Introduction to Intimate Partner Violence

Readings

1. True/False Quiz
2. Common Myths and Facts About Domestic Violence
3. *Prevalence of Domestic Violence* by the Family Violence Prevention Fund
4. Power and Control Wheel by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
5. Equality Wheel by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
8. A Summary of *When Men Murder Women: 1998 Homicide Data* (compiled by the Violence Policy Center)
9. *Signs to Look for in A Battering Personality* by Lydia Walker
10. *In Brief: Substance Abuse and Woman Abuse by Male Partners* by Larry W. Bennett
Module 1 – Reading 1

True/False Quiz

Decide whether the following statements about abuse are “true” or “false”. Circle the correct answers.

1. Victims of battering come from all racial, social, economic, class and religious backgrounds. TRUE/FALSE
2. Battering injuries become more frequent and more serious the longer the battering continues. TRUE/FALSE
3. Husband abuse is as common as wife abuse. TRUE/FALSE
4. Battered women usually provoke the abuse. TRUE/FALSE
5. Battering is a family matter and should be solved by the family without outside interference. TRUE/FALSE
6. Most battered women don’t mind the abuse in their relationships. TRUE/FALSE
7. Battered women will almost never admit that they are being battered. TRUE/FALSE
8. Legally, a man cannot be prevented from beating his wife in his own home. TRUE/FALSE
9. Battered women who don’t leave abusive partners are usually not serious when they say they want the battering to stop. TRUE/FALSE
10. Only someone who is psychologically disturbed batters their partner. TRUE/FALSE
11. In the U.S., a woman is beaten every 30 seconds. TRUE/FALSE
12. Battering frequently begins when a woman is pregnant. TRUE/FALSE
13. Batterers often hit their partners in the breast and stomach. TRUE/FALSE
14. Alcohol and/or drug abuse is a major cause of battering. TRUE/FALSE
15. Battered women don’t seek medical attention because their injuries are usually not that serious. TRUE/FALSE
16. Children usually outgrow the effects of growing up in a violent home. TRUE/FALSE
17. A woman cannot legally charge her husband with rape. TRUE/FALSE

SCORING: Number correct __________
Module 1 – Reading 2

Common Myths And Facts About Domestic Violence

MYTH 1
Domestic violence does not affect many people.

FACTS
- Millions of women are beaten by partners and ex-partners each year. (Browne & Williams, 1993; Straus & Gelles, 1986; www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/)
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44 in the United States - more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined. (Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1991)
- In Pennsylvania, 90-96% of the victims requesting services from PCADV programs are females abused by male partners. These figures have remained constant since the Coalition began gathering these statistics in the early 1980's.

MYTH 2
Domestic violence only occurs in poor, urban areas.

FACTS
- Women of all cultures, races, occupations, income levels, and ages are battered – by husbands, boyfriends, lovers and partners. (Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello, as quoted in Domestic Violence: Battered Women, a publication of the Reference Department of the Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge, MA)
- Approximately one-third of the men counseled (for battering) at Emerge (Boston) are professional men who are well respected in their jobs and their communities. These have included doctors, psychologists, lawyers, ministers, and business executives. (For Shelter and Beyond, Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups, Boston, MA, 1990)
MYTH 3

Women are just as abusive and violent as men.

FACTS

- 85 – 95% of victims of battering are women. Women are more likely to be injured by men than men are by women, and women are more likely to require hospitalization for those injuries.

- Research that has found women to be “just as violent as men” has all asked about violence outside of any context (e.g., in self defense).

- According to PA newspaper reports, 111 victims died in 2004 in PA as a result of domestic violence. Of these deaths, 63 were women, 39 were men and 9 were children or teens. (PCADV Domestic Violence Fatality Report, 2004) Who did the killing? Eighty-eight males and 13 females.

MYTH 4

Battering is only a momentary loss of temper. It’s a one-time thing.

FACTS

- Battering is the establishment of control and fear in a relationship through the use of violence and other forms of abuse. The batterer uses acts of violence and a series of behaviors, including intimidation, threats, psychological abuse, isolation, etc., to coerce and control the other person. The violence may not happen often, but it remains as a hidden (and constant) terrorizing factor. (Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1990)

- One in five women victimized by their spouses or ex-spouses report they had been victimized over and over again by the same person. (The Basics of Batterer Treatment, Common Purpose, Inc., Jamaica Plain, MA)
**MYTH 5**

Domestic violence is just a push, slap or punch – it does not produce serious injuries.

