RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

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INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

- **Interpersonal violence** refers to violence between individuals, and is subdivided into *family and intimate partner violence* and *community violence*. The former category includes child maltreatment; intimate partner violence; and elder abuse, while the latter is broken down into *acquaintance* and *stranger* violence and includes youth violence; assault by strangers; violence related to property crimes; and violence in workplaces and other institutions.
Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior designed to exert power and control over a person in an intimate relationship through the use of intimidating, threatening, harmful, or harassing behavior including physical, sexual, digital, financial, spiritual, psychological and/or emotional abuse.
MYTHS


- They just need counseling
- It’s the alcohol or the drugs
- It’s an matter of anger management
- Gay, low income, and minority couples are more violent
- In order to access shelter services, a person has to be “in” shelter
- Domestic violence doesn’t happen in the faith community
- If a person grows up witnessing violence, they will be abusive in their relationships
- It’s not rape if you’re married
- Only women are the victims of domestic violence
Victim Blaming Questions

- What did she do?
- If it’s that bad, why does he keep going back?
- Why does he take that from her?
- Why didn’t she/he just call the police?
WILL THEY REPORT

WHY MIGHT THEY STAY
Physical Abuse

- Pushing, shoving, slapping, hitting, punching the victim.
- Holding, tying down, or restraining the victim.
- Strangling the victim.
Hope

- That abuser will change
- That victim’s actions will make abuser change
- That the violence will stop
- That someone will notice that they need help
Sexual Abuse

- Making the victim perform sexual acts against his/her will.
- Pursuing sexual activity when the victim cannot fully consent, such as being intoxicated.
- Physically hurting the victim during sex.
Love

- May still love batterer
- Battering isn’t every day
- Batterer can be very loving and caring at other times
Religious Abuse

- Husband as authority and “owner” of partner
- Use of sacred texts to perpetuate the belief that women are inferior to men
- Partner demands obedience in order to stay in favor with “God”
- The use of fear, guilt, intimidation, manipulation through religious beliefs to maintain control
Shame

- Misapplication and manipulation of religious texts
- Social and religious stigma of failed marriage
- “I prayed; this is not suppose to happen to me”
- Spouse controls access to finances
- Housing
- Children
Emotional or Psychological Abuse

• Intimidation, degradation, and humiliation
• Deprivation of resources to meet basic needs
• Physical and social isolation.
• Extreme jealousy and possessiveness
gaslighting: to cause a person to doubt his or her sanity through the use of psychological manipulation.
Fear

- Children: loss of custody, failure to protect, physical harm, lack of resources
- Referral services may be far from home
- Lack of transportation
- Immigration status in question
- Does not trust him/herself
Financial Abuse

- Steal money from victim or family
- Gets credit cards in victim’s or child’s name
- Forces victim to turn over paychecks or public benefit payments
- Makes victim feel as though she doesn't have a right to know any details about money or household resources
Status

- Well-educated, established pillar in the community
- Spouse is retired military/law enforcement
- Fear of not being believed because of abuser’s stellar reputation
The Better Question:
Why Does the Abuser Feel it’s “OK”? 

It’s Accepted – Society encourages it.
(communities, pop culture, music and sports)

It's a Choice – Batterer chooses to use violence to control family members because it has empowered them to maintain control.

It Works – The victim is so terrorized that he/she will say or do anything to survive.
The Cycle of Abuse

- The Honeymoon
- Denial
- Explosion
- Tension-Building
Many people don’t want the relationship to end... 

...THEY WANT THE ABUSE TO STOP
Signs of a Healthy Relationship

- Respect
- Healthy communication
- Honesty
- Mutual trust
- Forgiveness
- *Is not jealous*
You’re Not Stuck!

Breaking up is the most dangerous time for a person leaving a relationship; it is often the most difficult time. With support, it can be done.
RESOURCES

Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1.800.898.3234

Legal Services 601-882-5550

Text
741741
National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-SAFE (7233)