Intimate Partner Violence 101

Presentation by:
Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
Group Values

- Freedom and Choice
- Avoid assumptions
- Respect each other
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
A range of coercive and abusive behaviors used to gain and maintain power and control over an intimate partner, creating a fixed imbalance of power with the overall effect being one partner having control over the other partner.
• More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime

• **81,759** calls were made to the DV hotline in 2017

• **108,821** IPV domestic incident reports (DIRs) were responded to by the NYPD in 2017

• **62,645** client visits to the NYC Family Justice Centers in 2017
Forms

- Emotional/Psychological
  - Isolation
  - Community Based
  - Gaslighting
  - Spiritual
  - Verbal
  - Financial
  - Extreme Jealousy
  - Immigration
  - Using Systems

- Physical/Sexual
  - Forced pregnancy
  - Substance use
  - Strangulation
  - Intentional Transmission of STIs
  - Rape
  - Stalking
  - Sex Trafficking
  - Threatening to hurt themselves

- Intimidation/Threats/Coercion
  - Using Children
  - Pet Abuse
  - Non consensual Distribution of private info
  - Forced Termination of Pregnancy

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Intent, Context and Impact

A range of coercive and abusive behaviors used to gain and maintain power and control

It is important to consider:

- Intent
- Context
- Impact

*One person’s world gets smaller*
Relationship Spectrum

Not All Unhealthy Relationships Are Abusive
But, All Abusive Relationships Are Unhealthy
Impact

- Familial
  - Loss of family support
  - Emotional/psychological harm to children
  - Children missing school/Changing Schools
- Individual
  - Unintended Pregnancy
  - Anxiety/hyper vigilance
  - Constant Moving
  - Suicidality
  - Heighten rate of STIs
- Societal
  - Job Loss
  - Police Involvement/Arrest
  - Substance and/or alcohol use
  - Homelessness
  - Chronic Health Problems
  - PTSD/Depression
  - Polyvictimization
  - Exposure to systems that can cause re-traumatization
  - Judgement
  - Excommunication

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Barriers

Individual
- Abusive Partner
- Physical safety
- Financial Dependence
- Housing
- Gas Lighting
- Disabilities
- PTSD/Depression
- Hopelessness
- Shame
- Cultural/Religious Beliefs
- Love/Hope/Loyalty
- Love/Hope/Loyalty

Societal
- Lack of Resources
- Revictimization
- Fear/Mistrust of Systems
- Judgement
- Social Isolation
- Immigration Status
- Denial/Minimizing

Abusive Partner
- Sex Trafficking
- Immigration Status
- Language Barriers
- Children in Common

BARRIERS
- Lack of Resources
- Revictimization
- Fear/Mistrust of Systems
- Judgement
- Social Isolation
- Immigration Status
- Denial/Minimizing
High Risk Indicators and Safety Planning

Some High Risk Indicators

- Stalking
- Strangulation
- Sexual assault/coerced sex
- Escalation of abuse
- Access to guns
- Threats to kill/hurt
- Recent separation
- Person being abused has children who are not the abuser’s

Safety Planning

Individual and ongoing analysis based on where the victim is at that time and taking into account:

- Abusive partner’s past and current behaviors
- Victim’s current physical and emotional well-being
Forms → Impact → Barriers → Forms
The Effects of Trauma

Trauma and the Brain
Best Practices
How do we imagine a person experiencing abuse?

How do we imagine a person who uses abuse?
Common Misconceptions

IPV and Mental Health

• Being abusive is not synonymous with mental illness, or having an anger management issue
• IPV associated with increased risk of psychiatric disorders (PTSD, depression, anxiety)

IPV and the Role of Drugs and Alcohol

• For survivors, can be a form of self-medication to deal with their abuse trauma
• For abusive partners, under the influence = lowered inhibition = “excuse” for behavior. IT DOES NOT CAUSE PEOPLE TO BE ABUSIVE.
Responding to Disclosures

Start by Believing

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE POTENTIAL PAST AND/OR ONGOING TRAUMA**
   - Recognize that trauma can affect an individual in many ways.
   - Remember that people may express the same emotions in different ways.
   - Make the person experiencing the abuse feel they are in control.
   - Be mindful of body language and verbal communication.

2. **LISTEN ACTIVELY**
   - Start by believing the person experiencing the abuse.
   - Validate the person’s feelings and their experiences.
   - Ask open-ended, non-judgmental questions.
   - Mirror the person’s language, when referring to the abuse, abusive partner or the relationship.

3. **RESPECT PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**
   - Provide a private space for discussion.
   - Do not leave any documents with identifying information about the abuse where other people can view them.
   - If you are a mandated reporter make sure to inform the person of the limits on confidentiality.

4. **RESPECT THE PERSON’S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION**
   - Remember, disclosing the abuse does not mean the person experiencing the abuse is ready to take action.
   - People are experts on their lives; let the person experiencing abuse decide what is best for them, even if you disagree.
   - Manage expectations, know your resources and provide appropriate information.
   - Offer options and support, not your opinion on what they should or shouldn’t do.

5. **USE THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS**
   - “It’s not your fault; anyone could find themselves in this situation.”
   - “What can I do to support you today?”
   - “It must be very painful when someone you care about is frightening you.”
   - “I am worried about your safety; what do you think would help you feel safe?”

