

Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach Awareness—Services—Prevention

Domestic Violence Overview

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Domestic Violence Overview 1 Hour - May 2016

Agenda

- Introductions, Mission, and Goals
- Leslie's Story: Really? [20]
- Domestic Violence (DV) Dynamics [10]
- Nicci's Story: Teen Dating Violence [15]
- U.S. Catholic Bishops on DV [10]
- Awareness, Services, Prevention [5]

Goals

1. **Establish** an intellectual and emotional **basis** for understanding and ministering to domestic violence victims and witnesses, and for dealing with abusers.
2. **Recognize** that **prevention** is a critical component of an effective domestic violence ministry.
3. **Provide** sound **information**, good reference materials, and useful resources.

Keep in Mind

- Both **women and men** are victims of domestic violence and dating violence.
- Domestic violence and dating violence are **never** the **victim's fault**.
- From time to time, this presentation **focuses on women** as victims since approximately 85% of victims are women. This does not in any way intend to diminish men's suffering.

First Person Accounts

- Leslie Morgan Steiner¹: Really?

Questions to consider as you watch this video:

- What trapped Leslie?
- How did she remedy her problem?

What is Domestic Violence?

■ Domestic violence:

- is a **pattern** of abuse
- used to exert **power and control** over another person
- is in the context of a **dating, family, or household** relationship

Father Charles W. Dahm, O.P.², and Reverend Joyce Galvin³



Types of Abuse and Dimensions

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines four types of abuse. We add a fifth category.
 - Physical
 - Sexual
 - Stalking
 - Psychological
 - [Economic]

“National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC). The survey is comprised of [16,507 completed interviews](#), 9,086 women and 7,421 men.⁴

Types of Abuse and Dimensions

- Abuse by Rape, Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by an Intimate Partner

For all women in the racial group listed:

- Multiracial: **53.8%**, or 0.7 million women, were abused.
- American Indian/Alaska Native:
46.0%, or 0.4 million women, were abused.
- Black: **43.7%**, or 6.4 million women, were abused.
- Hispanic: **37.1%**, or 5.6 million women, were abused.
- White: **34.6%**, or 28.1 million women, were abused.
- Asian/Pacific Islander:
19.6%, or 1.1 million women, were abused.

Myths and Facts

- Myth: Drugs, alcohol, stress, mental illness, unemployment, children, poverty, childhood trauma... cause domestic violence
- ✓ Fact: Domestic violence is about power and control. Many factors can aggravate DV, but are not causes.
- ✓ Fact: Those under the influence of alcohol tend not to beat up their bosses.

Myths and Facts

- Myth: Children are unaware of the domestic violence in their homes.
- ✓ Fact: Children are frequently eyewitnesses to most occurrences of domestic violence in their homes.
- ✓ Fact: It is estimated that between 15* and 18** million children are witnesses to severe physical violence against their mothers.

*Rene McDonald et al., "Estimating the Number of American Children Living in Partner-Violent Families," *Journal of Family Psychology* Vol. 20, No.1 (2006) 137–142. The estimate is based on 2001 United States census data.⁵

**Healthy Relationships Curriculum Initiative Concept Phase" (2013) 49. See ACDVO website . The estimate is based on 2010 United States census data.

Signs & Symptoms

■ Victims

- **Isolation** from family, friends, church
- **Denial** of seriousness of situation, minimization
- **Excuses** for partner
- **Depression**, passivity, anxiety, panic, drug use
- **Health issues**, bruises, eating disorders, sleep disorders
- **Withdrawal**
- **Poor** job performance
- Note: These symptoms may have other causes.

Why Victims Stay

- Don't know it is domestic violence.
- Believe abuser will change
- Children
- Economic dependence
- Lack of resources and support
- Identity – need a partner
- Think they deserve it
- Denial

Mindset of Perpetrators

- Abusers are found in all:
 - Races
 - Sexual orientations
 - Religions
 - Neighborhoods
 - Socioeconomic groups
 - Ethnicities
 - Educational levels
 - Professions and walks of life

Mindset of Perpetrators

- Abusers Tend to Have a Jekyll-and-Hyde Personality
 - They tend to be charming.
 - They are nice.
 - They are smart.
 - They hide abuse well.
 - They are destructive.

Interacting with Victims

- Validate victim's feelings.
 - I believe what you are telling me.
 - You are not alone.
 - I can sense how difficult this must be for you.

Interacting with Victims

■ Do

Accompany the victim through steps victim chooses:

- Give the victim referral information and resources.
- Calling shelters
- Visiting a police station...

