

Multi-dimensional problems of Female IPV
Offenders/Self-defending Victims
Heterogeneous group

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From Victim to Offender

Female IPV Offender/Primary Aggressor

Self-defending victim/Retaliation

Victim Intra-personal Abuse

Witness Family Violence/Childhood Abuse

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Provide Woman-centered Programs

- Different paths to criminality
- Address issues contributing to violence
- History of Addiction focus
- History of Family Violence
- History of Trauma
 - Childhood, esp. sexual & other child abuse
 - Victim of DV

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Attitudes about Work with Female Offenders

- Women may seem difficult, demanding, manipulating (myth)
- Explain “why” to any directive/request
- Work from mutuality and relationship building
- Empathic responses to prior history of victimization while holding accountable for tactics used to gain control of her life

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4

Address Female Offenders Needs

- Gender-specific case management/programming
 - Safety in relationships
 - Building trust
 - Coping skills
 - Understanding trauma & DV
 - Self-esteem
 - Setting physical & emotional boundaries
 - Setting goals as a woman
 - Maintaining healthy relationships
 - Impact on their children

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Motivation for IPV by Women

- Directly or Indirectly fighting back
- Self-defending
 - Parental abuse primarily father (newer research mother)
 - Prior IPV with former or present partner
- Revenge & retaliation
 - Prior IPV with former or present partner
- Perpetration = power & control or coercive control
 - Witnessed parental violence
 - Witnessed mother being violent with father/partner

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Assessment of Female DV Offenders

- Tools to determine needs of each individual entering program
 - History of childhood abuse
 - History of addictions
 - Attitudes modeled in Family of Origin about violence
 - Appropriateness for individual counseling to address adult manifestations of childhood abuse

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Physical/mental Health Issues

- Injury recovery from abuse
 - Women suffer greater physical, financial, emotional, sexual injury
- Addiction/substance abuse
- Mental illness
- Dual Diagnosis
- Trauma treatment
- Relapse prevention & aftercare counseling

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DV as Learned Behavior

- Attitudes about violence learned in Family of Origin
 - Violence is acceptable
 - Tactics used to control partner
 - Emotional & physical
 - Incorporates tactics into her behavior
- Children learn
 - Conflict resolved through violence
 - Family interactions involve violence
 - Violence is acceptable means of stress management and conflict resolution

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9




Factors contribute to learning & replication of violence

- Abused children or silent witnesses lose faith in fairness of world
- See violence as means to avoid further victimization
- See effectiveness of abusive behaviors get abuser what he/she wants
 - Utility & rewards outweigh consequences
- Witnessing DV profound emotional impacts
 - Puts individual at greater risk of being abusive

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Factors Mediate relationship between witnessing & perpetrating DV

- Experiencing child abuse, esp. sexual abuse
- Criminal perpetration in adolescence
- Prior victimization
- Experienced parental aggression
- Experienced sexual assault in adolescence
- Experienced verbal aggression (85%)
- Physically abused in dating relationship

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11



Factors Mediate relationship between witnessing & perpetrating DV

- Outcomes of mediating factors
 - Less trusting of others
 - More alienated from others
 - Feel more threatened by intimidating behaviors by their partners
 - Heightens perceived need for self-defensive behaviors

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Single-parent Issues

- Financial supports—TANF, A&D, Private Social Service Programs
- Job Training
 - Enter or return to work
 - Life skills
 - Computer skills
 - Internships
 - Community service to develop job skills
 - Job development
 - Community outreach

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Single-parent Issues (con.)

- Parenting education
- Bonding & attachment with children
- Reunification if children placed outside home/supervised visits
- Divorce-custody/parenting time issues

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Female Offender Intake Questions

- Nature of relationship between woman and her partner
 - Dating
 - Cohabiting
 - Married
 - Separated
 - Divorced
- Duration of relationship
- Involved physical assault against the victim

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Current relationship with the victim

- Continuing
- Want to continue relationship (yes, no, uncertain)
 - Understand underlying motivation
- Children in the home
- Children of this relationship
- Children from prior relationships
- Offense specific information
- Singly or dually arrested

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Current Offense History

- Use of weapon
- Injury to male victim
- Using substances at time of offense
- Woman injured by spouse/partner at time of incident
- Violence increasing in frequency and/or more severe in recent months
- Did incident relate to ending relationship?

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Prior relationship aggression

- Reports of perpetrating and experiencing intimate partner aggression
- Prior abuse in intimate relations with their spouse/partner from referral incident

Social Desirability

- Crowne & Marlowe 14-item scale (1967) to assess socially desirable responding

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Prior police involvement

- Prior IPV incidents with law enforcement contact where listed as victim
- Listed as suspect in any prior reports with spouse/partner as identified victim
- Reports where primary aggressor could not be identified
- Reports with both parties as mutual aggressors
- Non-violence related arrests
 - Substance abuse
 - Theft, burglary, drug possession, etc.

