

OVERVIEW OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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VIRTUAL HOUSEKEEPING

- ◉ Feel free to ask questions at any time, either through the chat or by unmuting yourself, but please realize I may defer answering if it is something we will be covering later.
- ◉ We all work with tough situations on a daily basis, but it is still important to acknowledge that this material may be difficult to think about, hear about etc. Please take care of yourself as you need to.

PLAN FOR THE DAY

➤ Morning

- History of Violence against Women
- Definitions
- Incidence Rates
- Who is doing the abusing?
- General Characteristics of Victims/Survivors and Abusers
- Impact of Mental Illness, Addiction, Stress
- Dynamics of DV
- Clip of a Survivor

PLAN, CONT.

- **Afternoon**
 - DV Legal Issues
 - DV in the LGBTQ+ Community
 - Community Resources

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

- ◉ We know that Domestic Violence (DV) can happen to anyone regardless of gender, gender identity, sexuality, race/ethnicity - whatever identity group you want to think about.
- ◉ I will try to be gender neutral in most this workshop, but some of the information will focus on DV in heterosexual relationships with male identified persons as the abuser.

EXAMPLES FROM HISTORY...

Circa 2500 B.C.

The law decreed that a woman who was verbally abusive to her husband was to have her name engraved on a brick that would then be used to bash her teeth out.

HISTORY - ROMAN EMPIRE

- The Roman term "Patria Potestas," meaning "father's authority," reflected a Father's position as absolute ruler over the household.
- Confarreatio, the Roman marriage ceremony, passed ownership of the woman formally from father to husband, and directed wives to live so as to please their husbands only.

RULE OF THUMB LAW

753 B.C.

- During the reign of Romulus in Rome, wife beating was accepted and condoned under The Laws of Chastisement. Under these laws, the husband had absolute rights to physically discipline his wife.
- These laws permitted the husband to beat his wife with a rod or switch as long as its circumference was no greater than the girth of the base of the man's right thumb, hence "The Rule of Thumb."
- The tradition of these laws was perpetuated in English Common Law and throughout most of Europe.

Lemon, Nancy (1996). *Domestic Violence law: A comprehensive overview of cases and sources*. San Francisco, CA: Austin and Winfield

During the Middle Ages, violence against women was openly encouraged by the Catholic church, as men were urged from the pulpit "to beat their wives and their wives to kiss the rod that beat them."

Only within the past few decades have the French dropped the expression "Women, like walnut trees, should be beaten every day," from the Napoleonic Codes.

Compiled by Mary Metzger in "What Did You Do To Provoke Him?"

1874: The “finger switch” rule is disavowed when the Supreme Court of North Carolina rules that “the husband has no right to chastise his wife under any circumstances.” The court goes on to say, “If no permanent injury has been inflicted, nor malice, cruelty nor dangerous violence shown by the husband, it is better to draw the curtain, shut out the public gaze and leave the parties to forget and forgive.

Martin, Del (1976) *Battered Wives*. New York: Pocket Books

1500's

Lord Hale, an English Jurist, sets the tradition of non-recognition of marital rape. He states that when women married, they “gave themselves to their husbands” in contract, and could not withdraw that consent until they divorced. “The husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife, for by their mutual matrimonial consent a [sic] contract with wife hath given herself in this kind unto her husband, which she cannot retract.”

This is the basis of the “contractual consent” theory.

Lord Hale burned women at the stake as witches and has been characterized as a misogynist.

Lemon, Nancy (1996). *Domestic Violence law: A comprehensive overview of cases and sources*. San Francisco, CA: Austin and Winfield

Early U.S. colonial times

- No real “policy” on VAW
- VAW - issue of property rights
 - Rape & battery against unmarried women were violations of the father's property, & assault of another man's wife was violation of the man's property
 - During slavery, Black women viewed as property of owners and therefore impossible to claim rape
- Black men often falsely accused of rape, with no due process, harsh penalties, lynching

COMMON LAW DEFINITION OF RAPE

- “The common law definition of rape designated the crime as ‘the carnal knowledge of a female, not one’s wife, forcibly and against her will’”

Russell, 1992)

Early rape laws

- Designed to protect men from false accusations
- Courts required victims to offer proof of their non-consent to the assault to confirm that they had not voluntarily committed sexual acts outside of marriage
- Had to demonstrate physical resistance (through semen or bruises)
- Fresh complaint rule- needed to promptly report of the assault
- Questioned victims about sexual behavior not removed until the 1970s

MARRIAGE EXEMPTION IN SEXUAL ASSAULT LAWS

- The original justifications for the legal non-criminalization of marital rape were simply the result of the way marriage was understood historically in most cultures (legally requiring a wife to obey her husband, allowing a husband to punish his wife if she didn't perform her duties etc.).
- However, long after these views were no longer considered valid in Western countries, the lawmakers have continued to be reluctant to intervene on the issue of rape in marriage, based on the idea that it was undesirable to interfere with the 'privacy' of a married couple and that marriage as an institution had to be 'protected' from outside intervention.