**FACTS**

- Battered women are often severely injured – 22 to 35% of women who visit medical emergency rooms are there for injuries related to ongoing partner abuse. (David Adams, *Identifying the Assaultive Husband in Court: You be the Judge*. Boston Bar Journal, 33-4, July/August 1989)

- One in four pregnant women have a history of partner violence. (Journal of the American Medical Association, 1992)

- Battered women are more likely to suffer miscarriages and to give birth to babies with low birth weights. (Surgeon General, United States, 1992)

- 1995 FBI data show that among all female murder victims, 26% were killed by husbands or boyfriends. (Uniform Crime Reports, 1996)

**MYTH 6**

Women could just leave if they wanted to.

**FACTS**

- A study of family violence using the National Crime Survey data shows that in almost 75% of spouse on spouse assaults, the victim was divorced or separated at the time of incident (Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Report to the Nation, 2nd edition*. U.S. Department of Justice, 1988)

- When only spousal abuse is considered, divorced or separated men committed 79% of such violence and husbands, 21%. (Caroline Harlow, Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Female Victims of Violence Crimes.” U.S. Department of Justice, 1992)

- Women who leave their batterers are at a 75% greater risk of being killed by the batterer than those who stay. (Barbara Hart, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1988)

- Nationally, 50% of all homeless women and children are on the streets because of violence in the home. (Senator Joseph Biden, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Violence Against Women: “Victims of the System,” 1991)
### Additional Resources:


Module 1 – Reading 3

Prevalence of Domestic Violence

Family Violence Prevention Fund

General Statistics

- Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend per year\(^1\) to three million women who are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend per year.\(^2\)

- Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime.\(^3\)

- Nearly one-third of American women (31 percent) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, according to a 1998 Commonwealth Fund survey.\(^4\)

- Nearly 25 percent of American women report being raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at some time in their lifetime, according to the National Violence Against Women Survey, conducted from November 1995 to May 1996.\(^5\)

- Thirty percent of Americans say they know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband or boyfriend in the past year.\(^6\)

- In the year 2001, more than half a million American women (588,490 women) were victims of nonfatal violence committed by an intimate partner.\(^7\)

- Intimate partner violence is primarily a crime against women. In 2001, women accounted for 85 percent of the victims of intimate partner violence (588,490 total) and men accounted for approximately 15 percent of the victims (103,220 total).\(^8\)

- While women are less likely than men to be victims of violent crimes overall, women are five to eight times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.\(^9\)

- In 2001, intimate partner violence made up 20 percent of violent crime against women. The same year, intimate partners committed three percent of all violent crime against men.\(^10\)

- As many as 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy.\(^11\)

- Women of all races are about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate.\(^12\)

- Male violence against women does much more damage than female violence against men; women are much more likely to be injured than men.\(^13\)

- The most rapid growth in domestic relations caseloads is occurring in domestic violence filings. Between 1993 and 1995, 18 of 32 states with three year filing figures reported an increase of 20 percent or more.\(^14\)

- Women are seven to 14 times more likely than men to report suffering severe physical assaults from an intimate partner.\(^15\)
Domestic Homicides

- On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day. In 2000, 1,247 women were killed by an intimate partner. The same year, 440 men were killed by an intimate partner.16
- Women are much more likely than men to be killed by an intimate partner. In 2000, intimate partner homicides accounted for 33.5 percent of the murders of women and less than four percent of the murders of men.17
- Pregnant and recently pregnant women are more likely to be victims of homicide than to die of any other cause18, and evidence exists that a significant proportion of all female homicide victims are killed by their intimate partners.19
- Research suggests that injury related deaths, including homicide and suicide, account for approximately one-third of all maternal mortality cases, while medical reasons make up the rest. But, homicide is the leading cause of death overall for pregnant women, followed by cancer, acute and chronic respiratory conditions, motor vehicle collisions and drug overdose, peripartum and postpartum cardiomyopathy, and suicide.20

Health Issues

- The health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking and homicide committed by intimate partners exceed $5.8 billion each year. Of that amount, nearly $4.1 billion are for direct medical and mental health care services, and nearly $1.8 billion are for the indirect costs of lost productivity or wages.21
- About half of all female victims of intimate violence report an injury of some type, and about 20 percent of them seek medical assistance.22
- Thirty-seven percent of women who sought treatment in emergency rooms for violence-related injuries in 1994 were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.23

Domestic Violence and Youth

- Approximately one in five female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.24
- Eight percent of high school age girls said “yes” when asked if “a boyfriend or date has ever forced sex against your will.”25
- Forty percent of girls age 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.26
- During the 1996-1997 school year, there were an estimated 4,000 incidents of rape or other types of sexual assault in public schools across the country.27
Domestic Violence and Children

- In a national survey of more than 6,000 American families, 50 percent of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children.28
- Slightly more than half of female victims of intimate violence live in households with children under age 12.29
- Studies suggest that between 3.3 – 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually.30

