Domestic Violence Training for Health Care Professionals

FOMA 15th Annual Cardiovascular & Medicine Symposium
St. Augustine, Florida

Presented by Hubbard House
May 18, 2014
History of Hubbard House

- Hubbard House was founded in 1976, the first domestic violence shelter in Florida.

- In 1997, the shelter and daycare moved into a new state-of-the-art facility made possible through a $4.6 million capital campaign.

- The facility can shelter approximately 72 victims and their children and includes a separate wing that can accommodate male victims.

- Hubbard House has expanded its services over the years to include a wide array of outreach programs for women, children, and men, as well as traditional shelter services.
Replacing Myths with Facts

- Abuse is not a function of age, race, religion, education, economic class or cultural background.
- Abuse does not stop and may even begin or intensify when a woman is pregnant.
- Domestic violence is not a private affair, it is a crime.
Incidence

- Estimates range from 960,000 to 3.9 million victims a year.
- Domestic Violence is virtually impossible to measure with accuracy due to:
  - Societal stigma
  - Varying definitions of DV

U.S. Department of Justice, Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends, May 2005
Incidence

- In 2005, 329 males and 1181 females were murdered by an intimate partner (Bureau of Justice Statistics 2007).
- 1 in 3 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime in the United States.
  - The least safe place for women in America is their own home.

Source:
Healthcare Implications for the Domestic Violence Victim

- Because of the lack of control in their relationship, victims of domestic violence are often unable to obtain proper medical treatment.
- Limited access to routine and/or emergency medical care
- Noncompliance with treatment regimens
- Not being allowed to obtain or take medication
Healthcare Implications for the Domestic Violence Victim

- Missed appointments
- Lack of independent transportation, access to finances, ability to communicate by phone
- Failure to use condoms or other contraceptive methods
- Not being told by a partner that he is infected with HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES
BY COUNTY: FDLE 2012

Duval: 6,970 (Pop. 869,729)
Clay: 841 (Pop. 192,071)
St. Johns: 816 (Pop. 196,071)
Baker: 45 (Pop. 26,938)
Nassau: 462 (Pop. 73,745)
Hubbard House Service
Statistics FY 12-13

5,676  Total Served

976  Sheltered
   509  Women
   456  Children
   11  Men

4,087  Served in Outreach
   3,155 Women
   476 Children
   456 Men

613  Batterers’ Intervention
   448 Men  165 Women
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<td>Outreach</td>
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Domestic Violence: Definitions and Dynamics
Florida Statute - 741.28

Domestic violence" means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

"Family or household member" means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.
Other Relevant Statutes

- Dating Violence
- Stalking
- Sexual Assault
Behavioral Definition

Domestic Violence is

- the pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors
- including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion
- that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners or family members in order to gain and maintain power and control in the relationship.
Domestic Violence Is A Pattern Of:

Multiple tactics
- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Economic

Multiple episodes over time
Range of tactics
COMPONENTS OF ABUSE

- Motivation: domination and control
- Strategy: purposeful coercion
- Tactics: selectively chosen: physical, psychological, sexual, economic abuse
- Pattern: episodic, recurrent, chronic
- Impact: injury, pain, fear, isolation, death
Power and Control Wheel

Physical and sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are the most apparent forms of domestic violence and are usually the actions that allow others to become aware of the problem. However, regular use of other abusive behaviors by the batterer, when reinforced by one or more acts of physical violence, make up a larger system of abuse. Although physical assaults may occur only once or occasionally, they instill threat of future violent attacks and allow the abuser to take control of the woman’s life and circumstances.

The Power & Control diagram is a particularly helpful tool in understanding the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors, which are used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over his partner. Very often, one or more violent incidents are accompanied by an array of these other types of abuse. They are less easily identified, yet firmly establish a pattern of intimidation and control in the relationship.

- Coercion and Threats: Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her. Threatening to leave her, commit suicide, or report her to welfare. Making her drop charges. Making her do illegal things.
- Male Privilege: Treating her like a servant: making all the big decisions, acting like the "master of the castle," being the one to define men’s and women’s roles.
- Economic Abuse: Preventing her from getting or keeping a job. Making her ask for money. Giving her an allowance. Taking her money. Not letting her know about or have access to family income.
- Isolation: Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads, and where she goes. Limiting her outside involvement. Using jealousy to justify actions.
- Using Children: Making her feel guilty about the children. Using the children to relay messages. Using isolation to harass her. Threatening to take the children away.
- Minimizing, Denying, and Blaming: Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously. Saying the abuse didn’t happen. Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior. Saying she caused it.
Physical Abuse

- Slapping
- Hitting
- Biting
- Spitting
- Kicking
- Shaking
- Throwing Objects
- Pushing
- Punching
- Choking
- Restraining movement
Emotional Abuse: Verbal