Interacting with Victims

- Do not

- You feel it is necessary to get both sides of the story because...
- You want to be fair.
- You make an appointment with both of them.

- Bad idea. This is dangerous.

Interacting with Abusers

- Be prepared.

When speaking to an abuser, understand that they are likely to be:

- A liar and self-absorbed.
- Righteous, arrogant, and narcissistic.
- Jealous or envious.

Interacting with Children

- This advice is for parents, guardians, and DV ministry members. Children need to hear that DV:
 - It is not okay.
 - It is not your fault.
 - I will help to keep you safe.

ADVA (Against DV & Abuse), Devon County Council, UK⁶—quoted

Interaction

- If you are not sure of a course of action, talk to a professional.

Do No Harm!

First Person Accounts

■ Nicci's Story⁷: Teen Dating Violence

Questions to consider as you watch this video:

- What makes an impression on you?
- Are there any similarities between Nicci and Leslie's stories?
- What action did Nicci take?
- How can we help others like Nicci?

Teen Dating Violence

- Unhealthy Relationship Traps:
 - “I didn’t know it was abuse.”
 - “I thought I could fix it.”
 - “I kept silent.”
- Recognizing unhealthy relationships and knowing what action to take are critical.

Teen Dating Violence

- 22.4% of women and 15.0% of men first experienced some form of partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age.

Dating Matters Flyer 2012, CDC–quoted¹⁰

Teen Dating Violence

- Warning Signs for Victims:
 - Isolation from family and friends
 - Loss of interest in activities and hobbies that were once enjoyable
 - Making excuses for a dating partner's behavior
 - Changes in eating or sleeping patterns, or alcohol or drug use
 - Loss of self-confidence

Teen Dating Violence

■ **STOP!** Signs for Teens:

1. Your partner **physically abuses** you **one time**.
2. Your partner tries to **isolate you** from family and friends.
3. Your partner attempts to **destroy your self-esteem** and self-confidence.
4. You think you need to **rescue or change your partner**. You can't.



“When I Call for Help”

A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women



A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops⁸

The Bishops' Position on Domestic Violence

- “As pastors of the Catholic Church in the United States,
 - we state as clearly and strongly as we can that **violence** against women, inside or outside the home,
 - is ***never*** justified.”

USCCB, 2002-quoted including the following slides in this section.

The Bishops' Position on Domestic Violence

■ Religion: Resource or Roadblock?

- As a resource:
 - religion encourages women to resist mistreatment.
- As a roadblock:
 - its misinterpretations can contribute to the victim's self-blame and suffering due to the abuser's rationalizations.

The Bishops' Position on Domestic Violence

- A correct reading of Scripture:
 - leads to an **understanding** of the equal dignity of men and women
 - and to relationships based on **mutuality and love**.

The Bishops' Position on Domestic Violence

- Husbands should love their wives as they love their own body, as Christ loves the Church.
- Forgiveness does not mean forgetting the abuse or pretending it did not happen.
- Forgiveness is not permission to repeat the abuse.

The Bishops' Position on Domestic Violence

- An abused woman's suffering is not punishment from God.
- This image of a harsh, cruel God runs contrary to the biblical image of a kind, merciful, loving God.

The Bishops' Position on Domestic Violence

- No person is expected to stay in an abusive marriage.
- We encourage abused persons who have divorced to investigate the possibility of seeking an annulment.

The Bishops' Position on Domestic Violence

- It is important to note that when dealing with **people who abuse**, church ministers need to **hold them accountable** for their behavior.
- **Couples counseling is not appropriate** and can endanger the victim's safety.

The Bishops' Position on Domestic Violence

- For Pastor and Pastoral Staff [and Team]
 - Ask direct questions if you suspect abuse.
 - Have an action plan in place in case an abused woman calls on you for help.
 - Discuss domestic violence in marriage prep sessions.

Awareness

- Awareness is critical to combating domestic and dating violence because it:
 - **Shines a light** on the realities that victims and witnesses face.
 - **Gives voice** to victims' silence.
 - **Educates abusers**. Abuse is a crime and a sin.
 - **Provides hope**. My community knows. My community cares.
 - **DV does not** have to be a way of life.

Awareness

- Liturgies can reach victims, witnesses, abusers, and the parish community at the same time.

This opportunity cannot be duplicated.

