

Intimate Partner Violence: Consequences and Intervention

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Overview

- Overview of literature
- Incidence of intimate partner violence
- Consequences of intimate partner violence
- Response to intimate partner violence



Growing Public Health Concern

- ❑ In every country where reliable, large-scale studies have been conducted, between 10% and 50% of women report physical abuse by an intimate partner.
- ❑ Population-based studies report between 12 and 25% of women have experienced attempted or completed forced sex by an intimate partner or ex-partner at some time in their lives.



Studies on Violence against Women

- Indicate that:
 - the perpetrators of violence against women are almost exclusively men;
 - women are at greatest risk of violence from men they know;
 - women and girls are the most frequent victims of violence within the family and between intimate partners



Studies on Violence against Women

- Indicate that:
 - physical abuse in intimate relationships is almost always accompanied by severe psychological and verbal abuse;
 - social institutions put in place to protect citizens too often blame or ignore battered women.



Intimate Partner Violence

- Coercive control underlies the multidimensional expression of IPV
- Includes:
 - physical violence & injuries
 - emotional, verbal, or psychological abuse
 - sexual coercion
 - rape
 - stalking



Intimate Partner Violence Mortality

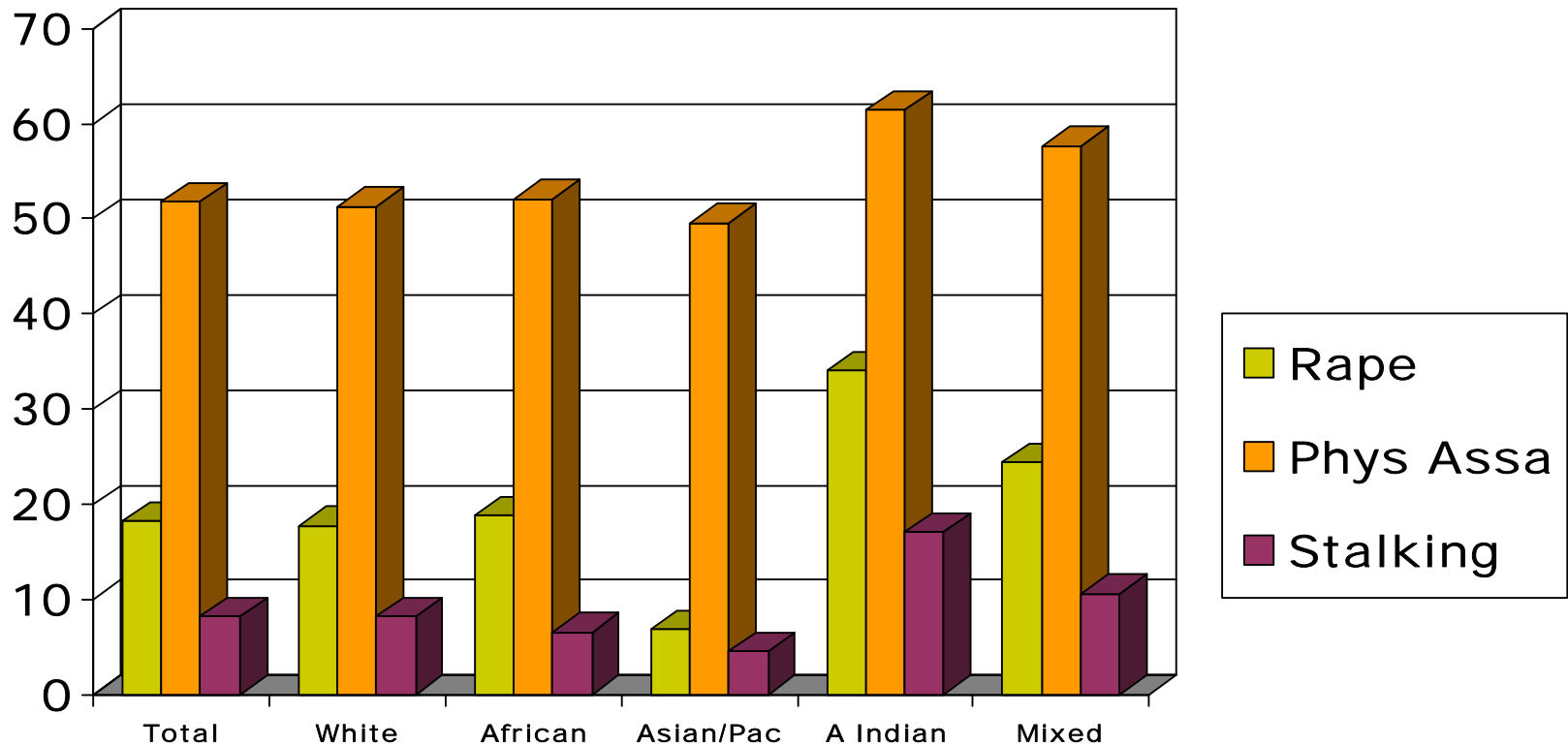
- Source for information is the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting and Supplemental Homicide Report programs.
 - Captures 95% of homicides, IPV perpetrators identity is known in most cases.
 - When a woman is murdered, the perpetrator is likely to be a spouse or intimate partner rather than a stranger.
 - African American rate higher than the general population



