Male-Experienced IPV

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Kodiak Area Native Association
Kodiak Island

- Roughly 3,000 Alaska Native Beneficiaries
- 10 Federally Recognized Tribes
Kodiak Island

- Largest US Coast Guard Base in the Pacific
- 13,000 to 15,000 Residents
- 3,500 Kodiak Brown Bears (1 per Square Mile)
Learning Objectives

• Increase knowledge about IPV and violence experienced by men
• Understand unique barriers encountered by men seeking help
• Learn about various outreach and engagement programs
• Examine ways to adapt programming to account for COVID-19
Outline

- Trauma in Alaska
- Male Victim Statistics
- AI/AN Male Victims
- Barriers
- Outreach & Engagement
Percentage of adults (18+) who experienced adverse childhood experiences prior to age 18, total counts, crude rates, by all Alaskans and Alaska Natives, 2013-2016 (3-year average)
Trauma in Alaska

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<td>Year study released</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABUSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbal/Emotional</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td><strong>34.9%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
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<td><strong>19.5%</strong></td>
<td>12.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td><strong>14.8%</strong></td>
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<td>12.7%</td>
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<td>Mental Illness in the Home</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
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<td><strong>24.3%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Incarcerated Family Member</td>
<td><strong>11.5%</strong></td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
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<td>8.6%</td>
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<td>Substance Abuse in Home</td>
<td><strong>33.8%</strong></td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Separation or Divorce</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witnessed Domestic Violence</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td><strong>18.9%</strong></td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
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Alaska’s 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey ACEs data compared to the CDC’s five-state study in 2009 using the same BRFSS module. Numbers in red indicate the highest percentage of the problem of the states reviewed.

Male-Experienced IPV

• 1 in 4 have experienced physical abuse (slapped, pushed, shoved, etc.)
• 1 in 7 have experienced *severe* physical abuse (struck with a fist or hard object, kicked, slammed against something, choked, burned, etc.)
• 48.8% of men experienced psychologically aggressive behavior (being kept track of, insulted/humiliated, felt threatened by a partner)
• 4 in 10 have experienced coercive control (isolation, blackmail, threats, economic control)
Male-Experienced IPV

• 47% will be victims of psychological aggression
• 28% will experience physical violence
• 7% will be victims of contact sexual violence
• 41% of AI/AN men will experience some form of IPV
Male-Experienced IPV

• Estimated 1.6 million men have reported being raped
• 1 in 19 men have been stalked to the extent they felt very fearful or believed they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed
• 46.7% reported being stalked by female perpetrators
• 13.4% of male high school students report physical or sexual abuse by a dating partner
AI/AN Populations

- 83% of adults have experienced some form of violence
- Men & Women
  - 81.6% compared to 84.3% (overall)
  - 73% compared to 66.4% (psychological aggression)
  - 43.2% compared to 55.5% (physical violence)
- Lifetime victimization rate for AI/AN adults compared to white counterparts is 1.2x for women and 1.3x for men
AI/AN Populations

- AI/AN men experience high rates of lifetime violence
  - Sexual violence – 27.5%
  - Physical violence by a partner – 43.2%
  - Stalking – 18.6%
  - Psychological aggression by a partner – 73%
AI/AN Populations

- Native Men
  - 1 in 4 expressed concern for their safety
  - 1 in 5 were physically injured
  - 1 in 10 missed work or school
  - 1 in 6 who need services cannot access them
Barriers

- Barriers for reporting and help-seeking
- Some similar to women/children, some different
Emotional Aspect

- Fear
- Commonly of not being believed
  - “I did not press charges for assault because there were no witnesses” (male victim)
- Less common due to fear of the abuser
- Female victims are 3x more likely to express fear of their partner
  - “I never felt there was a significant threat to my or anyone else’s safety during or after the incident” (male victim explaining why he did not report his partner)
Emotional Aspect

• Shame
  • “...men who report abuse from an intimate partner are viewed as cowards. Extremely embarrassed by this predicament, male victims are afraid of being laughed at or scorned. Due to embarrassment, male victims do not approach professional services.”
Social Perception

• Masculinity
  • “A complicating factor in the experience of IPV for men is the impact on their perceived masculinity, given the convergence of the construct of masculinity with power, control, and dominance.”
  • “As such, becoming a victim of IPV leads to ‘marginalized masculinity…To be labeled as abused is to be labeled as a female, which disavows any form of masculinity a man may attempt to claim.’”
  • “Due to prevailing norms regarding masculinity, men may be reluctant to express fear or to call the police even when they have every reason to do so.”
Social Perception

• Masculinity
  • “There was evidence in our study that the men experienced fears that their victimization would result in challenges to their masculinity, with fears that they would be seen as weak. Male IPV victimization seems incongruent with masculine gender norms of physical and emotional strength, which is likely to contribute to male victims’ feelings of shame and embarrassment.”
Social Perception