REMOVING MARRIAGE EXEMPTION

- First State: South Dakota
 - In 1975
- Last State: North Carolina
 - In 1993

- There are still states that have partial exemptions or special circumstances regarding marital rape

Sources: NY Times, Office on VAW

STATES THAT STILL HAVE SOME EXEMPTIONS TO MARITAL RAPE IN SEXUAL ASSAULT LAWS

- The federal government made marital rape illegal in 1986, but this only applies to incidents which occur on publicly-owned land. It's 22 years since North Carolina became the last state to withdraw its centuries-old rape exemption for married couples in 1993. But even in 2015, 13 states still make some exceptions for marital rape.

EXEMPTIONS, CONT.

- Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia
- Virginia: Husbands who rape their wives may be able to escape prosecution if they agree to undergo therapy—just as long as their wife agrees to it too. Virginia state law says: “All or part of any sentence ... may be suspended upon the defendant’s completion of counseling or therapy ... after consideration of the views of the complaining witness.”

EXEMPTIONS, CONT.

- In 2019, Minnesota repealed their marital rape exemption to their sexual assault law

The importance of realizing the long history of violence against women is in its reinforcement of a sense of entitlement toward certain behaviors. It is in this way, violence against women being seen as a legal right and that our culture has supported the perpetration of domestic violence.

1966: Beating, as cruel and inhumane treatment, becomes grounds for divorce in New York, but the plaintiff must establish that a “sufficient” number of beatings have taken place.

Martin, Del (1976) *Battered Wives*. New York: Pocket Books

PREVELANCE GENERAL POPULATION

- One in 3 women (36.4%) have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner, while 1 in 10 men (10.9%) have experienced the same.
- One in 6 women (16%) have been stalked during their lifetime while 1 in 17 men (5.8%) experienced the same.

GENERAL POPULATION, CONT.

- 90 - 95% of domestic violence victims are women.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings: Violence Between Intimates (NCJ-149259), November 1994.

- From 1994 to 2010, about 4 in 5 victims of intimate partner violence were female.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence Special Report, 2010

INCIDENCE RATE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

- **43% of dating college women reported experiencing abusive behaviors from their partner.**
- **Over 13% of college women report that they have been stalked. Of these, 42% were stalked by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend.**

National Coalition against Domestic Violence

- **Highest rate of intimate partner violence is among women ages 16-24**

Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim 1993-1999 Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report US DOJ, OJP, October 2018

WHO IS DOING WHAT TO WHOM?

Domestic violence, also known as Intimate Partner Violence, is an extremely complicated, multi-faceted issue. Studies widely identify women as victimized more often than men by their intimate partners

Men can be victims of intimate partner violence too, and women may use violence within relationships