Domestic Violence

- High rate of spousal murder in the African American community
 - Intra-familial homicides account for nearly 1 of 6 homicides in the community
 - Youth may not only witness spousal homicides, but witness the violent relationships that exist

Lifetime Victimization of Women (%) by Type of Victimization and Race





Nonfatal Intimate Partner Violence

- US Institute of Justice & the Centers for Disease Control collaborated on the National Violence Against Women Survey
 - Little difference is observed between African American and European American women in non-fatal violence (Ns small in other categories)
 - Only half of victims report to the police, with African Americans more likely to report

Stalking

- Stalking and morbid jealousy are risk factors for severe and lethal violence
 - Former partners are more likely to stalk than current partners
 - High risk when women ask a partner to leave & they refuse, the woman leaves and refuses to return, when there have been threats to safety if leave
 - American Indians appear to have higher rates, with no other differences noted by ethnicity

Consequences: Health

- Disproportionate use of health care
- Diminished physical health
- Poor health care behaviors
- Increased use of harmful tension reduction strategies
 - Of women injured by IPV fewer than half sought care
 - African American & American Indian women reportedly experience more severe injuries & are more likely to have a weapon used against them



Consequences: Health

Intimate Partner Violence associated with:

- the increase of sexual risk-taking among adolescents,
- the transmission of STDs, including HIV/AIDS,
- unplanned pregnancies,
- precipitating various gynecological problems including chronic pelvic pain and painful intercourse

Consequences: Health

- ❑ **Women often present with general or somatic complaints**
- ❑ **More disordered eating**
- ❑ **Reportedly, Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian IPV victims will not voluntarily disclose & prefer that providers ask directly**
- ❑ **Do not expect intervention in the healthcare, but referrals**
- ❑ **Research on IPV during pregnancy is mixed**

Consequences: Mental Health

- Some studies have suggested increased reports of mental health consequences among Hispanic and African American women.
 - Acute Stress Disorder (within the first month after traumatic event)
 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (one month after a traumatic event)
 - Depression
 - Anxiety

Consequences: Mental Health

- Reacts with intense feelings of fear, helplessness or horror to an event that threatens serious injury or physical integrity
- Primary Symptoms of ASD & PTSD
 - Re-experiencing
 - Avoidance
 - Hyperarousal



Consequences: Mental Health

□ Re-experiencing

- Re-live sensations of traumatic event through intrusive memories, nightmares, flashbacks, hallucinations
- Emotional and physical distress when reminded of the events