Rape

- Three in four women (76 percent) who reported they had been raped and/or physically assaulted since age 18 said that a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, or date committed the assault.31
- One in five (21 percent) women reported she had been raped or physically or sexually assaulted in her lifetime.32
- Nearly one-fifth of women (18 percent) reported experiencing a completed or attempted rape at some time in their lives; one in 33 men (three percent) reported experiencing a completed or attempted rape at some time in their lives.33
- In 2000, 48 percent of the rapes/sexual assaults committed against people age 12 and over were reported to the police.34
- In 2001, 41,740 women were victims of rape/sexual assault committed by an intimate partner.35
- Rapes/sexual assaults committed by strangers are more likely to be reported to the police than rapes/sexual assaults committed by “nonstrangers,” including intimate partners, other relatives and friends or acquaintances. Between 1992 and 2000, 41 percent of the rapes/sexual assaults committed by strangers were reported to the police. During the same time period, 24 percent of the rapes/sexual assaults committed by an intimate were reported.36

Stalking

- Annually in the United States, 503,485 women are stalked by an intimate partner.37
- Seventy-eight percent of stalking victims are women. Women are significantly more likely than men (60 percent and 30 percent, respectively) to be stalked by intimate partners.38
- Eighty percent of women who are stalked by former husbands are physically assaulted by that partner and 30 percent are sexually assaulted by that partner.39
1  U.S. Department of Justice, *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and girlfriends*, March 1998
9  U.S. Department of Justice, *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*, March 1998
21  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States, April 2003*
23  U.S. Department of Justice, *Violence Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments, August 1997*
25  *The Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, November 1997*
26  Children Now/Kaiser Permanente poll, December 1995
29 U.S. Department of Justice, *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*, March 1998
38 Center for Policy Research, *Stalking in America*, July 1997
Module 1 – Reading 4

Power and Control Wheel

Developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
202 East Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802, 218-722-2781.
Used with permission.
Equality Wheel

Developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
202 East Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802, 218-722-2781.
Used with permission.
Why Do Men Batter?

by Brian Nichols, B.A., Public Policy Team Manager, Men Stopping Violence, Inc.

As programs for batterers proliferate around the country, they often become a
touchstone for disagreements over the source of battering. Is battering a psychological
problem, an anger management problem, a communication problem? How a
community understands the source of battering in many ways determines the type of
program it will support.

In considering the source of battering, it may be helpful to take a look at Bill, a man
who batters and is in a batterers intervention program. Bill has acknowledged using
force against his partner, Janet; isolating her by blocking the doorway when she wants
to leave, criticizing her friends, taking her keys, unplugging the phone, and staying out
without telling her where he is. How do we understand his violence, and how does
Bill go about making personal change? How these questions are answered has
meaning and consequences for the community.

Common Explanations

Battering has come to be commonly understood as a learned behavior, especially
likely to occur if a man witnessed violence or was a target of violence as a child.
Although this explanation has strengths, when we use it we tend to overlook the fact
that women are usually available as role models of non-violent behavior. Yet boys,
and adult men, do not commonly emulate women’s behavior. A simple learning
theory of battering will not suffice, because it does not explain why women are so
often invisible to boys and men as models of how to be in relationships.

Battering is sometimes understood as a problem within the individual, such as the
inability to recognize and express feelings. Another intra-personal explanation is that
a man batters because he is unable to assertively express his needs and desires. It is
true that some men who batter are poor at identifying and communicating feelings.
However, Bill is not simply attempting to express a feeling when he says “you can’t
leave because you’ve been cheating on me.” To account for Bill’s behavior as an
interpersonal communication problem is not convincing. He clearly knows what he
wants, and is communicating it by words and action. Battering is not an inability to
express feelings or wants, but a method by which a man does so.

Battering is sometimes seen as an anger management problem: a man is unable to
express anger constructively. But Bill manages his anger quite effectively, using it as a
weapon with which to batter. He directs it against women - not against the legal
system or against his employer, for example. He also uses the fact that he was angry to
help him get away with using abuse to control Janet. For instance, after physically
battering Janet, Bill uses anger as a justification for his actions and shows feelings of
regret and remorse to avoid any consequences of battering. Men who batter express
feelings, including anger, when and to whom they want.
The fact that men who batter are able to manage skills such as communication and
the expression of feelings allows that men may use these skills as tactics to batter.
They are a part of battering rather than an explanation of battering. When a man is
selective about when, where and to whom he is abusive, the implication is that
battering is neither a communication problem nor an anger management problem,
but a choice.

When a man hits or yells at a woman, that is a choice he makes. No person or
circumstance can make a man attack his partner verbally or physically. There are
circumstances which may increase the likelihood that a man will batter, but no
circumstances make it inevitable that a man will make abusive choices. This means
that explanations of battering which are interpersonal, such as communication issues
or provocation, are inaccurate.