National Coalition against Domestic Violence

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

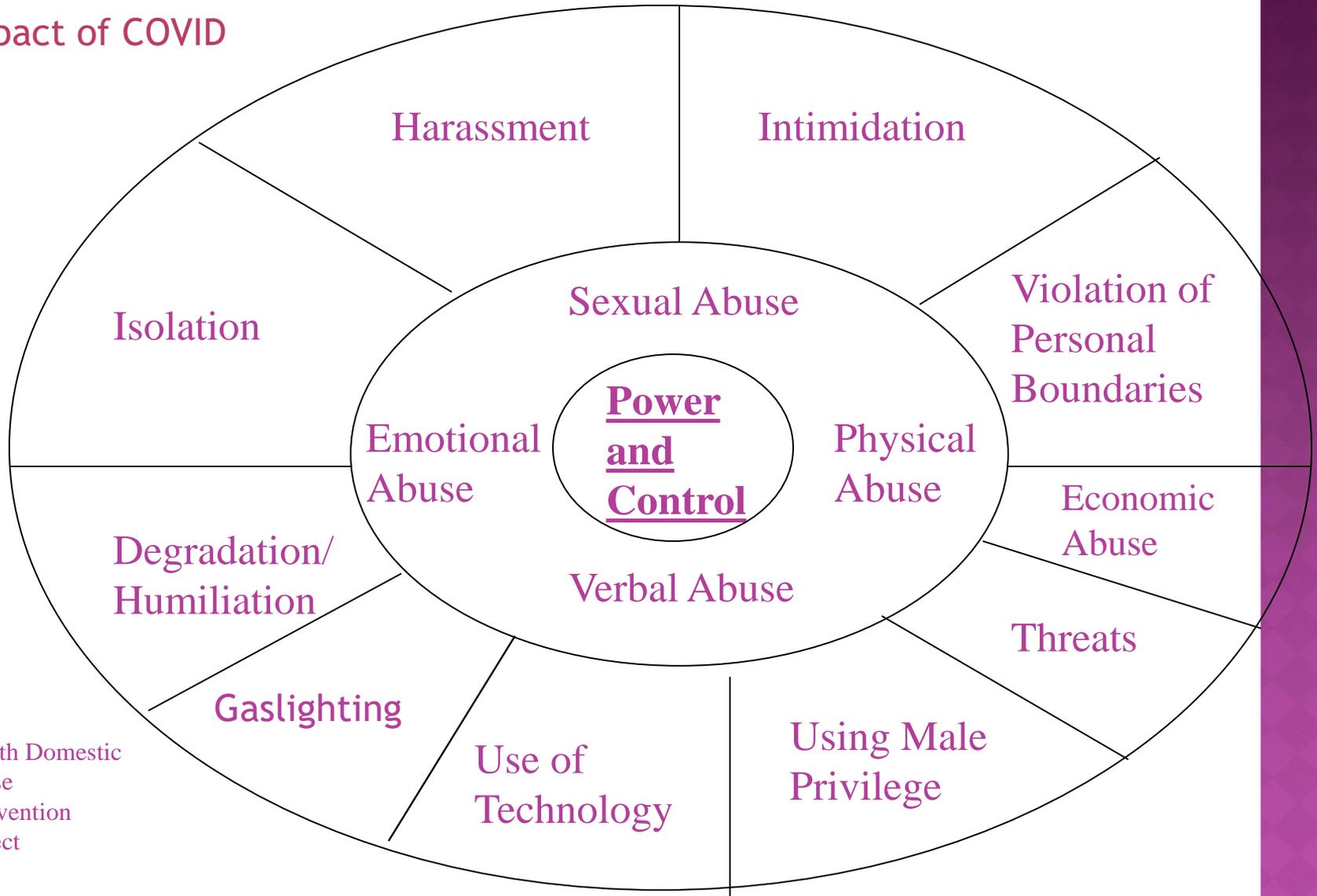
- A pattern of controlling or coercive behavior by one individual to maintain power and control over another in an intimate relationship.
- It includes physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuse. It includes the use of intimidation, threats and isolating behaviors.
- **If there is no intervention, the violence or abuse will escalate over time, both in frequency and severity.**

How do you recognize **abusive** behavior? What is the difference between being **abusive** in a relationship and just not being a good partner?

You need to look at the intent of the behavior. Is it about Power and Control?

POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

Impact of COVID



Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project

WHY DOES DV HAPPEN?

THE MYTHS

- It's a mental illness
- It's because they drink/use drugs
- They can't control their anger
- They're under a lot of stress
- Violence only happens in poor families
- Victims are masochists - they enjoy being abused
- Victims/survivors can just leave

WHY DOES BATTERING HAPPEN?

- Learned Behavior
- Personal Choice
- Sense of Entitlement
- Socialization
- Alcohol, Substance Abuse, Stress, Media
 - These are not causative factors, but clearly impact behavior

WHY DOES BATTERING HAPPEN, CONT.