Consequences: Mental Health

□ Avoidance

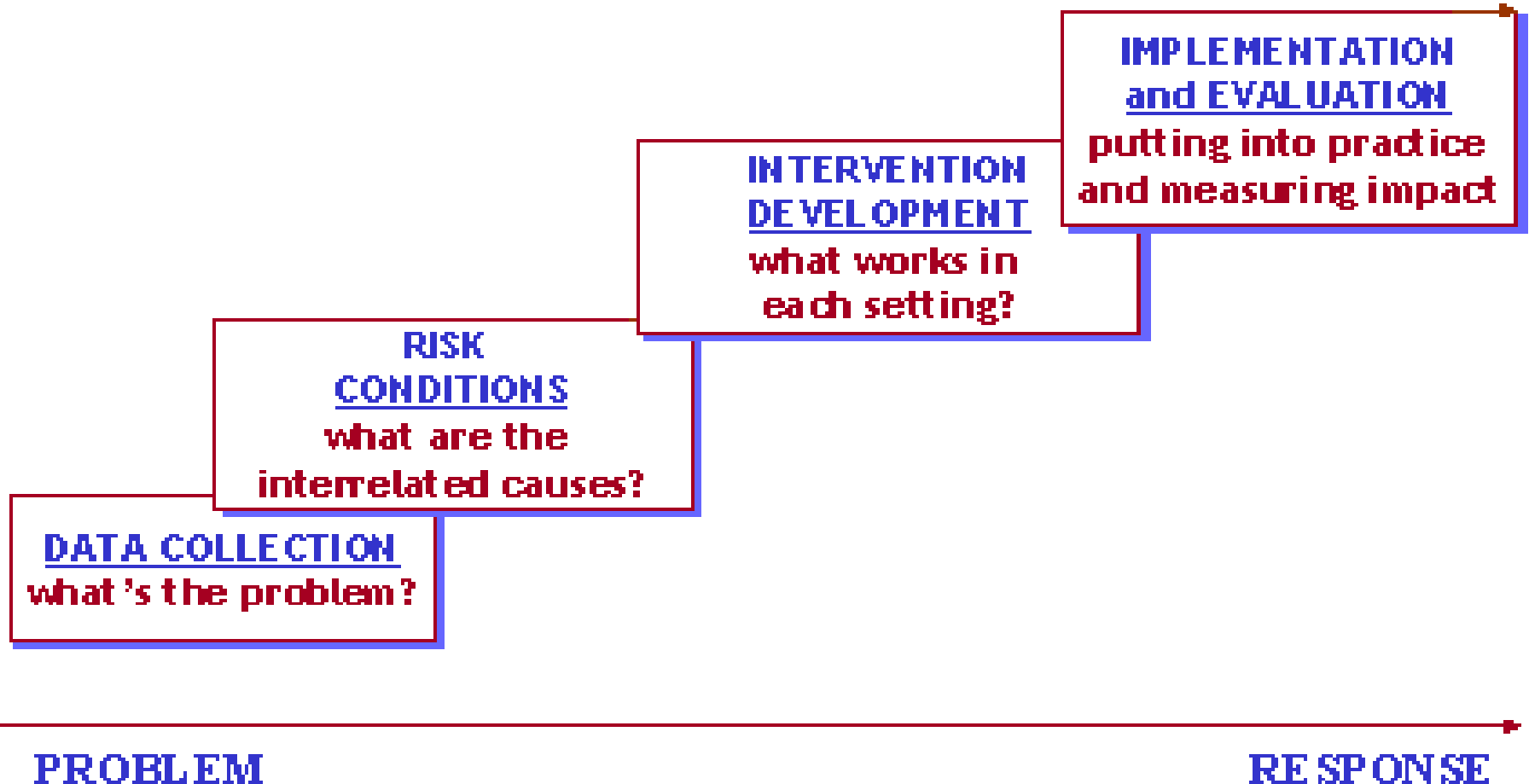
- Avoid all reminders of the event in an effort to reduce distress
- Avoidance of feeling through emotional shutdown (dissociation)
- Withdrawal
- Sense of foreshortened future

Consequences: Mental Health

□ Hyperarousal

- Significant increase in physical arousal that was not present before the IPV
- Sleep difficulties, irritability, aggression, concentration difficulties, motor restlessness, hypervigilance, exaggerated startle response

Public Health Approach





Response

- Referrals
 - Safety Planning
 - Legal Assistance
 - Shelters
 - Financial & material resources
 - Support groups
 - Interventions that recognizes life circumstances
 - Intervention programs for male spouses/partners

Response

- Need awareness of exposure, without further stigmatization of African Americans
- Screening
- Prevention that is community based



**BREAKING THE SILENCE
IN
ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES**

Gloria J. Johnson, Ph.D.
Founder/Chief Executive Office
Life Source Consultants



PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION ISSUES

□ *Recognizing Barriers*

- Age
- Traditions
- Religious Beliefs
- Fear of Isolation, Alienation, and Rejection
- Loyalty



PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION ISSUES

□ *Recognizing Barriers*

- Guarded Trust/Reluctance to Discuss Private Matters
- Distrust of the Legal System
- Not Sure of Culturally Competent Service Providers
- Non-Citizens: Fear of Deportation



PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION ISSUES

□ *Challenges and Choices*

- The Man of Color
- The Woman of Color



PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION ISSUES

□ STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE

- Break the “Code of Silence”
- Create Partnerships
- Looking Forward