Men, rather than circumstances, are responsible for abusive choices. Thus, an accurate
explanation of battering would account for the reasons men make the choice to batter
rather than an outside force that causes them to batter. In short, men batter to gain
power and control over another person. This explanation is profound in that it frames
individual acts of violence within a pattern of behavior. The explanation of power and
control has become, however, something of a cliché, and its larger implications are
overlooked. One often overlooked implication is that battering is purposeful. Men
choose behavior in a systematic way in order to gain power and control. There is a
function to a man’s battering. That is, men batter in the short term to get a woman to
do what he wants or to stop her from doing something.

When a man yells at a woman, criticizing her, he knows what effect his behavior will
have on her. In the short term, his yelling will cause fear and pain, and in the longer
term he will destroy her personhood so that he can have power and control over her.
Men who batter know and choose the effects of battering. This is disturbing because it
leaves us with the question, why do men want power and control?

Sexism as the problem

Sexism is the source of men’s choice to use violent and abusive tactics to gain power and
control over a woman. The word “source” here means a wellspring, not a cause. Just as
single incidents of violence are better understood within a pattern of that person’s
abusive behavior, so individual batters are better understood within a social context of
sexism. Within the context of sexism, it is inevitable, rather than unthinkable, that a large
number of men will choose to use violence and abuse. The connection between sexism
and men’s violence can be better understood through a definition.

Sexism is gender prejudice + power. Gender prejudice is the predisposition to
experience women as inferior to men. It is the filter through which men experience
women’s behavior as flawed, out of place, even evil. With such perceptions, men
believe it is necessary to control women, and are willing to use violent and abusive
choices to do so. Men’s power to batter women is not only personal; it flows from
institutions whose social function is to set cultural norms and hold violators
accountable. Let’s return to Bill for some examples to illustrate.
The first example looks at prejudice. Bill identified as his reason or justification for isolating Janet like this: Janet’s friends are a bad influence on her, and she should stay away from them. Bill struggled with the connection of his justification to sexism. He eventually realized that he believed women are easily tempted and not trustworthy, i.e., that they need men to keep their moral compass pointed in the right direction. This belief led to his expectation that Janet check out her friends with him.

The source of Bill’s beliefs is sexist social norms. When asked the sources of his belief that women are easily tempted and not trustworthy, Bill quickly answered, “The story of Eve” and pop psychology’s characterization of women as “emotionally based” (unlike men are who “rationally based.”) There is, then, a cascading effect from sexist cultural norms and messages about women to personally held beliefs about women, to expectations men have for women they are partnered with, to abuse and justifications when women act freely. Sexist norms and beliefs do not force any man to make the choice to be abusive, but they do provide the source from which such choices flow.

Now let us look at power, the second part of our definition. The power men have to batter is increased by the sexism of institutions. As institutions set cultural norms, they have considerable power to name and define what is true. When institutions promote sexist messages about women, the seeming validity and reasonableness of Bill’s beliefs increases. As a result, he has more power in the relationship to enforce his expectations as rules.

Institutional support is often a source of power unavailable for women. If Janet asserted before a congregation that she should make decisions for the family about who they see, she would not be taken as seriously as Bill. Institutions which name reality can increase the power men have to batter.

In addition to setting cultural norms, institutions are also responsible for holding violators of those norms accountable. However, when institutions promote sexist beliefs, they collude with men’s control of women. This becomes a second source for increasing men’s power over women. If the church accepts Bill’s justification for his abuse, it colludes with him by supporting his belief that he has the right to control Janet. Janet receives an implicit message that her behavior is the problem— that if she doesn’t follow Bill’s rules, she’s liable to be punished. This is one way in which institutional collusion can increase the power men have to batter.

Our summary definition, sexism = gender prejudice + power, says that men are prejudiced to experience women as inferior to themselves, and become willing to batter women. Institutions increase men’s power to batter by setting sexist social norms, colluding with men who batter and implicitly holding women accountable for violating sexist norms.
Men’s resistance to seeing sexism as the source of battering and . . .
The solution for Bill and the community

An understanding of sexism as the source of battering has implications for Bill, for other men and for the community. For Bill, the understanding that sexism is the source of his choice to batter means that his work to change is counter-cultural. Within a culture of sexism, controlling tactics are the expression of social norms, including chivalrous or deferential treatment. Genuinely respectful treatment of women is counter-cultural (respectful meaning, honestly expressing ourselves and taking women seriously). In order to be respectful and safe towards women, Bill must work to change his beliefs, and to be aware of institutions which express sexist norms about women. If he does not change his beliefs, he may stop his violence for a period of time, but he will be merely “white knuckling” – in other words, restraining his desire to control Janet rather than working to have a non-abusive relationship with her.

