

# Healthcare Providers and First Responders Intimate Partner Violence Pearls and Perils

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# Juanita

- 911 called by neighbor for “ loud noises next door”
- Children ages 6 and 9 in the home
- Multiple injuries noted states “ I fell”
- What is your next step?

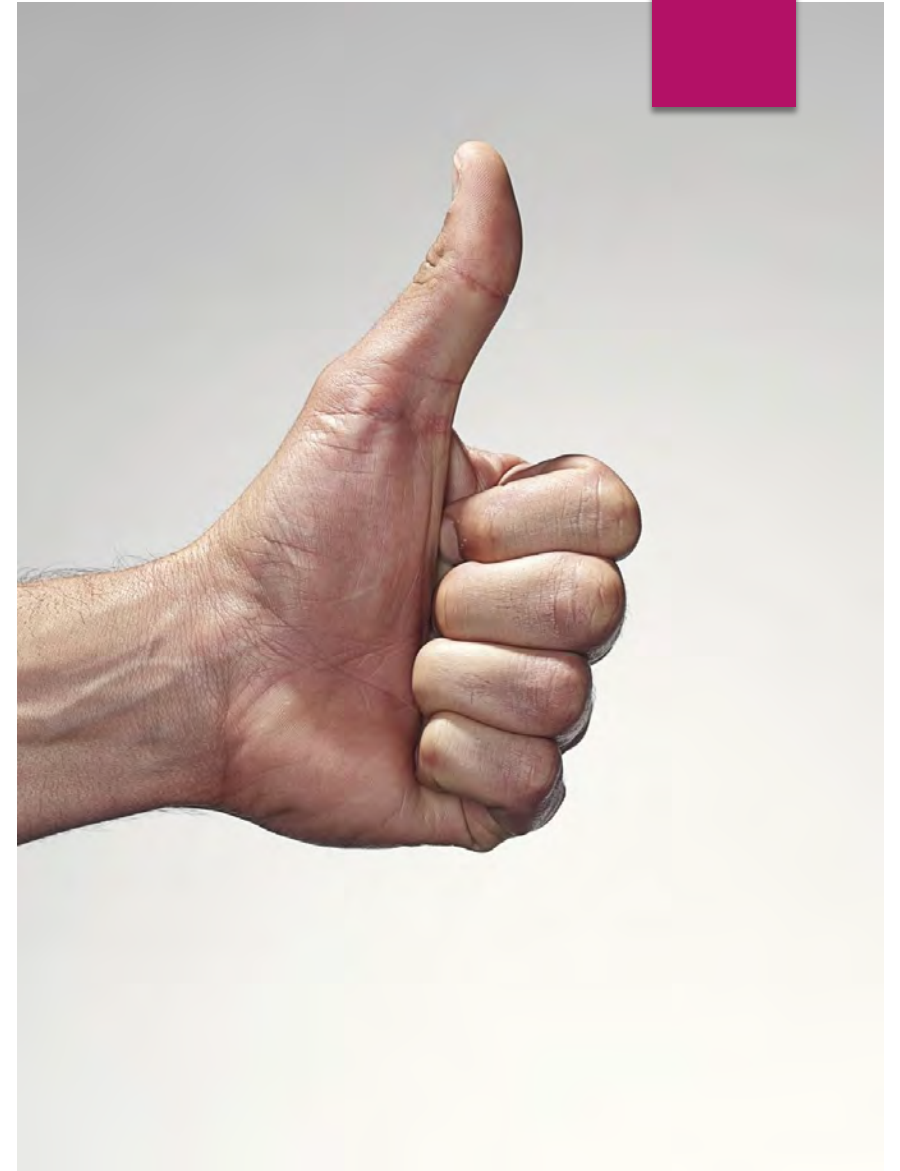


# Intimate Partner Violence

- ▶ The term "intimate partner violence" describes physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. This type of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy." -CDC

# Old Problem

- ▶ 753 BC- Rule of Chastisement
- ▶ Rule of Thumb
- ▶ 1871, Alabama and Massachusetts made wife beating illegal.
- ▶ 1970's- battered women shelters



# NEW TREND

- ▶ Higher incidence and severity of physical intimate partner violence (IPV) during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic compared with the prior 3 years



# CONSEQUENCES OF IPV

Burden for society, > 8.3 million healthcare dollars each year

Lack of work productivity – lowered SES

Physical illness

Mental illness

Unplanned pregnancy

STI's



## How are children impacted

- ▶ Risk of becoming a future IPV victim or perpetrator
- ▶ Aggression
- ▶ Disengagement
- ▶ School absence
- ▶ Depression
- ▶ PTSD
- ▶ Poor self-image
- ▶ Poor health



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# Barriers to Healthcare Providers & First Responders

- ▶ Uncomfortable topic
- ▶ Pandora's box
- ▶ Emotional attachment
- ▶ Fear
- ▶ Lack of education
- ▶ Uncertainty on intervention





## What is the Provider or First Responder Responsibility

- ▶ Understand at risk populations
- ▶ Screen
- ▶ Assess safety
- ▶ Support resources

# WHO IS IMPACTED?

- ▶ Age
- ▶ Ethnic group
- ▶ Socioeconomic status
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Educational background
- ▶ Sexual Orientation
  
- ▶ NO SINGLE PROFILE FOR ALL PERPETRATORS OR PERSONS WHO ARE ABUSED

# SURVIVOR RISK FACTORS

- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Raised in a violent home
- ▶ Multiple sexual partners
- ▶ Single
- ▶ Low self esteem
- ▶ Small children
- ▶ Alcohol or drug problems
- ▶ Ethnicity
- ▶ Less education

# Perpetrator Characteristics

- ▶ Narcissistic
- ▶ High levels of hostility
- ▶ Controlling
- ▶ Impulsivity
- ▶ Age 26-35

# The Interaction

- ▶ Screen privately (alone) and assure confidentiality
- ▶ Talk in a manner he/she can understand and *you* are comfortable with
- ▶ Listen without interruption
- ▶ Provide a nonjudgmental and supportive environment

# EMPOWER

- ▶ Empathic listening
- ▶ Making time to properly document findings
- ▶ Providing information about IPV
- ▶ Offering option and choices
- ▶ Working with an abuse specialist
- ▶ Encouraging planning for safety and support
- ▶ Referring to local services

# TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ▶ Solve problems
- ▶ Convince to leave a violent relationship
- ▶ Convince to go to other services such as the police and the courts
- ▶ Ask detailed questions that force to relive painful events
- ▶ Ask to analyze what happened or why
- ▶ Pressure to tell you feelings and reactions to an event
- ▶ These actions could cause more harm than good

# SAFETY PLAN

- ▶ Safe place to go
  - ▶ If you need to leave your home in a hurry, where could you go?
- ▶ Planning for children
  - ▶ Would you go alone or take your children with you?
- ▶ Transport
  - ▶ How will you get there
- ▶ Items to take with you
  - ▶ Important documents, immunization records, keys, money, clothes, essential items. Do you have access to money if need to leave in an hurry?
- ▶ Support of someone close by
  - ▶ Is there a neighbor you can tell about the violence who can call the police or come with assistance for you if they hear sounds of violence coming from your home



# References

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