- Name calling
- Constant criticism
- Shouting
- Insults
- Put-downs
- Blaming and shaming
- Threats of harm to victim
- Threats to harm children
- Threats to leave with children
- Threats to harm relatives and friends
- Threats to harm pets
Emotional Abuse: Mental, and Psychological

- Controlling access to friends, school, work, or family
- Forced isolation and imprisonment
- Intimidation
- Manipulating fear of physical harm
- Humiliation
- Extreme jealousy
- Threats to harm others
- Threats of suicide
- Destroying cherished objects
- Harming pets
Economic Abuse

- Rigidly controlling finances.
- Withholding money or credit cards.
- Forcing accounting for every penny spent.
- Withholding basic necessities (food, clothes, medications, shelter).
- Restricting to an allowance.
- Preventing the partner from working or choosing own career.
- Sabotaging partner’s job (making her miss work, calling constantly).
- Stealing or taking money.
Sexual Abuse

- Unwanted touching
- Forcing intercourse and other sexual acts
- Forcing a partner to watch pornography
- Denying contraception or protection from STDs
- Coerced sex through manipulation or threat
THE CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Learned Behavior:

- through observation
- through experience and reinforcement
- in culture
- in the family
- in communities, schools, peer groups, etc.
Domestic Violence Is Not Caused By:

- Genetics
- Illness
- Alcohol and/or drugs
- Stress and/or anger
- Out of control behavior
- Behavior of the victim or problems in the relationship
### Characteristics of the Abuser

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jealousy</th>
<th>Controlling Behavior</th>
<th>Whirl-Wind Romance</th>
<th>Unrealistic Expectation</th>
<th>Isolation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blames Others</td>
<td>Easily Intimidated</td>
<td>Cruelty to Animals</td>
<td>“Playful” Use of Force in Sex</td>
<td>Verbally Abusive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rigid Sex Roles</td>
<td>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</td>
<td>Past Battering</td>
<td>Threats of Violence</td>
<td>Breaking or Striking Objects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN
Domestic Violence and Pregnancy

Significant alterations in relationship:

- Abuse may begin or escalate during pregnancy
- New baby is at risk
Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

Infants:

– Cry more and are more irritable
– Sleep disturbances
– Digestive problems
– May resist being held or fed
– May be developmentally delayed
Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

Toddlers and pre-schoolers:

• Low self-esteem and lack self-confidence
• More aggressive or withdrawn
• Exhibit high levels of anxiety and fearfulness, with physical manifestations such as stomach aches and nightmares
Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

Older Children

– Low self-esteem
– Feel inadequate for not being able to protect adult
– May be suicidal
– Aggressive
– May lack social skills and do poorly in school
– Juvenile delinquency or battering in dating relationships
Children Coping with Family Violence

- Four out of five children from violent homes witness extreme violence directed at themselves or others in their own homes.

- 30 to 40% of women who are battered grew up seeing their mothers being abused.

- 50 to 80% of men who batter witnessed their father’s violence against their mothers.

- Three to five children in each classroom may be witnessing violence in their homes.

- Violent relationships begin when teens are about 15 years old and become involved in serious relationships.
THE VICTIM
Situational Barriers to Leaving an Abusive Relationship

- Fear for life or the lives of children
- Fear of losing custody of children
- Fear of physical danger to self or children
- Lack of alternative housing
Situational Barriers to Leaving an Abusive Relationship

- Lack of job skills
- Financial dependence
- Isolation from family and friends
- Fear of involvement in court process
- Fear of retaliation from abuser
Emotional Barriers to Leaving an Abusive Relationship:

- Love
- Fear cannot survive emotionally alone
- Insecurity over independence
- Cultural or religious beliefs
- Too exhausted and stressed to act
- Fear of emotional damage to children
- Guilt over failure of marriage
- Belief that partner will change
Stages/Reactions to Abuse

- Denial/Minimization
- Self-Blame
- Recognizing Victimization
- Seeking Help
- Ambivalence/Indignation
- Living without violence
- Integration
THE ROLE OF THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

- Recognize
- Respond
- Refer
Signs of Domestic Abuse

- Central pattern of injuries or multiple injuries (especially to head, face, chest, abdomen and genital areas)
- Evidence of strangulation (neck pain, sore throat, scratch marks, tiny red spots, red eyes, ears ringing, nausea, light headedness, raspy voice)
Signs of Domestic Abuse

- Injuries suggesting a defensive posture
- Injuries that are inconsistent with the patient’s account
- Multiple injuries in various stages of healing
- Delay between the onset of the injury and treatment
Signs of Domestic Abuse

- Frequent emergency room visits
- Injury/violence during pregnancy
- First and second trimester bleeding
- Late prenatal care (3rd trimester/medical non-compliance)
- Poor maternal weight gain
- Evidence of sexual assault
- Sexually transmitted diseases
Indirect Signs of Abuse You May Observe From a Batterer

- Stands watch, monitors interaction
- Answers questions directed to patient
- Overly solicitous demeanor
- Refuses to leave exam
- Continually tests limits of the visit
- Hostile, surly behavior to staff
Talking To A Victim Of Domestic Violence