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19

Delinquent/legal history

- Prior arrest for non-family violence
- Prior arrest for non-violent offense
 - Theft
 - Burglary
 - Possession of controlled substance
- Probable cause arrests
- Childhood conduct problems related to conduct disorder

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20

Family History

- Assess women's exposure to family violence
- Childhood physical abuse
- Childhood exposure to interparental violence
- Maternal to paternal aggression
- Delinquent/legal history
- Prior arrest for non-family violence

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Mental Health functioning

- Child Abuse Potential Inventory (must have children at time of evaluation to use)
 - Unhappiness scale
 - Distress scale
- Substance Abuse
 - History
 - Current use
 - Screening and referral

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Continued Contact with Partner/Spouse

- Complete Locke-Wallace marital Adjustment Test (LWMAT, 1987)
- Assesses current marital or relationship satisfaction
- Scores below 100 indicate clinically significant relationship distress

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Assessment Instruments

- Checklist of Controlling Behaviors (Lehman, 2012)
- Parental Rejection and Attachment Style
- Trauma Symptom Inventory
- Abuse Questionnaire
- MCMI – III
- Substance Abuse Screening as part of all intakes

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24

Checklist of Controlling Behaviors (Lehman, 1998, 2012)

- Understand clients possible histories of abuse by their current partners
- Three abuse scales: physical, sexual, and emotional
- Part of larger instrument that examines 10 dimensions of power and control
- Scores are determined by adding the five point Likert responses
- Higher scores indicate greater abuse
- Lower scores indicate low or no abuse
- Ask about current relationship, then ask about previous relationships

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Parental Rejection and Attachment Style

- Provides greater detail of possible abuse history from each parent
- Rate each parent separately
- Ask about other significant adults in their lives while growing up
 - Stepparents
 - Live in or long-term significant others of her parents
 - Grandparents
 - Child care providers

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Trauma Symptom Inventory

TSI by Briere

- 100 item assessment instrument to evaluate relative forms of acute and chronic posttraumatic stress/distress
- Other similar instruments
 - **Posttraumatic Stress Diagnostic Scale (PDS®)** Edna B. Foa, PhD
 - Brief assessment that helps identify the presence and symptom severity of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

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27

Abuse Questionnaire

- Developed by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Creates an opportunity for clients to identify specific types of abuse they experienced
- Provides an opening for the treatment provider to explore childhood trauma
- Allows clients time to build trust to reveal childhood trauma during group sessions

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MCMII -- III

- Provides a deeper understanding of clients possible diagnostic concerns
- Focus on depression, anxiety, and trauma subscales
- Most commonly used measure of clinical and personality functioning with IPV offenders
- Base Rate (BR) ≥ 75 score generally considered cut off for clinical disorder
- Base Rate (BR) ≥ 85 score generally considered cut off for clinically significant related diagnosis

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29

Assessment Interpretations

- Female IPV offenders report an absence of trauma sequelae
- Level of childhood abuse from mother to traumatic sequelae while childhood abuse from father does not exist
- "Women experience high levels of abuse from their partners" (Simmons, Lehmann, & Craun, 2008; Simmons, Lehmann, & Pflaiz, 2012)
- "Taking control of one's life and/or taking responsibility for one's actions is a resilience factor for trauma recovery" (Simmons, Lehmann, & Craun, 2008; Simmons, Lehmann, & Pflaiz, 2012)
- Substance Abuse as part of incident
- Other criminal activity as part of incident

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Treatment Approaches

- Self-defending as non-offending female
- Women exposed to violence more likely to retaliate when violence used against them
 - Hyper-vigilance
 - Awareness of consequences of abuse
 - Determination not to be a victim again

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31

Effects of Witnessing Violence as Child

- Increased levels of feelings of shame & guilt
 - Causes person to feel inferior, defective & helpless
 - Linked w/ hostility, anger arousal, tendency to blame others, irritability
- Feeling responsible for abuse & unable to stop it
- Once learned to use abusive behaviors
 - Choice whether to use or not in intimate relationships

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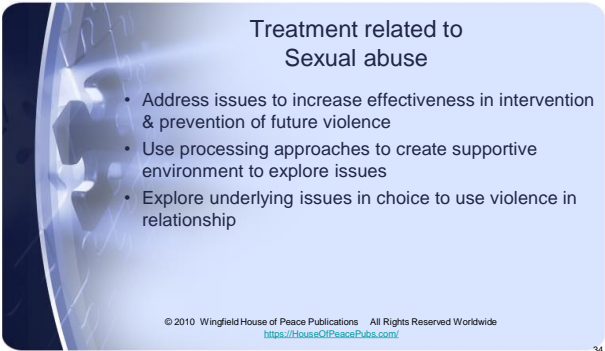
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Prior Sexual Abuse Victimization Impacts on Treatment

