

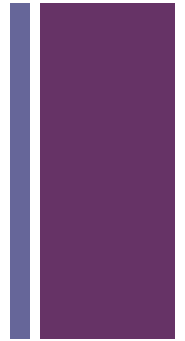
Intimate Partner Violence as a Public Health and Health Care Issue

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+ Defining Violence

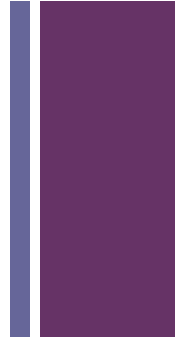
- **Violence:** “The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.”

WHO definition



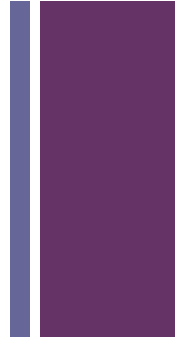


The Many Faces of Violence



- War, Terrorism, Family Violence, Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking, Elder Abuse, Neglect...

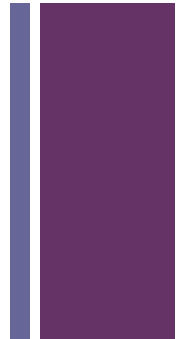
+ Intimate Partner Violence



- IPV is a pattern of coercive and abusive behaviors by one individual over another with the intent of controlling the other person within the context of an intimate relationship. The relationship is marked by a power differential and fear is used as a tool in exerting control.

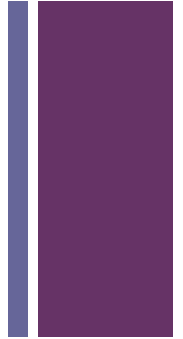
+ Intimate Partner Violence

- Important public health, health care, and human rights issue
- Human and economic costs (physical and mental pain and suffering, legal, medical, productivity)
- Results from interplay of individual, interpersonal, social, cultural, environmental, institutional factors
- Manifests in various forms: physical, sexual, psychological, deprivation or neglect
 - Physical abuse often accompanied by sexual and psychological abuse (*WHO*)
- Linked to several negative health outcomes
- 2005 WHO report on Violence and Health





IPV in Context



- In Kentucky, 37% of adult women report having been abused by an intimate male partner (versus approx. 26% nationally).
- Up to half of all murdered women in U.S. cities is killed by a current or former partner.
- Women are most vulnerable to IPV during reproductive years.
- By some estimates, intimate partner homicide surpasses car accidents as cause of death for pregnant and post partum women.
- Women who are victims of abuse during pregnancy experience an increased risk for homicide.
- 1 in 4 to 1 in 3 women are beaten, raped or abused by an intimate partner in the U.S.

Underreporting is a known fact in IPV

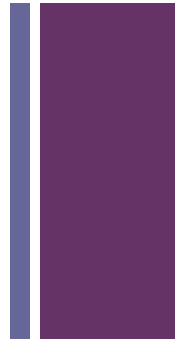
+ Why is IPV a Health Care Problem?

- IPV has significant short- and long-term *physical* and *mental* health outcomes.
- IPV is the leading cause of injury to women, and the primary reason women visit Emergency Rooms.
- In the US, health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking, and homicide by intimate partners exceed \$5.8 billion each year.
- Each year, IPV results in an estimated 1,200 deaths and 2 million injuries among women and nearly 600,000 injuries among men.
- One in 3 to 1 in 4 women will be victims of IPV; 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer.



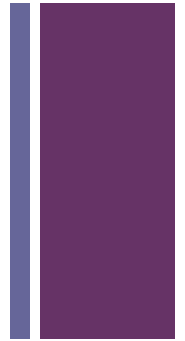
Health Impact of IPV

- Victims of IPV are twice as likely to suffer poor health; effect remains after violence subsides
- Acute injuries
- Generalized health complaints
- Diminished psychological functioning
- Negative impacts on occupational, interpersonal and parental functioning
- Poor health care and preventive behaviors
- Increased harmful tension reduction behaviors (smoking, alcohol, drugs)
- 29% of women who attempt suicide are victims of IPV



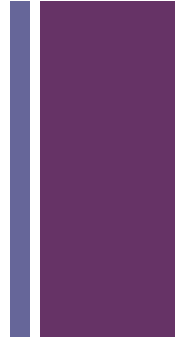


Health Impact of IPV



- Somatic complaints
- Chronic pain
- Difficulties concentrating
- Chronic irritable bowel syndrome and other digestive problems
- Eating disorders
- Hypertension
- Suppression of the immune system (due to stress)
- Reproductive health complications:
 - Lack of autonomy over if and when to have children and use of contraceptives
 - Increased risk of miscarriage
 - Low birth weight
 - Preterm birth
 - STDs, incl. HIV/AIDS
 - Maternal morbidity and mortality
- Death
- *Most common physical outcomes of IPV are functional disorders not injuries*

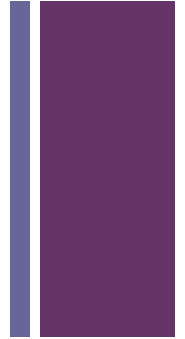
+ Why is IPV a Public Health Problem?



