Intimate Partner Violence: Understanding research on risk & protective factors

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http://www.superu.govt.nz
Outline of presentation

1. Definitions
2. The prevalence and impact of IPV
3. Conceptual models
4. Measuring risk and protective factors
5. Take home messages
Definitions
Getting on the same page: defining IPV

Intimate partner violence:
Includes ex-partners

Domestic violence (as defined by legislation):
“Domestic” refers to the place of occurrence – in the home

Violence against women:
Includes FGM, violence in the context of war, sexual violence...

Gender-based violence:
Power dynamic
Getting on the same page: defining “partner”

- Husband / Wife
- Boyfriend / Girlfriend
- Cohabitating, non-sexual
- Ex-husband / boyfriend / girlfriend
- Same-sex partner
- Fiancé
- Cohabitating sexual
Getting on the same page: defining violence

Physical violence:
• Slapping
• Shaking
• Beating with fist or object
• Strangulation
• Burning
• Kicking
• Threats with knife or gun

Sexual violence:
• Coerced sex through threats or intimidation
• Coerced sex through physical force
• Forcing unwanted sexual acts
• Forcing sex in front of others
• Forcing sex with others

Emotional abuse:
• Constant belittling, humiliating
• Deliberately scaring or intimidating
• Threats of violence

Controlling behaviours:
• Isolation from others
• Excessive jealousy
• Monitoring whereabouts and social interactions
• Control her activities, access to health care, work...
The prevalence and impact of violence
Intimate partner violence fatalities

On average, nine women every year are killed by an intimate partner
If NZ was a country with 100 women...

33 would have experienced **physical** or **sexual** intimate partner violence in her lifetime.
If NZ was a country with 100 women...

55 would have experienced at least one form of intimate partner violence in her lifetime.
The health impact
The co-occurrence of IPV and child maltreatment

- In **30-60%** of American families living with IPV, CA/N also existed (Edleson, 1999)

- **50-66%** of Australian child protection cases involve IPV (Humphreys, 2007)

- **75%** of children where serious child maltreatment was recorded were living with IPV, parental mental health or drug abuse issues (UK Serious Child Maltreatment Reviews)

- More than **1/3** of youth who witnessed IPV had also been maltreated in the past year, compared with 8.6% of non-witnesses (US National Survey of Children's exposure to violence (NatSCEV), 2010)
Intimate partner violence and child maltreatment are community problems.
Conceptual models
Conceptualising “risk” and “protection”

How we understand the factors that influence violence experience is determined by the width of our field of vision.

Conceptual models expand our understanding of the community and societal factors that influence violence experience.
Conceptual models

World Health Organisation: Violence Prevention Alliance

- Poverty
- High crime levels
- High residential mobility
- High unemployment
- Local illicit drug trade
- Situational factors

- Victim of child maltreatment
- Psychological/personality disorder
- Alcohol/substance abuse
- History of violent behaviour

- Rapid social change
- Gender, social and economic inequalities
- Poverty
- Weak economic safety nets
- Poor rule of law
- Cultural norms that support violence

- Poor parenting practices
- Marital discord
- Violent parental conflict
- Low socioeconomic household status
- Friends that engage in violence
Expanded ecological model

Colonisation & violence experience

Smith, Family Violence Death Review Committee. Restorative Justice Conference: Family violence, the law and restorative justice; 2015; Wellington, New Zealand

Cumulative patterns of harm

Historical trauma and structural violence

1st Generation: Conquered males were killed, imprisoned, enslaved

2nd Generation: Many men overused alcohol and/or drugs to cope with their resultant loss of cultural identity and diminished sense of self-worth.

3rd Generation: The intergenerational effects of violence manifest in the increased prevalence of spousal abuse and other forms of domestic violence. The breakdown in the family unit that accompanied this violence ‘required’ caring governments of the day to remove ‘at risk’ children from their mothers and place them in the care of suitable, in many cases non-Indigenous, families.

4th Generation: Trauma begins to be re-enacted and directed at the spouse and the child; signifying a serious challenge to family unit and societal norms of accepted behaviour.

5th Generation: In this generation, the cycle of violence is repeated and compounded, as trauma begets violence, with trauma enacted through increasingly severe violence and increasing societal distress.


The Eco-social Model

Measuring risk and protective factors
Cross-sectional studies

Life-course

Childhood → Violence experience → Survey

Strengths:
Consistent methodology applied (WHO, DHS)
Cost effective
Self-report of experience and impact

Limitations:
Recall
Cohort studies

Life-course

Cohort recruitment

Outcome measurement

Strengths:
Measure risk and protective factors before the outcome
Less subject to recall

Limitations:
Cost
Key measures may not be incorporated at the start of the study
Challenges involved with measurement

• Not all risk / protective factors, components of violence, or outcomes of violence exposure can be adequately measured. For example:
  • Controlling behaviours – context specific
  • Social norms – social acceptability of responses

• Direction of causality may be difficult to determine
  • Which came first?
• Have tended to focus on risk / protective factors born by the woman and/or her partner, not community or macrosocial
So what does this mean for preventing violence?

*Take home message*
1. Single factor solutions will never solve the problem of violence

- Violence is the outcome of the interaction of many different factors.

- Individual, relationship, community, social and cultural factors work together to enhance or reduce the likelihood of violence being perpetrated or experienced.

- Violence is a behaviour which is governed by choice.
2. We know enough to act NOW

CDC Technical Packages for Violence Prevention:

A technical package has three parts.

• **The strategy:** the direction or actions to achieve the goal of preventing violence.

• **The approach:** specific ways to advance the strategy - programs, policies, and practices.

• **The evidence:** for each approach

These are living documents
3. A comprehensive approach is required

Societal
- Strategic policy development
- Address structural inequalities
- Effective infrastructure
- Long-term funding

All levels of Heise’s expanded ecological model need to be addressed

Community
- Social marketing campaigns
- Community development
- Enhanced Maori social capability
- Improved judicial response
- Enhance social capital

Male / female partner
- Address violence experience in childhood
- Develop pro-social behaviours
- Effective role models
- Reduce social acceptability of binge drinking
- Improve social connectedness

Relationship
- Acceptable and available relationship counselling
- Relationship skill development in adolescence
- Resilient whānau
4. We can learn from other health / social problems
What has it taken to bring the road toll down?

- Ministry of Transport
- Effective social marketing campaigns to change social norms
- Improved roading infrastructure
- Legislation to reduce risk – increasing the age of licensure and making drinking and driving illegal
- Swift and sure punishment where laws were broken (booze buses, demerit points, speed cameras)
- Increased activity at high risk times to enforce legislation.

On-going surveillance; Continual learning; Willingness to adapt and improve; Long-term investment
5. We can learn from other communities

- Community mobilisation intervention to prevent violence against women.
- Randomised controlled trial, followed-up 4 years post intervention
- Past year physical IPV reduced by over half
- Results highlight the important role of community-level norm change
- Strong support for community level approaches for preventing violence
CDC: “Everyone is benefited by a lifetime of healthy positive relationships”
Thank you
Post-script

(A bit of advertising)
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- Community engagement
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  - Practitioners
  - Researchers
  - Students
  - Media
  - People affected by violence
  - The general public
New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

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Questions?
What’s coming up next...

• 22 July 2016

Families and Whānau Status Report Seminar