• Male-Victim Abuse is Less Serious
  • “Men’s violence against intimate female partners is considered more serious than women’s violence against male partners.”
  • Both men and women judge male-on-female violence as significantly more severe
    • The above effect is even larger for male observers
Social Perception

• Men as Perpetrators
  • “…if males are victims of DV, then it is due to the self-defense of women being abused.”
  • Men seeking help were accused of being the batterer 40.2%, 32.2%, and 18.9% of the time when contacting DV Agencies, Hotlines, and Online Resources
  • “The biggest challenge these men face is that people don’t believe them…We’ve gone through a lot of work to get to where women are believed, but now the pendulum has swung to the point that men are assumed to be the aggressor.”
Social Perception

• Denial of the Problem
  • “Despite evidence indicating that within some contexts IPV is perpetrated equally by men and women…societal narratives typically portray male perpetrators and female victims and regard female-perpetrated IPV as less serious and as occurring less frequently. The evidence of the prevalence of male victimization has been the subject of an ongoing and largely unresolved debate.”
Social Perception

• Denial of the Problem
  • “Women’s attempts to dominate men are much more likely to fail”
  • “Norms for female behavior work against women becoming abusers. These norms include: Defer to men; be nice – you can ‘catch more flies with honey’…soothe other people’s anger…keep the family together.”
  • “We don’t see heterosexual men whose self-esteem is destroyed by abuse, who give up school and career progress, who are forced into unwanted sex, or who flee for their lives. People intervene in abuse more than they used to, and if those men were out there, someone would have noticed.”
Legal System Bias

• Law Enforcement
  • 47% of male victims were threatened with arrest
  • 35% were ignored
  • 21% were actually arrested instead of the female perpetrator
  • “This is due to the disbelief that a woman could not have been the perpetrator of this type of crime and the male must be intimidating the woman to the point that the woman is attacking in self-defense.”
Legal System Bias

- Law Enforcement
  - In cases where the female partner is identified as the primary aggressor, only 41.5% of police asked the victim if they wanted the partner arrested
  - In 21%, the police refused to arrest the partner
  - In 38.7% the police said there was nothing they could do and left
  - In 25.4% of qualitative accounts, male victims indicated police did nothing and ignored or dismissed them
  - “They determined she was the aggressor, but said since I was a man it was silly to arrest her.”
Legal System Bias

• Law Enforcement
  • “I was not only not listened to, I was threatened with arrest if I continued to make these allegations, because women just do not do those sorts of things.” (male victim on police interaction)
  • “Some men have reported that when they call the police during an incident in which their female partners are violent, the police sometimes fail to respond. Other men reported being ridiculed by the police or being incorrectly arrested as the primary aggressor.”
Legal Biases

• Court System
  • Analyzed outcomes for TRO petitions from a California District Court
  • Judges were 13x more likely to grant a TRO requested by a female than a male
  • Sex differences leveled out as the severity of violence escalated
  • Men are significantly less likely to seek a TRO
    • One potential reason is lower need, men are less likely to fear retaliation by their partner
    • Men feel they are more likely to have their petition denied
    • Reduced willingness and knowledge of how to engage with services due to stigma/bias
Legal Biases

• Court System
  • 2004 study, “…found that women often threaten their male victims with the fact that they will report them as having assaulted themselves, if the police are called.”
  • 2005 study, “…examined the responses of the court to similar intimate partner violence allegations made by both male and female victims…hypothesized that the courts are not immune from social norms and that despite having neutral language within the law; the law still exhibits a different response to male versus female protection. The results of the study found that in this one court setting, male victims of intimate partner violence were not afforded the same protections as female victims…”
Legal Biases

• Court System
  • “Evidence suggests male underreporting is related to a lack of trust in police and fear of losing their relationships with their children. There is evidence that some female perpetrators capitalize on secondary abuse by threatening to report their victims as perpetrators of violence. This tactic relies on the inherent assumptions by many social service and justice workers that women are usually victims of violence and has been described as legal and administrative abuse. This type of abuse, in which legitimate services, such as family courts, are mobilized against the victim’s interests, was common enough in a small Australian study to be identified as a distinct category of abuse.”
Language

- Male victims often don’t identify with the language often used in the context of IPV, such as “domestic” or “family” violence.
- 2016 study from Portugal found that 76% of male victims did not seek help:
  - Most common reason was “I did not notice that I was a victim”
- Some data suggest men are more responsive to nongendered synonyms that do not have social connotations (i.e. “boundary crossings” instead of “abuse”).
Lack of Services

- As of October, 2017, there were only 2 male-only shelters in the US
- Publically funded shelters are required to provide services to men, but many have limited capacity/funding to do so
- Many shelters and programs use gendered language that gives an impression of limited access
- Kodiak’s primary resource for IPV is the Kodiak Women’s Resource & Crisis Center
Lack of Services

