
- Blame themselves
- Minimize or deny the seriousness of the abuse
- Accept promises, "It won't happen again"

Effects of DV on Kids

"The lives of children are forever impacted by the violence that they experience and witness."

Effects of DV on Kids

Abuse begins in the womb.
30% of pregnant women are battered during pregnancy.

Effects of DV on Kids

National Commission for Prevention of Infant Mortality:

25% greater chance of low birth weight (less than 1.75 lbs.) if mom is battered during pregnancy.

Effects of DV on Kids

3.3 to 4.3 million children witness DV in the home annually.

Some estimates say 25 million.

Effects of DV on Kids

Child Witnesses Experience:

- ⌘ Nightmares & Fantasies of Retaliation
- ⌘ Withdrawal & Depressive Soma
- ⌘ **Other Disorders**

Effects of DV on Kids

Child Witnesses Experience:

- ↪ Feelings of Blame
- ↪ Impaired Social Development
- ↪ Relationship Difficulties

Effects of DV on Kids

Child Abuse:

- ↪ 50-75% of male batterers also abuse their children.
- ↪ **Every hour 40+ kids are abducted by a parent (50% involve DV)**

Effects of DV on Kids

Child Abuse:

- ↪ Children who report DV are at high risk of harm.
- This is part of your role in investigation...

Effects of DV on Kids

Child Abuse:

The long term effects on children are that the cycle of abuse is perpetuated.

Effects of DV on Kids

Children of DV are:

- ↑ 4 times more likely to be juvenile delinquents
- ↑ 6 times more likely to commit suicide
- ↑ **74% more likely to commit crimes against another person**

Effects of DV on Kids

Children of DV are:

- ↑ 24 times more likely to commit sexual assault or rape
- ↑ **50% more likely to abuse alcohol and other drugs**

Effects of DV on Kids

Children of DV are:

- ↑ 80% of runaways are from DV
- ↑ **80% of batterers are from DV**

Batterers

Things they say:

- She made me do it.
- I just lost my temper, lost my control.
- **I was trying to help her.**

Batterers

Things they say:

- I just lost my job.
- I'm under a lot of stress.
- I was drunk.
- **She was drunk.**

Batterers

Things they say:

- She hit me; I was protecting myself.
- **She is fooling around with another guy.**

Batterers

Things they say:

- It was an accident.
- She's crazy.
- There wasn't anything on TV tonight.
- **Her face ran into my fist.**

Offender Traits

- Public and Private Face
- Minimizes and Denies
- Blames others
- Abuses his victim Emotionally
- Obsessively jealous and possessive
- Manipulates the children

Power and Control Tactics

Power and control tactics are used by abusers not only to create and maintain inequality over their intended victims/children, but also to manipulate police officers when they respond to the scene of a domestic violence call.

Manipulation

Subtle and Effective...

will it change your view?

will it change your investigation?

will it cause you to buy into the "myths"?

Manipulation

An offender may....

- identify and rely on our socialized and gender-based belief system, thus allowing us to see the situation only as the abuser would like it to be seen.

Manipulation
An offender may....

- identify and rely on our bias surrounding religion, race, sexual orientation, or personal experiences with their own intimate relationships.

Manipulation
An offender may....

- identify and rely on our individual belief system surrounding children, economic issues, and our own desensitization to violence.

Manipulation
An offender may....

- cause us to have a very limited focus of what has actually occurred during this specific incident, thus limiting our ability to account for on-going patterns of behavior in the abusive relationship.