The situation is much the same for all men. Like Bill, we are often resistant to the idea that sexism is the source of male violence. To accept this means having to face our commonalities with men who do batter. Both slapping a woman and dismissing her ideas flow from the same source – sexism. Such similarities can be more easily discounted if other explanations of battering are accepted. Acknowledging sexism means recognizing that we as men each have illegitimate power in male-female relationships. It means men share the problem and the benefits of battering, and the responsibility for ending it.

Understanding sexist beliefs and practices as the source of battering allows the community to work to prevent violence with a new clarity and resolve. Because violence is a choice, the community cannot create circumstances in which men will refrain from abuse. The community can, however, diminish men’s prejudice and power by ending sexism. By diminishing prejudice, fewer men may make the choice to abuse women, and more men may be willing to treat women with respect. Additionally, diminishing sexism would change the context in which men make abusive choices. Men would be less able to justify abuse to the woman and to the community. As a result, when a man chose to be abusive and violent, perhaps he would be unable to have systematic power and control over a woman. In summary, any significant reduction in violence against women will entail addressing sexism as the source men’s battering.
### Module 1 – Reading 7

**Battered Women’s Analysis: Batterer Generated Risks**

| Physical |
| --- | --- |
| **Possible Risks if She Stays in the Relationship** | **Possible Risks if She Leaves the Relationship** |
| **Physical injury**: he can continue to hit her and injure her. | **Physical injury**: he may continue to hit and injure her. Some studies have shown he may be more likely to hurt her after she has left. |
| **Death**: he may kill her. | **Death**: threats can surface when a woman explores leaving or tries to leave, “If I can’t have you nobody will.” Leaving does not ensure that he will not find her and may increase the chance she will be killed. |
| **HIV**: through unsafe behavior with her partner, she may have no choice regarding sex, including whether to practice safer sex; he may sexually assault her. | **HIV**: unsafe behavior with her partner may continue; he may sexually assault her. |

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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
### Psychological

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Risks if She</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Psychological harm</strong>: his use of violence to keep control will continue to affect her and he can continue to attack her verbally and emotionally.</td>
<td><strong>Psychological harm</strong>: he may continue to have access to her, particularly if they have children in common and there is ongoing contact due to court-ordered visitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Substance abuse</strong>: she may abuse drugs and/or alcohol to help her cope with the emotional and physical pain.</td>
<td><strong>Substance abuse</strong>: even if she leaves, she will take an addiction with her; she may abuse drugs and/or alcohol to cope with her new life situation.</td>
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<td><strong>Long-term effects</strong>: she may experience long-term psychological issues.</td>
<td><strong>Long-term effects</strong>: she may experience long-term psychological issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suicide (victim, partner)</strong>: he could commit murder/suicide; she may commit suicide as a result of the psychological effects of his violence or her desire to take control of a death she may believe is inevitable.</td>
<td><strong>Suicide (victim, partner)</strong>: he could commit murder/suicide; she may commit suicide as a result of the psychological effects of his violence or her desire to take control of a death she may believe is inevitable.</td>
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# Children

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Risks if She Stays in the Relationship</th>
<th>Possible Risks if She Leaves the Relationship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical injury or psychological harm to children: children can witness violence, be the object of physical violence or psychological attack, be hurt while trying to protect their mother.</td>
<td>Physical injury or psychological harm to children: children can witness violence, be the object of psychological attack, be hurt while trying to protect their mother, may be at greater risk while on visitation without parent-victim present; no visitation may also harm the child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of children: child protective services could become involved if violence is disclosed, “failure to protect”-type arguments could be used to place children in foster care or proceed on termination of parental right case.</td>
<td>Loss of children: he could legally gain custody or just take the children; child protective services could still be involved or become involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being alone, single parenting: he could be emotionally unavailable; he could do little to help her with the children.</td>
<td>Being alone, single parenting: he is unavailable, and she may not be able (or want) to “find someone new”: he may not visit or help raise the children; it may not be safe for the children or her to have him do so.</td>
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# Financial

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<tr>
<th>Possible Risks if She Stays in the Relationship</th>
<th>Possible Risks if She Leaves the Relationship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standard of living:</strong> he may control the money and give her little money to live on; he could lose or quit his job; he could make her lose or quit her job.</td>
<td><strong>Standard of living:</strong> she may now live solely on her income; she may have to move out of her home, neighborhood; she may have less money; he could make her lose her job.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loss of income/job:</strong> he could keep her from working, limit how much she works; he may sabotage her efforts to find a job, succeed at a job, or pursue job training.</td>
<td><strong>Loss of income/job:</strong> she could lose his income, have to quit a job to relocate, have to quit if she has become a single parent; he could keep her from working by harassment, threats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loss of housing:</strong> she could be evicted due to “disturbance” or damage he has done.</td>
<td><strong>Loss of housing:</strong> she may need to move out to leave the relationship or go into hiding for safety; she could lose her residence as part of a divorce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loss or damage to possessions:</strong> he may destroy things of importance or value to her to further his control.</td>
<td><strong>Loss or damage to possessions:</strong> he may destroy things of importance or value to her to further his control; she may have to leave things behind when she leaves; he may win the right to possessions in a divorce proceeding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Possible Risks if She Stays in the Relationship</td>
<td>Possible Risks if She Leaves the Relationship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Threat or injury to family or friends: family and friends may be at risk, particularly if they try to intervene.</td>
<td>Threat or injury to family or friends: friends or family may be at risk, particularly if they try to intervene, protect the woman, provide her with housing; threats can be used to keep a woman from going into hiding – “If I don’t know where you are I’ll get your family.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss of family or friends’ support: they may want her to leave and stop supporting her if she stays; they may not like him or may be afraid of him; he may keep her isolated from them.</td>
<td>Loss of family or friends’ support: they may not want her to leave him; they may blame her for the end of the relationship.</td>
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# Relationship