- **DV Agencies**
  - 43.7% sought help, only 44.8% said it was somewhat/very helpful
  - 49.9% of agencies indicated they “only help women”
  - 44.1% of men said agencies were not helpful at all, and 95.3% of those said they were given the impression that the agency was biased against men
  - 40.2% of men contacting agencies were accused of being the batterer
  - 15.2% were mocked by staff members for their situation
Lack of Services

- DV Hotlines
  - 23.4% of men called, only 31.4% said it was somewhat/very helpful
  - 63.9% of hotlines responded “we only help women”
  - 32.2% of hotlines accused the caller of being the batterer
  - 16.4% of callers were mocked by hotline staff for their situation
Lack of Services

- **DV Online Resources**
  - 42.9% of online resources responded “we only help women”
  - 18.9% of online resources accused the man of being the batterer
  - 25% of men using online resources were provided contact information that ended up being for a batterer’s intervention or anger management program
Lack of Services

• Quotes from Male Victims:
  • “They didn’t really listen to what I said. They assumed that all abusers are men and said that I must accept that I was the abuser. They ridiculed me for not leaving my wife, ignoring the issues about what I would need to do to protect my 6 children and care for them” (DV Agency)
  • “They offered to listen if I wanted to recount what had happened, but indicated that no support services were available” (DV Hotline)
  • “I was mostly just doing research after the occurrence to find out what I should do. I found mostly female help sites and was turned down by several so I gave up.” (Online Resource)
Summary

- Male-victim IPV is real
- AI/AN men, like women, face much higher rates than general population
- Characteristics look different than those for women
- Additional barriers are encountered by male victims
- Male-focused services are in short supply
- Incredibly high rates of trauma
• Historically underrepresented in outreach & engagement efforts
• Trauma has a myriad of negative impacts
  • PTSD & Mental Health
  • Homelessness
  • Substance Use
  • Negative Health Outcomes
Outreach & Engagement

• A 2010 report examined male engagement in DV-issues in Indian Country
  • Discusses the value of adult men mentoring adolescent and younger boys
  • Teaching coaches and church leaders how to engage boys and men in violence prevention
  • Role model, encourage, and empower youth to make responsible choices and about respect
  • Integrate the idea that respect is an aspect of culture
Outreach & Engagement

• SAMHSA Native Connections
  • Alaska grantees have kicked off a Men’s Wellness Digital Story Series
  • Focused on providing perspectives from men about the importance of culture on well-being
  • First set of stories debuted in November, 2020 and featured presentations about the value of canoe culture from a young man and traditional beliefs and practices from an Elder
  • SAMHSA Men's Wellness Digital Stories
Outreach & Engagement

• Dinner with Dad
  • Concept of the program was to provide a safe, positive environment for fathers and sons to interact
  • Guided and free-form activities, as well as discussions
  • Only a few events were held due to funding restrictions
  • Providing safe, male-spaces has value and allows many stigma and barriers to be bypassed
Outreach & Engagement

• COMPASS
  • Mentoring curriculum based on adult male mentors working with Alaskan men ages 12-18
  • Created by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) in May 2014
  • Designed to be highly adaptable for non-traditional settings
  • 139 mentors trained from 23 communities
1 RESPECT AND DISRESPECT

Respect

Think: Ask the young men to think about what respect means to them.
Pair: Have the young men pair up and answer the following:
• What does respect sound like?
  • What type of things do you hear when people respect one another? What do they say to each other? How do they respond to conflict?
• What does respect look like?
  • What types of things do you see when people respect one another? How do they treat one another?
• What does respect feel like?
  • What type of things do you feel in spaces where people respect one another?
Share: Have them share what they talked about to the entire group.

3 POSITIVE FOCUS

Disrespect

Think: Ask the young men to think about what disrespect means to them.
Pair: Have the young men pair up and answer the following:
• What does disrespect sound like?
  • What type of things do you hear when people don't respect one another? What do they say to each other? How do they respond to conflict?
• What does disrespect look like?
  • What types of things do you see when people don't respect one another? How do they treat one another?
• What does it feel like?
  • What type of things do you feel when people don't respect one another?
Share: Have them share what they talked about to the entire group.

RESPECT FOR SELF

Have the young men get into a circle. Invite one person into the center of the circle. Focusing on each person one at a time, have each person around the circle say one thing they like or appreciate about the person in the middle. Continue this until everyone has had a chance in the center of the circle.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

While your teen's self-esteem shouldn't rest on the opinions of others, it can be a boost to know that he is appreciated, and it is important to tell people that you appreciate them.
Outreach & Engagement

• COVID-19
  • Digital stories
  • Online support services
  • Social media campaigns
Contact Information

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References

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