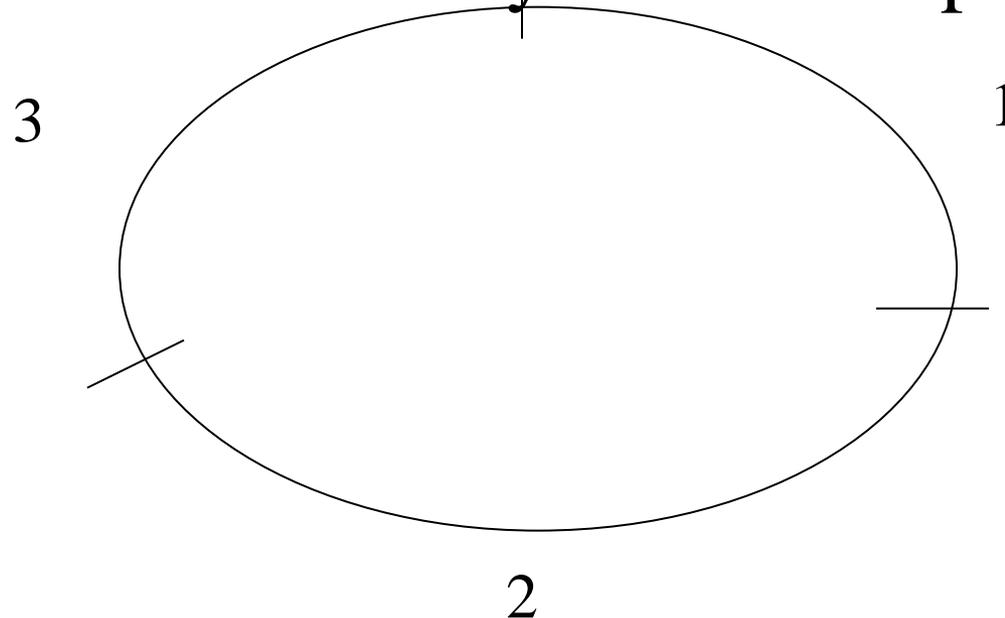
➤ Belief in the myths:

- It's because I have a problem with anger
- I have to be in charge
- Smashing things isn't abusive, it's venting
- **Sometimes there is no alternative to violence**

CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

ORIGINAL MODEL

- Phase 1 - Tension Building
- Phase 2 - Abusive Incident
- Phase 3 - The Honeymoon/Recapture



CYCLE OF VIOLENCE EXPANDED

- The cycle actually begins with the “calm” or “honeymoon” phase
 - The victim/survivor enters the relationship believing it will be good
 - The abuser is very attentive, often sweeps the victim/survivor off her/his feet
- As the relationship continues...
 - The attentive behavior becomes controlling behavior and tension starts to build leading to
- The abusive incident
- Then back to honeymoon and recapture

CHARACTERISTICS OF PERPETRATORS (GENERALLY SPEAKING)

- Concerned about their own needs rather than their partner's needs
- May express concern or fear of hurting their partner
- Focus on getting their needs met without worry about or fear of upsetting their partner
- Tend to deny responsibility

CHARACTERISTICS, CONT.

- Tend to minimize their own behavior
- Tend to blame their partner for their experience
- May justify their own behaviors based on partner's perceived shortcomings (i.e. cheating)
- Often feel they deserve more, or better

CHARACTERISTICS, CONT.

- May manipulate others to get what they want
- Tend to be accusative of their partner or others
- May expect their partner to meet their needs
- May act as “the voice” for the relationship
- May appear charming or be easily engaging to others

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS/SURVIVORS

- Often focus on partner's needs
- Tend to worry about or are afraid of upsetting their partner
- Usually think or act to protect their partner
- Tend to feel responsible
- Tend to minimize their experience, abuse or injuries
- Often feel undeserving
- Tend to second guess their own feelings and perceptions
- May feel reliant on their partner as their main or only source of comfort and support