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<th>Possible Risks if She Leaves the Relationship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loss of partner or relationship:</strong> he could leave her or be unavailable emotionally.</td>
<td><strong>Loss of partner or relationship:</strong> leaving means the loss of her partner and significant change to the relationship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loss of caretaker:</strong> if she is disabled and he is her caretaker, he may not adequately care for her.</td>
<td><strong>Loss of caretaker:</strong> if she is disabled and he is her caretaker, he will no longer be there to help her.</td>
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# Arrest, Legal Status

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<th>Possible Risks if She Stays in the Relationship</th>
<th>Possible Risks if She Leaves the Relationship</th>
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<td><strong>Her arrest:</strong> he could threaten to turn her in or turn her in if she has participated in criminal activity; he may threaten this to keep her from leaving; he may force her to participate in criminal activity; she may defend herself against him and be charged with a crime. Arrest could lead to incarceration, loss of job, loss of children, public embarrassment, etc.</td>
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A Summary Of “When Men Murder Women: 1998 Homicide Data”

October 2000

In October 2000, the Violence Policy Center released its annual report detailing the reality of murders committed against women in the U.S. during 1998. The study analyzes the most recent supplementary Homicide Report data submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For too long the myth that women face the greatest threat of murder from strangers has been promulgated. This study reveals the reality that a woman is far more likely to be killed by her spouse, an intimate acquaintance (a husband, common-law husband or boyfriend), or a family member than by a stranger. It is important to note that this study examines only those instances involving one female homicide victim and one male offender. It does not include incidents involving multiple victims. This study also includes a list of the 15 states with the highest female homicide rates. Some of the facts in this study include:

- In 1998, 1,932 (1.40 per 100,000) women were murdered by men in single victim/single offender incidents.
- South Carolina had the highest homicide rate of 3.12 per 100,000 among female victims by male offenders in single/victim offender incidents, more than twice the national average.
- The 15 states that had the highest number of women murdered by men in single victims/single offender homicides in 1998 were: South Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, North Carolina, Wyoming, Maine, Oklahoma, Nevada, Alabama, Colorado, Mississippi, Texas, Virginia, Indiana and Georgia, in order from highest to lowest. The homicide rates ranged from 3.12 (highest) to 1.94 (lowest) per 100,000.
- More than 12 times as many women were murdered by a man they knew (1,699 victims) than were killed by male strangers (138).
- 60% of female homicide victims were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers.
- There were 410 women shot and killed by either their husband or intimate acquaintance during the course of an argument – more than one woman a day.
- 54% of female homicides are committed with firearms – more than with all other weapons combined.
- In single female victim/single male offender homicides reported for 1998, 10% of victims are under 18 years old and 9% are 65 years old or older. The average age of a woman murder victim is 36.
The Rate of Female Homicide Victims Analyzed By Race

The study *When Men Murder Women* also analyzes homicides by race. (Unfortunately, Hispanic ethnicity could not be determined on a national level because of the inadequacy of data collection and reporting. Only five states, Arizona, California, Nebraska, Oregon, and Texas reported Hispanic ethnicity information that could be broken down for comparison with other races/ethnicities).

- Comparing the three races/ethnicities of Caucasian, Black, and Hispanic females, Caucasian women had the lowest homicide rate.
- The overall female homicide rate for Black women is 8.84 per 100,000. Hispanic and Caucasian female murder rates were 2.89 and 2.09 per 100,000, respectively.
- Overall, Black women were murdered at a rate more than three times that of Caucasian women (3.64 per 100,000, versus 1.06 per 100,000).
- More than 18 times as many Black women were murdered by a male they knew than were killed by male strangers in single victim/single offender incidents in 1998.
- The number of Black females shot and killed by their husband or intimate acquaintance was more than six times higher than the total number murdered by male strangers using all weapons combined in single victim/single offender incidents in 1998.
- The average age of Hispanic female murder victims was 28 years old, far younger than the average age of non-Hispanic Caucasian women (42 years old) or Black women (31 years old) in the five states analyzed.
- 88% of Hispanic women were killed with a handgun in firearm murders, compared to 78% of non-Hispanic Caucasian women and 73% of Black women.