- Fear of intimacy
- Low self-esteem
- Sexual promiscuity
- Depression
- Suicidal ideation
- Eating disorders

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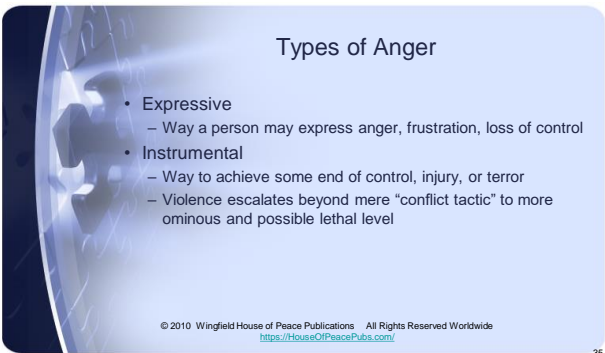


Treatment related to Sexual abuse

- Address issues to increase effectiveness in intervention & prevention of future violence
- Use processing approaches to create supportive environment to explore issues
- Explore underlying issues in choice to use violence in relationship

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34



Types of Anger

- Expressive
 - Way a person may express anger, frustration, loss of control
- Instrumental
 - Way to achieve some end of control, injury, or terror
 - Violence escalates beyond mere "conflict tactic" to more ominous and possible lethal level

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35

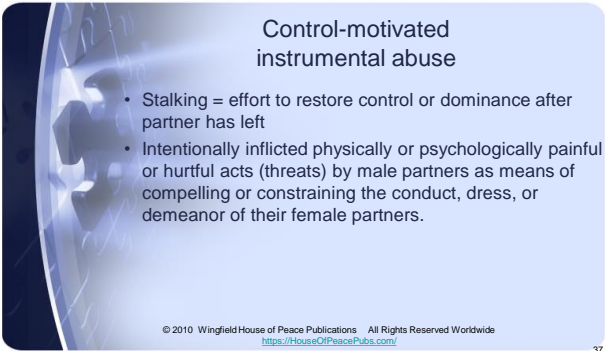


Types of Anger

- Differences between Expressive & Instrumental violence
 - Frequency
 - Severity
 - Initiation
- Part of systematic pattern of control & fear, or isolated expression of frustration or anger

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36

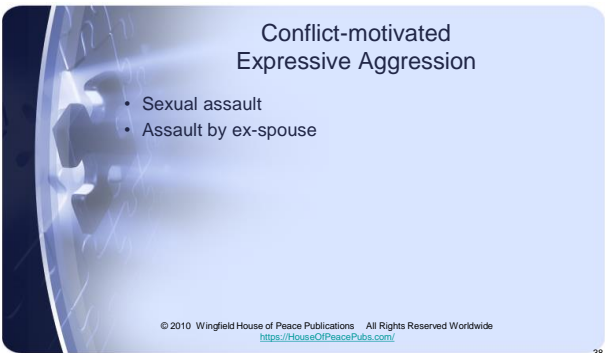


Control-motivated instrumental abuse

- Stalking = effort to restore control or dominance after partner has left
- Intentionally inflicted physically or psychologically painful or hurtful acts (threats) by male partners as means of compelling or constraining the conduct, dress, or demeanor of their female partners.

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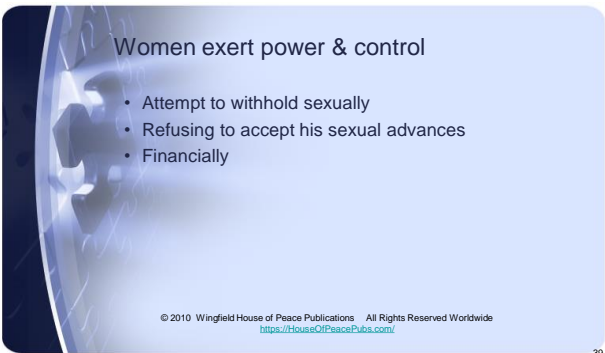


Conflict-motivated Expressive Aggression

- Sexual assault
- Assault by ex-spouse

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Women exert power & control

- Attempt to withhold sexually
- Refusing to accept his sexual advances
- Financially

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39



Violence Against Women

Violence against women is so pervasive that the United Nations has addressed and defined violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life." (United Nations General Assembly, 1993).

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40