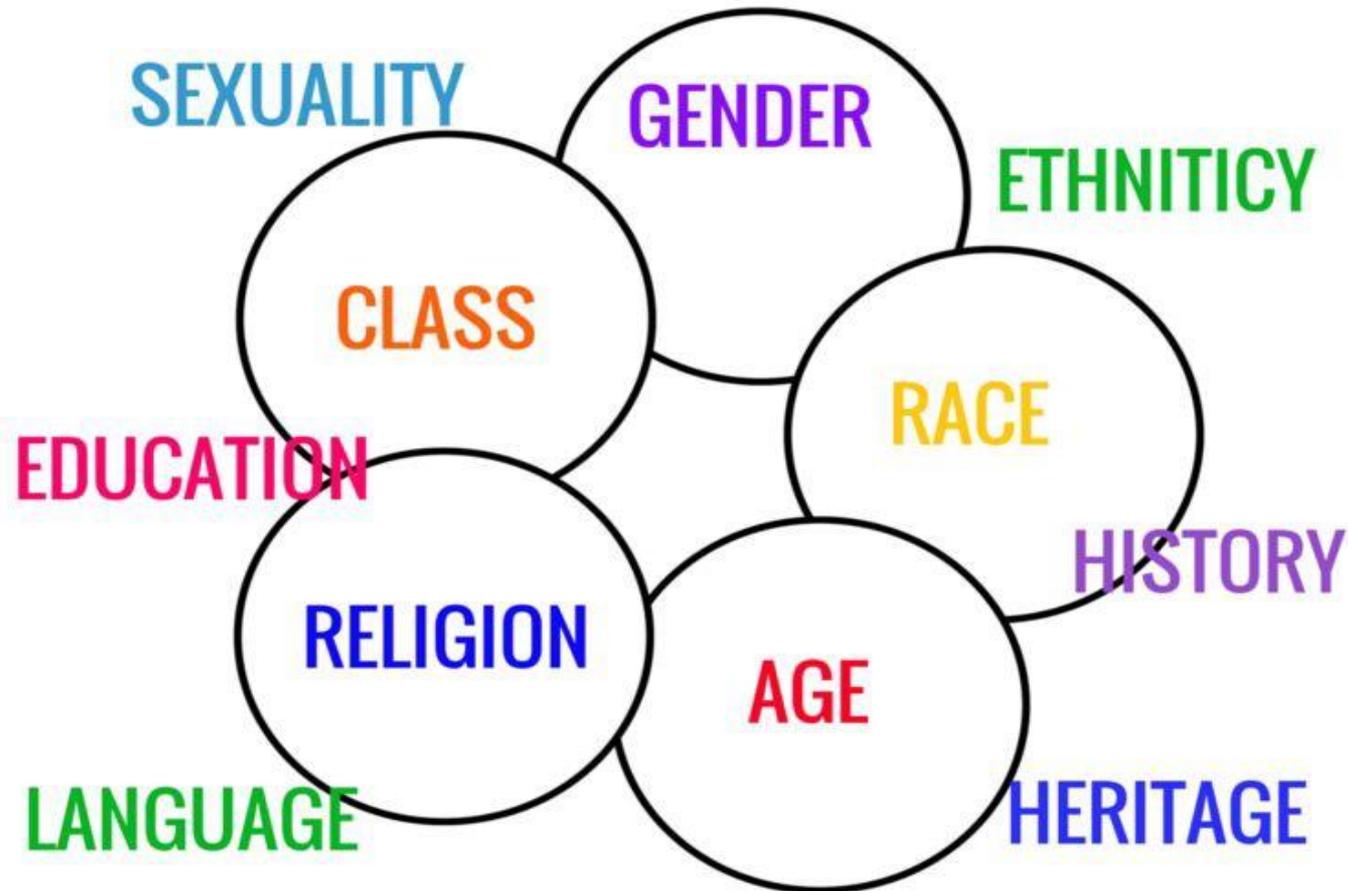
Elizabeth's Story: "Hostages at Home"

Pictures, Video

SEPARATION VIOLENCE

- The most dangerous time for a victim/survivor and their children is when they are in the process of leaving an abusive relationship.
- It is essential for a victim to have a plan for leaving. S/he/They should be in touch with someone who has expertise in Safety Planning.

INTERSECTIONALITY



"overlapping or intersecting social identities and related systems of oppression, domination, or discrimination."

IMPACT OF MENTAL ILLNESS, ADDICTION, STRESS

- Causing behavior vs. impacting behavior
- Clearly, things like mental illness, addiction and stress can impact behaviors such as violence, but they do not cause them
- Not all batterers are mentally ill
- Not all batterers use/abuse substances
- Batterers are not only violent when under stress

ONE STUDY FOUND:

- "Mental illness alone does not increase the risk of violence," says Eric Elbogen, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, citing the results of his recent study published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*.
- But when mental illness is combined with other risk factors such as substance abuse, it does increase the risk of violence, Elbogen found. Mental illness "makes a difference but only in the presence of other risk factors," he says.

ELBOGEN CONT.

- Besides substance abuse, Elbogen looked at such other factors such as a history of violence, age, gender, and stressors such as losing a job or getting a divorce.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Adding alcohol, stress or a mental illness to a violent person is like throwing gasoline onto a fire
 - It may make the fire burn hotter
 - It may make the fire burn longer
 - But it didn't start the fire

LEGAL ISSUES

KEEP IN MIND

- What I will be describing is how the domestic violence law is *written*. This sometimes varies from county to county, police department to department etc. in terms of how the law is enforced.

Legal Remedies

- NJ Law was first established in 1981 and is one of the strictest laws in the country
- There are two main ways to seek legal recourse: civil and criminal
 - Criminal – charging someone with a crime. Guilt vs. innocence is determined, sentence assigned, criminal record is maintained
 - Civil – sue someone for a private wrong. Judge makes a finding, orders a series of protections (relief)

WHERE TO GO FOR WHAT

- To press criminal charges, go to the Police
- To apply for a restraining order, go to Superior Court, Family Division during normal business hours.
- At night, on weekends or holidays - go to the Police for a restraining order
- Impact of COVID - you need to check with your local Family Court for the most updated procedures

IS IT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNDER THE LAW?