If you have any questions about this study or if you would like to view the study please go to http://www.vpc.org. A hard copy of the entire publication is available from the Violence Policy Center for $5.00. Send a check or money order to the Violence Policy Center 1140 19th St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036. If you have further questions regarding this summary, please contact Maribel Ramos in the NCADV Public Policy office at 202-745-1211. 1532 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20036, phone 202-745-1211, fax 202-745-0088, ncadv2@sprynet.com.
Module 1 – Reading 9

Signs to Look for in a Battering Personality

Many women are interested in knowing if there are any warning signs that someone is an abuser. There is no typical victim or perpetrator. Any woman can be battered regardless of age, race, nationality, sexual orientation, educational background, or income. Battering almost always occurs with a man abusing a woman. However, violence can exist in other domestic relationships as well; lesbian battering and older parents beaten by their adult children are examples. *

Below is a list of behaviors seen in people who beat their partners. If the person has three or more of these behaviors, there’s indeed a strong potential for physical violence. In some cases, a batterer might have only a couple of behaviors that are quite strong (e.g., extreme jealousy). In the beginning of a relationship, the batterer will try to “explain” these behaviors as “love” and “concern”. However, as time goes on, these behaviors become more extreme and serve to establish, keep, and strengthen power and control over the victim.

Jealousy

- At the beginning of a relationship, an abuser will say jealousy is a sign of love; jealousy has nothing to do with love, it’s a sign of possessiveness and lack of trust. The abuser will question the woman about whom she talks, accuse her of flirting, or be jealous of the time she spends with family, friends, and/or children. As the “jealous” behavior progresses, the abuser may call her frequently or unexpectedly drop by her home/workplace. The abuser may refuse to let her work saying he’s “afraid” she’ll meet someone else, or he may do strange things such as checking her car mileage or asking friends to watch her.

Controlling Behavior

- At first, the batterer may say this behavior is because of concern for the woman’s safety and well being. The abuser will be angry if the woman is “late” coming back from somewhere and will closely question her about where she went, to whom she spoke, etc. As this behavior gets worse, the abuser may not let the woman make personal decisions about the house, her clothing, or going to church/temple; he may keep all the money or even make her ask permission to leave the house or the room.

* The use of “he” for the abuser and “she” for the victim is used to facilitate reading and to emphasize the circumstances of most battering. This wording is not meant to discount the various situations in which domestic violence occurs.
Quick Involvement

- Most battered women dated or knew the abuser for less than six months (many for less than three months) before they were married, living together, or engaged. An abuser comes on like a whirlwind claiming “you’re the only person I’ve ever been able to talk to”, “I’ve never felt loved like this by anyone”. The abuser will pressure the woman to commit to the relationship in such a way that later she may feel very guilty or feel she is “letting him down” if she wants to slow down involvement or break off the relationship.

Unrealistic Expectations

- Abusive people will expect their partner to meet all of their needs; the abuser expects the woman to be the perfect wife, mother, lover, and friend; abusers will say things like “if you love me, I’m all you need – you’re all I need”. She is supposed to take care of everything for the abuser emotionally and in the home. No matter how efficient/good she is, however, she is never good enough.

Isolation

- The abusive person tries to cut the woman off from all resources and supports. If she has men friends, she’s a “whore”; if she has women friends, she’s a “lesbian”; if she’s close to her family, she’s “tied to the apron strings”. The abuser accuses people who are the woman’s supports of “causing trouble”. The abuser may want to live in the country without a phone, may not let the woman use the car or have one that is reliable, or may try to keep the woman from working, going to school, or going to spiritual/religious meetings.

Blames Others for Problems

- If the abuser is chronically unemployed, someone is “out to get him”, someone is always trying to do him wrong. The abuser may make mistakes and then blame the woman for upsetting him or keeping him from concentrating. The abuser will tell the woman she is at fault for almost anything that goes wrong.

Blames Others for Feelings

- The abuser will tell the woman “you make me mad”, “you’re hurting me by not doing what I tell you”, “I can’t help being angry”. The abuser really makes the decision about what he thinks and feels, but will use “feelings” to manipulate the woman. Less obvious are claims such as “only you can make me happy, and “you control how I feel”.
Hypersensitivity

- An abuser is easily insulted, claiming his feelings are hurt when he is really mad, or taking the slightest setbacks as personal attacks. The abuser will rant and rave about the injustice of things that happen—things that are really just a part of life, like being asked to work overtime, getting a traffic ticket, being told a behavior is annoying, being expected/asked to help with chores.