USCCB⁸-adapted

Awareness

- “Be aware of the fact that possibly some form of domestic violence may impact a third of those who will be listening to your homily on a given Sunday.”
- “The Scripture readings of almost every Sunday of the liturgical year afford us the opportunity to speak about gospel values of love, respect, kindness, and gentleness to others, especially to those with whom we live.”
- “Just a simple and pastorally sound reference to domestic violence in a homily lets people know that it is okay to approach you about the matter for help.”

USCCB⁸-quoted

Awareness

- For suggestions for preaching about family violence, see <http://www.usccb.org/about/laity-marriage-family-life-and-youth/womens-issues/preachint-tips.cfm>

Awareness

- Utilize Prayers of the Faithful
- Describe what abuse is so that women recognize what is happening to them.
- Identify violence against women as a sin in parish reconciliation services.

Services

- Referrals to local domestic violence agencies
- Support Groups and Counseling

Prevention

- In our opinion, to be effective a dating violence-prevention program must at a minimum:
 - **Build Awareness.** Teens need to know the dynamics of dating violence—its warning signs and stop signs.
 - **Identify Support Services.** Help is available to prevent further hurt and unhappiness. Consult an adult they trust.
 - **Urge Action.** Teens need to get out of an unhealthy relationship immediately.

Prevention

- In Development:

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
(CDC) Study

- **Dating Matters Curriculum:** Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships
- Instruction: Grades 6, 7 & 8 2013 – 2015
 - Baltimore, Ft. Lauderdale, Chicago & Oakland
 - 12 Schools each; Oakland, 9 schools

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC) Dating Matters Initiative.⁹

Prevention

- Needs attention:
 - Campus Sexual-Assault Study, 2007
6,800 undergraduates: 5,466 women
 - 19% of women, or 1,073, were victims of attempted or completed sexual assault since entering college.

Christopher P. Krebs, et al., The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study Final Report, October 2007.¹⁰

Closing Remarks

- We set out to:
 1. Establish an intellectual and emotional basis for understanding and ministering to domestic violence victims and witnesses, and for dealing with abusers.
 2. Recognize that prevention is a critical component of an effective domestic violence ministry.
 3. Provide sound information, good reference materials, and useful resources.

Evaluation

Presentation References

1. Leslie Morgan Steiner,
http://www.ted.com/talks/leslie_morgan_steiner_why_domestic_violence_victims_don_t_leave.html

Presentation References

2. Fr. Charles W. Dahm, O.P.,
<http://stpiusvparish.org>.

Presentation References

3. Reverend Joyce Galvin,
http://www.womenofvalorministry.org/home_page0.aspx

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4. “National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), find survey pdf [http://www.cdc.gov/search.do?q=National+Intimate+partner+and+sexual+violence+survey+2010&btnG.x=28&btnG.y=8&oe=UTF-8&ie=UTF-8&sort=date%3AD%3AL%3Ad1&ud=1&site=default_collection.](http://www.cdc.gov/search.do?q=National+Intimate+partner+and+sexual+violence+survey+2010&btnG.x=28&btnG.y=8&oe=UTF-8&ie=UTF-8&sort=date%3AD%3AL%3Ad1&ud=1&site=default_collection)

Presentation References

5. Rene McDonald et al., “Estimating the Number of American Children Living in Partner-Violent Families,” *Journal of Family Psychology* Vol. 20, No. 1 (2006) 137–142. The estimate is based on 2001 United States census data. Search title.

Also see “Healthy Relationships Curriculum Initiative Concept Phase” (2013) 49. See website referenced in slide 1. The estimate is based on 2010 United States census data.

Presentation References

6. ADVA(Against DV & Abuse),
http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic_violence.htm

Presentation References

7. Nicci's Story, Love is Not Abuse,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyjIEZY-Wyo>

Presentation References

8. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Response on Domestic Violence, see <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/domestic-violence/when-i-call-for-help.cfm>

For suggestions for preaching about family violence, see <http://www.usccb.org/about/laity-marriage-family-life-and-youth/womens-issues/preachint-tips.cfm>

For PowerPoint presentation, Pastoral Response see, <http://www.usccb.org/about/laity-marriage-family-life-and-youth/womens-issues/upload/HELPPP.ppt>

Presentation References

9. Dating Matters Flyer 2012, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/datingmatters_flyer_2012-a.pdf. Also see
Dating Matters Initiative, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datingmatters/index.html>

Presentation References

10. Christopher P. Krebs, et al., The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study Final Report, October 2007. Prepared for National Institute of Justice. NIJ Grant No. 2004-WG-BX-0010. See <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221153.pdf>