- Basically ask two questions - what happened and who did it.
- What happened (acts of domestic violence under NJ Law): physical assault, sexual assault, criminal sexual contact, terroristic threats, harassment, criminal trespass, burglary, stalking, kidnapping, criminal restraint, property damage, false imprisonment, criminal mischief, lewdness, criminal coercion, robbery, contempt of a DV order, any other crime involving risk of death or serious bodily injury and homicide.

IS IT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CONT.

- Who did it? You can apply for a restraining order if you have been subjected to domestic violence by
 - Spouse or former spouse
 - Present or former household member (roommate)
 - Dating partner
 - Someone with whom you have children in common, are pregnant by or is pregnant with your child

WHEN THE POLICE RESPOND

- Interview victim and abuser separately
- Go over victim rights - respond accordingly (i.e. if they want a TRO, etc.)
- Mandatory Arrest - victim exhibits sign(s) of injury, violation of restraining order, weapons, other warrants in effect
- Police will escort victim back to headquarters to file criminal complaints and/or apply for TRO
- Crisis Response Advocate is offered

WHAT IS A RESTRAINING ORDER?

- A restraining order is a court order compelling the abuser to do, or to refrain from doing specific things. This could include:
 - No contact - home, work, school, etc. (Should be specific) May also include family members and friends
 - Weapon seized
 - Possession of residence
 - Loss of child custody, having visitation hours
 - Pay child support
 - Restitution
 - Counseling
 - Removal of belongings - must be done w/ Police

TYPES OF RESTRAINING ORDERS

➤ **Temporary (TRO)**

➤ **Final (FRO)**

SO WHAT ABOUT THOSE RESTRAINING ORDERS? DO THEY MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?

➤ Some things to consider:

- Is the abuser likely to follow a court order?
- Is the abuser concerned about being arrested?
- Does the abuser respect the police?
- Does the abuser have any idea that what s/he is doing is wrong? (do they feel such a sense of entitlement that it doesn't occur to them they could get in trouble?)

SO WHAT ABOUT THOSE RESTRAINING ORDERS? DO THEY MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?, CONT.

- Restraining Orders are not a suit of armor, however, they can:
 - Send a message to the abuser
 - Give the police a stronger leg to stand on

PROCESS - AT THE POLICE STATION

- Once a complaint has been filled out, the Judge is contacted. The judge will speak to the victim and probably ask some questions. The judge will determine if the incident(s) warrant a TRO.
- If the TRO is granted, police will serve the defendant with the order
- If the TRO is not granted, the victim can still go to Superior Court in their county and apply again for the same incident

TRO PROCESS, CONT.

- As of October 1, 2019, a person denied a Municipal TRO has the right to an immediate de novo (new) hearing with the on-call Superior Court Judge.
- The Superior Court Judge would be contacted by the police

HOW LONG DO ORDERS REMAIN IN EFFECT?

- TROs are valid until a final hearing has been held.
- FROs issued in NJ have no expiration date

FINAL HEARING

- Usually happens within 10 days at the Superior Court, Family Division in New Brunswick
- **Abuser is also called to the hearing**
- Can bring witnesses to Final Hearing
- Victim will need to decide if they wish to request a FRO
- A legal advocate from the county DV program can prepare them for the hearing and accompany them to Court

VIOLATIONS OF ORDERS

- **Criminal Violations of Restraining Orders** - If the abuser continues to harass, telephone, threaten, stalk or physically harm the victim, and s/he/they feels they are in immediate danger, s/he/they should call the police. If the police officer responding has reason to believe that a restraining order has been violated, the abuser should be arrested and charged with contempt.
- If the abuser continues one or more of the behaviors above but the victim does not feel the need for immediate help from the police, s/he/they can file a criminal charge at their earliest opportunity.

VIOLATIONS, CONT.

- **Non-Criminal Violations of Restraining Orders-** If the abuser violates the portion of a domestic violence order which deals with visitation, monetary compensation, orders for rent or mortgage payments, distribution of property, then the victim has the right to enforce the order by bringing an application in the Family Court.

DOCUMENTATION

- It is important to document violations, even if it is only to make a formal report. This starts a paper trail which could become important in court in terms of showing a pattern of behavior.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE VICTIM MOVES?