- Interview patient individually
- Explain that questions are standard procedure
- Remain non-judgmental
- Be non-confrontational
- Validate feelings
- Give the victim the right to decide what is best
- Don’t suggest family or marital counseling or mediation
Communicating With Victims

Ask open-ended questions, such as:

- “How did the injury occur?”
- “How often has this happened?”
- “Do you feel unsafe at home?”
- “Is there anything happening in your relationship that makes you uncomfortable?”
Don’t Ask Blaming Questions

- Why haven’t you left?
- Why do you keep going back?
- What did you do to provoke the attack?
- What were you doing right before you were attacked?
- Why don’t you just leave?
Intervention Tips

- Listen to the patient and provide validating messages
- Listen and respond to safety issues
- Provide information about domestic violence to the patient
- Make referrals to local resources
- Follow-up
When to Report  F.S. 790.24

- Any physician, nurse, or employee thereof and any employee of a hospital, sanitarium, clinic, or nursing home knowingly treating any person suffering from a gunshot wound or life-threatening injury indicating an act of violence, or receiving a request for such treatment, shall report the same immediately to the sheriff's department of the county in which said treatment is administered or request therefor received.

- This section does not affect any requirement that a person has to report abuse pursuant to chapter 39 or chapter 415.

- Any such person willfully failing to report such treatment or request therefor is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.775.082 or s.775.083.
SPECIAL CHALLENGES: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LATER LIFE
Elder Abuse: A Family Crime

- Adult children make up 40 percent of the offenders.
- Spouses and intimate partners represent the second most prevalent group of offenders at 15 percent, followed by grandchildren and other relatives.
- Only 3 percent are service or healthcare providers.
Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Types of Abuse

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional or Psychological
- Financial Exploitation
- Neglect
Categories of Domestic Abuse in Later Life

- Domestic violence grown old
- A new partnership or marriage
- Late onset abuse
- Adult child, grandchild, other family member or caregiver
Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Important Issues

- An abuser can often easily claim that an injury is due to an accident during care-giving.
- An abuser may claim that the abuse was a one-time incident caused by the stress of care-giving.
- With older victims, law enforcement, social service and medical providers may be more ready to believe these excuses.
Resources for Elder Abuse

- Adult Protective Services (DCF)  1-800-96-ABUSE
- Domestic Violence Centers
- Sexual Assault Agencies
- Elder Service Agencies
- Advocacy Groups
- Law Enforcement
- Legal Advocacy
Special Challenges: Teen Dating Violence
Dating Violence is any intentional sexual, physical or psychological attack on one partner by the other in a dating relationship.
Dating violence means violence between individuals who have or have had a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the consideration of the following factors:

- Dating relationship must have existed within the past 6 months.

- Nature of the relationship must have been characterized by the expectation of affection or sexual involvement between the parties.

- Frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship must have included that the persons have been involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship.
Characteristics of Teen Dating Abuse

- Presence of power and the desire to control

- Prevalent in all communities and is not unique to one class, race or culture

- As with adults, abuse occurs in heterosexual and same-sex relationships
Abusive Behaviors in Teen Relationships

- Using put-downs, insults, name-calling, humiliation
- Making threats “If you leave me I’ll…”
- Spreading rumors
- Threatening to harm friends or new partner
- Threatening to commit suicide if the relationship ends
- Blaming the person for the abuse or for all the problems in the relationship
- Extreme possessiveness
- Constant accusations of cheating
Abusive Behaviors in Teen Relationships

- Stalking
- Stalking using technology such as texting or e-mailing excessively or using GPS tracking device
- Silent Treatment
- “Recruiting” friends to watch partner
- Teasing and Bullying
# Hubbard House

## Services and Programs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Education &amp; Professional Training</td>
<td>354-0076 Ext. 209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Shelter</td>
<td>354-3114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Center</td>
<td>6629 Beach Boulevard 8:30 am-4:40 pm M-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Team</td>
<td>400-6300 or 354-3114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Hour Hotline</td>
<td>(904) 354-3114 Statewide 1-800-500-1119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batterers’ Intervention Program</td>
<td>354-0076, ext. 283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Advocacy</td>
<td>630-1203/ 6274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Opportunities</td>
<td>354-0076 Ext. 251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift Store</td>
<td>6629 Beach Boulevard 400-6333</td>
</tr>
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Community Resources

- Hubbard House Hotline 354-3114
- Police Emergency 911
- State Attorney’s Office 630-2400 x2506
- Jacksonville Area Legal Aid 356-8371
- DCF 1-800-962-2873
- Sexual Assault Center 722-3000 (Women’s Center of Jacksonville)
- Statewide Hotline Number 1-800-500-1119
ON THE WEB

- [www.hubbardhouse.org](http://www.hubbardhouse.org)
- [www.fcadv.org](http://www.fcadv.org) (Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence)
- [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us) (National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life)