

Is a Higher Socioeconomic Status (SES) a Determinant For Domestic Violence?

Introduction

•Emergency services attend 200 domestic violence situations daily—that’s 1 every 7 minutes!

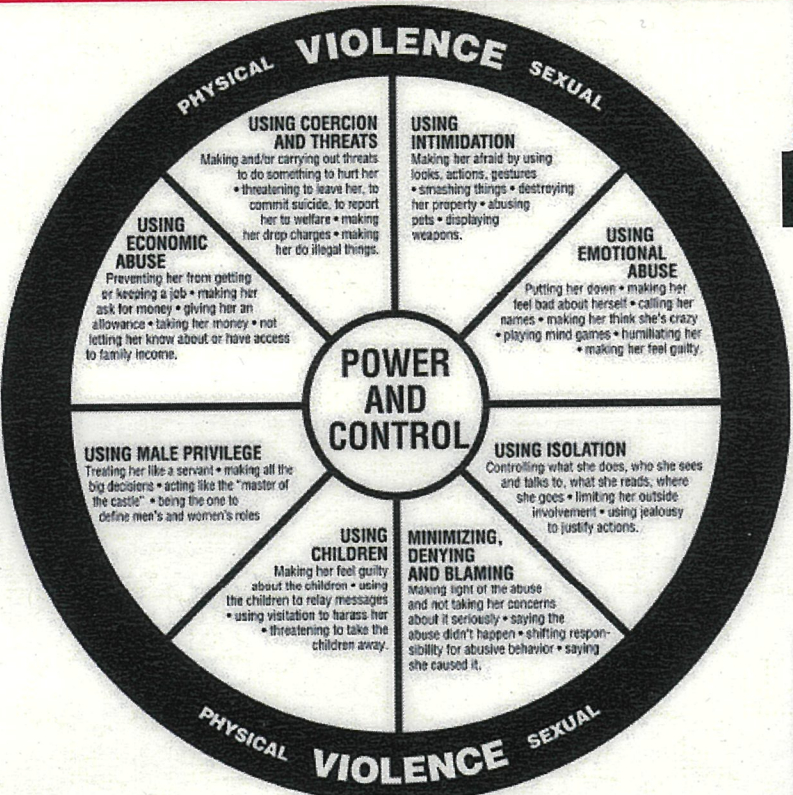
(National Collective of Independent Women’s Refugees Inc., 2014)

•On average, 6 men, 14 women and 7-10 children are killed by a family member or someone entrusted in their care every year. (NZ Government, 2012)

•In 12 months, Child Youth and Family received 4,766 neglect cases, 3,249 physical abuse cases, 1,396 sexual abuse cases, 12,114 emotional abuse cases and 3,884 cases of children living in out-of-home care. (NZ Government, 2012)

Clinical Issue

- ⇒ Why is domestic violence poorly represented in high SES communities as a public health issue?
- ⇒ Abuse should be acknowledged in all spheres of society and not stereotypical of a lower SES



<http://www.theduluthmodel.org/pdf/PowerandControl.pdf>

CO-OPERATION between health professionals & crisis intervention teams

ACKNOWLEDGE reporting & discussing abuse as safe

Provide SUPPORT

Recommendations

Emphasise EVERYONE IS AT RISK

AWARENESS of abuse signs and symptoms

ASK!
It lets people know it is a serious issue

Research

1. A comparison of abuse in Jewish (high SES) and Arab (low SES) school communities:

Jewish Schools	Arab Schools
No relationship between SES &	Higher levels of abuse by lower
Higher levels of reporting all variations of abuse	More reports of physical abuse and threats

SES is not always a risk factor for violent behaviour (Khoury-Kassabri, Benbenishty, & Astor, 2005, p.175)

2. “the fewer resources a woman has, the less power she has; therefore, she is less likely to leave the abusive relationship”

(Awang & Hariharan, 2011)

- A high SES does not always require 2 incomes, leaving 1 financially dependent partner



Potential for inability to leave an abusive environment

Conclusion

Domestic abuse stems from multiple determinants

By encouraging all aspects of a social climate to understand, acknowledge, discuss and report abuse, we can reduce the occurrence of domestic violence and emphasise that it is a significant health concern which is not to be tolerated—at any level of society.

References

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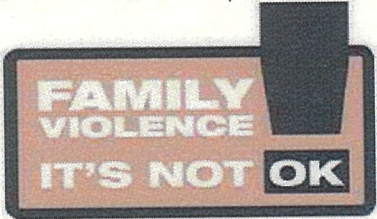
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Category	Information Relating to Question	Explanation
Population	Families that are classed to have a high socioeconomic status with or without children.	It is well known and published that a low socioeconomic position is a common determinant for domestic violence but there is very little public awareness regarding a high socioeconomic positioning as an abuse determinant.
Exposure (Inclusion Criteria)	Families subjected to domestic violence that are from positions of high socioeconomic status.	Aim to view articles that investigate domestic violence associated with families in high social standings and financially sound circumstances. I aim to look for articles that reveal trends in determinants for domestic violence that are not already very well known.
Comparison / Control (Exclusion Criteria)	Families subjected to domestic violence that are from positions of low socioeconomic status.	It is the standard assumption that a low socioeconomic status is a common determinant for domestic violence. I want to compare how common domestic violence is and how well known it is amongst the different societal statuses.
Outcome	Identification of violence amongst upper classes and higher socio-economic classes as a prominent issue.	I know that violence is often associated with lower socially ranked families so now I want to identify if domestic violence is just as apparent in higher socially ranked families and very well disguised / unpublicised or if a higher socioeconomic status is not a determinant for domestic violence.
Time	Continual.	Domestic violence does not present exist within a timeframe, regardless of its determinants.

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