Cruelty to Animals and/or Children

- An abuser often brutally punishes animals, is insensitive to their pain and suffering, and/or may kill them. The abuser may expect children to do things beyond their ability (spanks a two year old for wetting their diaper). The abuser may not want children to eat at the table or will expect them to stay in their room all evening when he’s at home.

“Playful” Use of Force in Sex

- An abuser may like to throw the woman down or hold her down during sex. He may want to act out fantasies during sex in which the woman is helpless and will let the woman know the idea of rape is exciting. The abuser may show little concern about whether the woman wants to have sex and will use sulking behavior to manipulate her or anger to pressure her into compliance. The abuser may start having sex with the woman while she is sleeping or demand sex when she is ill or tired.

Verbal Abuse

- In addition to saying things meant to be cruel and hurtful, this can be seen when the abuser degrades the woman, curses her, and/or runs down her accomplishments. The abuser will tell the woman she is stupid and unable to function without him. This may involve waking the woman up to verbally abuse her or not letting her sleep.

Rigid Sex roles

- The abuser may expect the woman to serve him, perhaps saying the woman must stay at home or saying she must obey in all things – even things criminal in nature. The abuser will see women as inferior, responsible for menial tasks, stupid, and unable to be a whole person without a relationship.

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

- Many women are confused by their abuser’s “sudden” mood changes – they may think the abuser has some mental problem because one minute the abuser is really nice and the next minute he’s exploding. Explosiveness and moodiness are typical of people who abuse their partners; these behaviors serve to intimidate and frighten the victim and are reflections of the abuser’s alternate use of threat and manipulation to establish and maintain power and control.
Please Note: The following four “signs” are not really “signs”; these are behaviors found in those who are certainly batterers.

Past Battering

- An abuser may say he’s hit women in the past, but it was the woman’s fault or it was only one time. The woman may hear from relatives or ex-partners the person is abusive. A batterer will beat any woman he is with if the woman is with him long enough for control to be established and violence to begin; situational circumstances do not make a person abusive.

Threats of Violence

- This includes any threat of physical force meant to control the woman: “I’ll slap your mouth off”, “I’ll break your neck”, “I’ll make you sorry you were ever born”, “I’ll kill you”. Non-violent people do not talk like this to their partners, but batterers will try to excuse these kinds of threats by saying “everybody talks like that”.

Striking or Breaking Objects

- This behavior can be used as punishment (breaking loved possessions), but mostly it is used to terrorize the woman into submission. The abuser may beat on tables with his fist, throw objects around or near the woman, or put his hand through the wall. Again, this is very remarkable behavior and should never be minimized – there is great danger when someone thinks they “have the right” to punish or frighten a partner.

Any Force During an Argument

- This may involve a batterer holding a woman down, physically restraining her from leaving a room, or pushing/shoving her. The abuser may hold the woman against the wall and say “You’re going to stand here and listen to me“! Many batterers in an attempt to deny or minimize past abuse will tell stories in which they “…had to sit on a woman or hold her down…for her own good…”. These behaviors are found in the second level of the progression of abuse in domestic violence.

Lydia D. Walker
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Module 1 – Reading 10

In Brief: Substance Abuse and Woman Abuse by Male Partners

Alcohol or other drug use (substance use) increases the risk of men’s violence. However, despite the widely-held belief that substance causes men to batter women, neither batterer nor victim are intoxicated in the majority of battering events. In cases of woman abuse where one or both have been drinking, the average amount of alcohol consumed is minimal. On the other hand, over half the men who are seen in batterers’ intervention programs and a substantial proportion of victims helped by women’s programs are substance abusers. Research does not support the belief that men who batter are out of control when they batter, nor that alcohol or other drugs disinhibit men to batter. Despite the problems in thinking and behaving associated with substance abuse, woman abuse remains a matter of deliberate choice for men who batter.

Different perspectives utilize different variables or factors in trying to account for the seemingly high correlation between substance abuse and woman abuse. Substance use may increase the perpetrator’s risk for woman abuse by:

• providing an excuse;
• disrupting his thinking;
• intensifying his motivation to personal power;
• increasing his risk in particular situations;
• altering his brain chemistry;
• magnifying particular perpetrator characteristics; or
• creating dysfunction in his family across generations.

Abstinence from drugs or alcohol is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for non-violence. On the other hand, it is reasonable to believe abstinence improves the chances a batterer will cooperate with legal sanctions and intervention programs. Women with substance abuse problems have usually experienced more violence as children and continue to experience more violence as adults when compared to women who do not have substance abuse problems. A battered woman’s abstinence from alcohol and drugs will not change her batterer’s violent behavior, but may improve the clarity of her decision-making and her ability to utilize support.

This In Brief highlights issues discussed in a longer document by Larry W. Bennett and is available through your state domestic violence coalition.