- Restraining orders are effective everywhere in New Jersey. This means the police must enforce your restraining order outside of the county where the victim/survivor got the order.
- Additionally, federal law provides “Full Faith and Credit,” which means that once someone has a protection order, it follows them wherever they go in the United States, including U.S. territories and tribal lands.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Why might a victim/survivor drop a TRO?
- Why might a victim/survivor not request a FRO?

**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE IN THE
LGBTQ+
COMMUNITY**

PREVALENCE RATES

- Sexual minority respondents reported levels of intimate partner violence at rates equal to or higher than those of heterosexuals.
 - Forty-four percent of lesbian women, 61% of bisexual women, and 35% of heterosexual women experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
 - Twenty-six percent of gay men, 37% of bisexual men, and 29% of heterosexual men experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.
 - Approximately 1 in 5 bisexual women (22%) and nearly 1 in 10 heterosexual women (9%) have been raped by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

PREVALENCE, CONT.

- Rates of some form of sexual violence were higher among lesbian women, gay men, and bisexual women and men compared to heterosexual women and men.
- Approximately 1 in 8 lesbian women (13%), nearly half of bisexual women (46%), and 1 in 6 heterosexual women (17%) have been raped in their lifetime.
- Four in 10 gay men (40%), nearly half of bisexual men (47%), and 1 in 5 heterosexual men (21%) have experienced SV other than rape in their lifetime.

PREVALENCE, CONT.

- Among rape victims, bisexual women experienced rape earlier in life compared to heterosexual women.
- Of those women who have been raped, almost half of bisexual women (48%) and more than a quarter of heterosexual women (28%) experienced their first completed rape between the ages of 11 and 17 years.

PREVALENCE, CONT.

- The rate of stalking among bisexual women is more than double the rate among heterosexual women.
- One in 3 bisexual women (37%) and 1 in 6 heterosexual women (16%) have experienced stalking victimization at some point during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.

PREVALENCE, CONT.

- A higher percentage of bi-sexual women reported being concerned for their safety or were injured as a result of IPV than lesbian or heterosexual women.
 - Approximately one-fifth of self-identified lesbian and heterosexual women (20% and 22%, respectively) and one-half of bisexual women (48%) reported they were concerned for their safety and/or reported at least one post-traumatic stress disorder symptom (20%, 46%, and 22%, respectively).
 - Nearly 1 in 3 bisexual women (37%) and 1 in 7 heterosexual women (16%) were injured as a result of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner.

PREVALENCE TRANSGENDER POPULATION

- There is a high prevalence of sexual assault and rape starting at a young age
- About 50% of transgendered persons report unwanted sexual activity
- 59% reported a history of forced sex or rape
- A significant difference between MTFs (Male to Female) and FTMs (Female to Male), with 69% of MTFs reported having been the victims of forced sex, where only 30% of FTMs reported a history of forced sex

THE “RULES” ABOUT ABUSE IN THE LGBT COMMUNITY

1. Forget the person is lesbian or gay
 2. Never forget the person is lesbian or gay
- Gay men and lesbians face the same issues, trauma, fear etc. that any other victim of violence or abuse faces. But as with any special population, gay men and lesbians make face additional obstacles or deal with additional issues.

The “Rules” attributed to Chris Heer, Esq.

MAJOR DIFFERENCES FROM HETEROSEXUAL DV

- Threats of “outing” -
threatening to reveal the
victim's sexual orientation
- Homophobia
(There are others, but these
are arguably the main
differences)

WHY DOES BATTERING OCCUR?

- Learned Behavior
- Personal Choice
- Sense of Entitlement
- Socialization
- Alcohol, Substance Abuse, Stress
 - These are not causative factors, but clearly impact behavior
- Belief in the myths:
 - It's because I have a problem with anger
 - I have to be in charge
 - Smashing things isn't abusive, it's venting
 - **Sometimes there is no alternative to violence**

WHY DOES BATTERING OCCUR IN THE LGBT COMMUNITY?