6. **DEFINE YOUR ROLE**
   - Remind the person experiencing abuse of your role and what you are able to do to help.
   - Ask the person experiencing abuse what kind of help they are looking for, don’t assume you know.
   - Be aware of your limitations and ability to act in certain situations.
   - Maintain the boundaries of the helping role throughout your work with the person experiencing abuse.

7. **CHECK YOUR BIASES**
   - Use gender neutral language; don’t assume that all gender identities are visible.
   - Be mindful of your facial expressions and other non-verbal cues.
   - Avoid judging or criticizing the person’s behavior or their abusive partner’s behavior.
   - Avoid blaming or defending the person’s culture.

8. **AVOID THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF QUESTIONS**
   - “Why would you let your partner treat you that way?”
   - “What did you do to make your partner angry?”
   - “Why are you still with your partner?”
   - “How can you love someone like that?”
   - “Why don’t you just leave?”

To learn more or request a training please contact the OCDV Training Institute at: OCDVTraining@ocdv.nyc.gov
Additional Considerations

- Always separate parties before engaging with them
- Do not attempt to mediate between parties
- Maintain neutrality
- Do not suggest couple’s counseling

**Responding to People Who Use Abuse**

- Do not judge the person
- Be aware of potential for manipulation
- Refer to programs that focus on abusive relationships/abusive partner interventions
Systemic Responses to IPV
Criminal Justice Response

Call 911 for Emergencies

NYPD Domestic Violence Units and Crime Victims Advocate Program (CVAP)

- Every precinct has a Domestic Violence Sergeant and one or more Domestic Violence Prevention Officers
- CVAP places crime victim and domestic violence advocates in police precincts throughout NYC
Criminal Court OP

- Issued only after a suspect is arrested and arraigned in Criminal Court
- In cases where there is a pending family court case, the CC OOPs are usually marked “subject to family court order

Limited vs. Full OOP (Criminal and Family)

- Limited OOP allows for party contact with conditions place (i.e. must refrain from assault, stalking, etc.)
- Full or Exclusionary OOP is a full stay away order (i.e. no contact, no third party contact, etc.)

An order of protection can only be violated by the person it is issued against. A person for whom the order of protection was issued in behalf of, cannot violate that order
Civil Remedies

Person harmed seeks order of protection without arrest

Related to person:
• by blood or marriage (currently or formerly married),
• you have a child with the person or
• you are in an intimate relationship with that person

Highly recommend that person harmed goes to Family Justice Center to speak with advocate before filing!

Person harmed goes to Family Court located in the borough where the offense took place or where the person lives

Family Offense Committed

If Petition is granted:
• Initial court date set
• Summons issued for respondent to appear
• Temporary order of protection issued

Petitioner
The person whom the petition is against is the Respondent

Disposition or Trial

Court dates ongoing and temporary order extended

Initial Appearance

Service
Petition, Summons and OP served on the Respondent

Person harmed or advocate files petition = Petitioner

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Family Court Orders of Protection

Family Court OP
• Obtained by filing a petition in Family Court
• Can be obtained without involving law enforcement
• Must be personally served

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Housing Supports

Client Needs Shelter

- Client Calls DV Hotline
- Client goes to Intake Facility

Hotline Shelter Assessment

Shelter Placement

- Domestic Violence Tier I
- Domestic Violence Tier II
- General Homeless Shelter System

Client Needs Assistance with Permanent Housing

- Living in Communities (LINC)
- ACS Housing Subsidy
- Family Homeless Eviction Prevention Supplement (FHEPS)
- City SEPS
- NYCHA
Know Your Intimate Partner Violence Resources
1-800-621-HOPE (4673)
or call 311

For emergencies, call 911
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PROGRAMS

- The Policy and Training Institute
  - The DV Training Team
  - Healthy Relationship Training Academy
- New York City Fatality Review Committee (FRC)
- New York City Family Justice Centers
- Mayor’s DV Task Force
NYC Family Justice Centers

BROOKLYN Family Justice Center
350 Jay Street, 15th Floor
(718) 250-5113

BRONX Family Justice Center
198 East 161st Street, 2nd Floor
(718) 508-1220

MANHATTAN Family Justice Center
80 Centre Street, 5th Floor
(212) 602-2800

QUEENS Family Justice Center
126-02 82nd Avenue, Kew Gardens
(718) 575-4545

STATEN ISLAND Family Justice Center
126 Stuyvesant Place, 1st Floor
(718) 697-4300
Services Offered at FJCs

- Risk assessment and safety planning
- Case management
- Advocacy around prosecution of domestic violence crimes
- Assistance with filing police reports
- Individual and group counseling for adults and children
- Psychiatric services
- Children’s activities
- Services for the elderly and/or people with disabilities
- Language interpretation
- Financial literacy and basic literacy classes
- Financial counseling
- Practical assistance (food and clothing)
- Immigration legal assistance
- Matrimonial/divorce assistance
- Family law assistance including family court petitions and orders of protection
- Shelter/housing advocacy
NYC HOPE is NYC’s portal for information, education, and resources about domestic violence and gender-based violence, including stalking, sexual assault, and trafficking.

NYC HOPE brings together resources and services survivors can access in one centralized location accessed from any computer, smartphone, tablet, or device with internet access.

Visit NYC HOPE: [www.nyc.gov/nychope](http://www.nyc.gov/nychope)
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