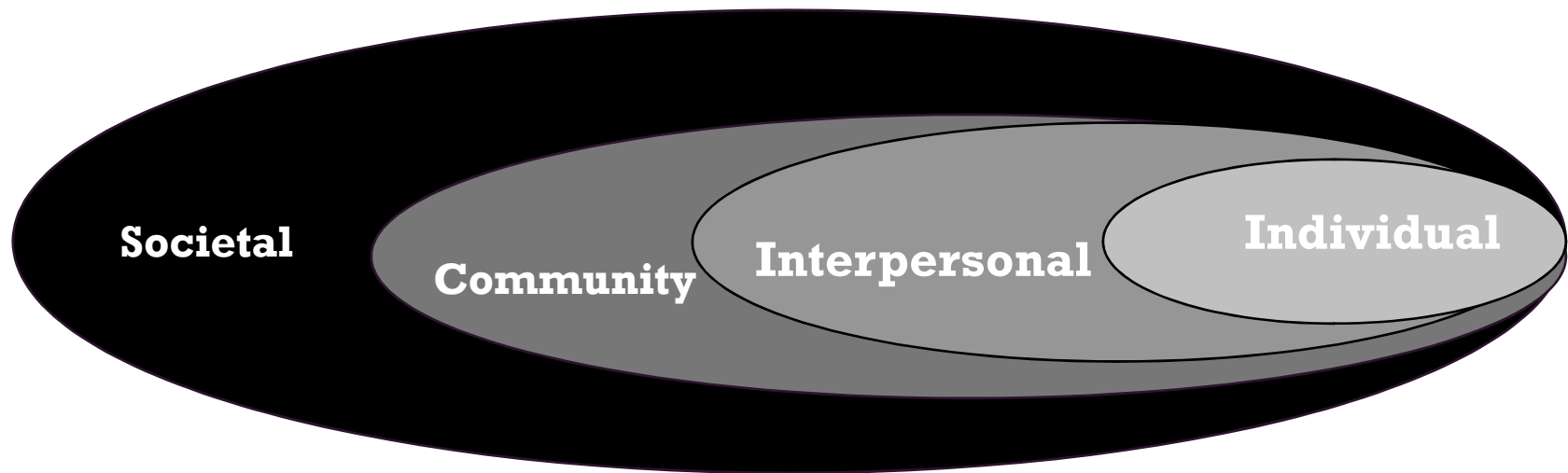
- Public Health has been defined as “what we, as a society, do collectively to assure the conditions for people to be healthy.” (IOM, 1988)
- It has also been described as the “successive re-definings of the unacceptable.” (Vickers, 1958)
- Public health focuses on the population, on the community, rather than the individual.



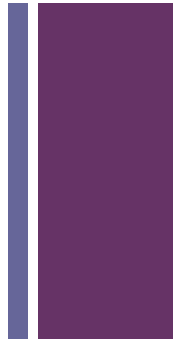
Public Health Perspective: Ecological Framework on Violence and Society



- The ecological model addresses the interaction of violence and society at the various levels. Recognizes multiple pathways and multi-level causation for any condition/disease.



+ Community and Systems Roles and Responsibilities



- If IPV is a health and public health issue, then we as a society must take responsibility for preventing, intervening, and treating its consequences.
- How can we make our health care and public health systems more aware and responsive to IPV and other forms of violence as a health care and public health issue?
 - IPV is a relatively new area of study and focus in health care and public health.
 - Cultural changes (in terms of IPV) are still taking place.
 - Especially vulnerable populations: immigrants, undocumented persons, gay/lesbian/transgender, youth, rural, low-income.
 - Best Practices are evolving. We need better coordination.
- Screening by health care providers is key to quantifying, identifying, and providing support/referrals for victims of IPV. Improved surveillance, more consistent definitions and data collection. In the end, screening is about culture change.

+ Community and Systems Roles and Responsibilities

■ The Long-view:

- There is no question that IPV is a significant issue in the health care and public health systems.
- Practices must catch up with our understanding and knowledge.
- Prevention is necessary to make long-term changes to IPV and other forms of interpersonal violence.
- An ecological framework view is needed to understand the causes and possible points of intervention.
- Because IPV is a complex issue acting at every level of the ecological model, we need policies and programs that address every level as well.
- Prevention and intervention require multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approaches.
- Community involvement is key to sustainable and culturally-appropriate efforts.

+ Resources

- ⑩ Center for Women and Families, 581-7222
- ⑩ National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- ⑩ Crisis and Information Center, 589-4313
- ⑩ Adult Protective Services, 595-4803
- ⑩ Child Protective Services, 595-4550
- ⑩ Youth Help Line, 589-8727
- ⑩ EMERGENCY, 911
- ⑩ Family Violence Prevention Fund (www.endabuse.org)
- ⑩ CDC guide: *Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence Victimization Assessment Instruments for Use in Healthcare Settings*

Thank you