- How do these issues (learned behavior, personal choice, sense of entitlement, socialization) fit in the context of a same gender relationship?
- Power Related Violence vs. Gender Related Violence
 - DV is always about power and control
 - DV is overwhelmingly about gender, but not always

BARRIERS TO REPORTING

(CAN BE MAGNIFIED BY ORIENTATION/GENDER IDENTITY ISSUES)

- Fear
- Don't know where to go
- "Will people believe me?"
- Pressure to stay in a relationship
- Victim still has feelings for the abuser
- Money Issues
- Shame
- Hesitant about legal system
- "Is this really serious enough to deal with?"
- Other layers of obstacles
 - People of Color
 - Immigration Status
- Children

FACTS: SIMILAR TO HETEROSEXUAL DV

- LGBT violence cuts across racial, socioeconomic, religious, political and cultural lines and lifestyles
- **Lesbian battering does not appear only where women practice butch-femme roles**
- Violence is a behavioral choice
- Members of the LGBT community who abuse their partners are often well-known or involved members of the LGBT community
- Sexual abuse is a tactic that LGBT batterers use

MYTHS ABOUT LESBIAN BATTERING

- Women are not abusive, only men are
- Lesbians are always equal in relationships. It is not abuse, it is a relationship struggle
- Lesbian abusers have been abused/oppressed by men and are therefore not as responsible for their behavior
- It is easier for a lesbian to leave an abusive relationship than her heterosexual counterpart
- Children are not an issue

MYTHS ABOUT GAY BATTERING

- Gay men are rarely victims of abuse by their partners
- When violence occurs between gay men in a relationship, it's a fight, it's "boys will be boys"
- Abuse in a gay relationship is actually sadomasochistic behavior and the victims like it
- It is easier for a gay man to leave an abusive relationship than a non gay man
- Children are not an issue

TYPES OF ABUSE

- There are several types of abuse that any victim of domestic/dating violence may face. In the LGBTQ+ community there can be additional layers of abuse. (Remember the Power and Control Wheel)
- Threatening to “out” someone (reveal their orientation) is probably the biggest addition.

ADDITIONAL ISOLATION

- Not allowing victim to be involved in the LGBTQ+ community
- Using social marginalization and invisibility of LGBTs to increase the victim's isolation
- Benefiting from the lack of safe places to be "out"
- Telling a partner that no one will help him/her because the police and the justice system are homophobic
- People in the LGBT community may have already been isolated from their family and friends due to their orientation or gender identity.

ADDITIONAL EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Denying the existence of the relationship to the victim or to the community
- Imposing non-negotiated “closeting”
 - Telling their partner they can’t reveal their own orientation or identity.
- Encouraging shame and self-hatred about being LGBTQ+
- Telling a partner that s/he deserves the abusive behavior because they are gay

ADDITIONAL ISSUES REGARDING CHILDREN

- Threatening to “out” victim so they are at risk of losing custody of children
- Denying the victim parental rights as co-parent

ADDITIONAL ISSUES ABOUT PHYSICAL ABUSE

- The assumption of mutual battering leads to abuse being overlooked
- The assumption that the batterer is “butch” or the larger of the two partners
- The batterer may accompany the victim to the hospital and be overlooked by the staff
 - Could also include police station, courts, social service agencies

ADDITIONAL ISSUES ABOUT LEGAL STATUS AND PRIVILEGE

- Using absence of legal rights (family, property etc.) to reinforce power and control
- Maintaining heterosexual pretense for sake of isolation and privileges

SURVIVOR STORY

➤ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3PeZ4m7mng>

Survivor becomes visibly upset while sharing their narrative, remember self-care.

WORKING WITH THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

- Importance of using gender neutral language
- Remember, it's the same...but it's different. Victims who are LGBTQ+ need to know the same options, but they may be facing different obstacles and may need different resources.

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LGBTQ+ AND HETEROSEXUAL DV

Similarities

- Behaviors
- Dynamics, Cycle
- Level of fear, trauma, danger, etc.
- Legal options (In NJ)
- Others?

Differences

- Homophobia
- Threats of outing
- Lack of resources
- Victim may be risking custody of her children if she comes forward
- Others?

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

- Same sex violence vs. Gay or Lesbian battering
 - Same sex violence does not necessarily mean the two people are lesbian or gay

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

BIGGEST RESOURCE

- **Your local county DV Program**
 - Updates on services during the pandemic
 - Batterer's programs

STATEWIDE RESOURCES

- **NJ Coalition to End Domestic Violence**
 - Contact NJCEDV to find your local program
 - Njcedv.org
 - 609-584-8107
- **Domestic Violence Response Teams**
 - 40 hour training -state mandated and is required to have advocates be confidential under the law
- **Domestic Violence Shelters**
 - At least one in every county in NJ
 - Provide: 24-hour hotline, residential (emergency shelter) and non residential services. Also advocacy, community education, information and referrals, children services
- **Police/NJ Law**

SERVICES DURING PANDEMIC

- County DV programs and Courts are offering services - some may be done remotely, but most, if not all, are still being offered.

Questions?