

# Intersectionality

*The Multiple Jeopardy of Interpersonal Violence*



PARTNERING  CHANGE

# Points of Discussion

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- Interpersonal Violence/Facets
- Intersectionality
  - Layers of Intersectionality
- Case Study
- Culturally Competency/ Intersectionality

# WHAT IS IPV?

## Interpersonal Violence/ Domestic Violence **POWER and CONTROL**

- Physical Abuse (Hitting, punching, kicking),
- Economic Abuse (withholding finances),
- Verbal Abuse (Name Calling),
- Sexual Abuse (Marital Rape)
- Threats
  - Manipulation, and Intimidation

# Facets of Interpersonal Violence

- POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL



# Cycle of Violence



# What Is Intersectionality?

- “A Sociological Theory that seeks to examine the ways in which various socially and culturally constructed categories interact on multiple levels to manifest themselves as inequality in society. Intersectionality holds that the classical models of oppression within society, such as those based on race/ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, class, or disability do not act independent of one another; instead, these forms of oppression interrelate creating a system of oppression that reflects the "intersection" of multiple forms of discrimination.”
- [Encyclo.couk/define/intersectionality](http://Encyclo.couk/define/intersectionality)

# Layers of Intersectionality

- Race/Ethnicity
- Gender
- Age
- Socio Economic Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability
- Religion

# Culture Impacts Services

- Race might impact the particular person's circumstances, Crenshaw states "Women of color are less likely to have their needs met than women who are racially privileged."
- Crenshaw states in Mapping the Margins some women of color "are reluctant to call the police,....due to a general unwillingness among people of color to subject their private lives to the scrutiny and control of a police force that is frequently hostile" (Crenshaw).
- According to Perilla et al. (1994), marianismo prescribes submission, self-sacrifice and stoicism for women while machismo contains positive and negative characteristics for men. 'machismo' ideals also imply sexual prowess, heavy alcohol consumption, and aggressive behavior, as well as the belief that men are physically and morally superior to women" (p. 326).



# Research outcomes continued

- In many Asian cultures, according to Okamura et al. (1995), “the wife became part of the husband’s family and had limited rights” (p. 72) (submissiveness).

# Gender as an Inequality

- Societies are basically hierarchical in nature in that there is a dominant group(s) with subordinate group(s). The dominant group has an abundance of whatever constitutes power in that society. These resources may consist of land, money, stocks, animals, etc.
- Most societies are Patriarchal or ruled by the fathers, giving more power to men, therefore treating women as the subordinate (Crawford, P.26).

# Socio Economic Status

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- Unavailability of Resources/
- Lack of Accessible Services
- Unemployment/Underemployment
- Lack of Transportation
- Under Educated

# Sexual Orientation

- Minimal services
- Fear of being outed
- There are barriers to obtaining services and getting services to help due to sexism.
- Lesbians of Color face a triple jeopardy, women living in a sexist society, people of color living in a racist society, and lesbians living in a homophobic society (Kanuha, V., 1999, p.176).

# Disability

- Inability to Access Resources
- Accommodations Unavailable to physically impaired persons
- Disbelief in Abuse of Disabled
- Alternative forms of abuse not covered under protective orders.
- Amanda

# Religion

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- Catholic Religion
- Muslim Religion

## Case Study—Rosa—35 year old / mother of two

- Degrees or layers- discrimination may paralyze a domestic violence victim from seeking help.
- A Hispanic woman, Rosa, speaks very little English, taught from childhood the husband/man of the house has total control “Machismo” fears calling police or a domestic violence shelter to report abuse, going against cultural norms.

### Levels of Societal Barriers:

- Language Barrier
- Cultural Barriers
- Religious Barriers

# Social Work Values

As Social Workers our responsibility is to:

- ❑ Develop an Emotional and Intellectual Awareness–
- ❑ Considering Holistic needs of each client
- ❑ Considering Each Layer/Obstacle

- ✓ **Race/Ethnicity**
- ✓ **Gender Bias**
- ✓ **Age**
- ✓ **Socio economic status(Class)**
- ✓ **Sexual Orientation**
- ✓ **Disability**
- ✓ **Religion**

with a preparedness to meet each client exactly where she is, PIE, and a willingness to listen to our clients, inducing meaningful responses, drawing on diverse resources, (Devore and Schlesinger, 1999).



# Intersectionality as a Conceptual Framework

Intersectionality is a useful conceptual framework for understanding the help seeking and help receiving behaviors of all persons experiencing DV

It is vital that social workers think about every aspect of a client's being, providing proper resources, for each level or layer which may be problematic.

# Goal as Social Worker

## Provide Holistic Services

- Asha—Wisconsin agency –  
– African Americans
- Providence House—Project Reach

African American—Community Outreach

Distributing literature to community:

Beauty Parlors

Barber Shops

# Social Work Values--NASW

- “Enhance Human well-being
- Help meet the basic human needs of all people
- Needs and empowerment of vulnerable, oppressed, and poor
- Focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society
- Attention to environmental Forces—PIE
- Promote Social Justice and Social Change”

# Social Work Values --NASW

- “Sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity
- Strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice
- Social workers use Strengths Perspective w/clients to address their own needs.
- Service, Social justice, dignity & worth
- Importance of relationships
- Integrity and competence”.

# RESOURCES

- Abused Deaf Advocacy Services, Seattle, WA—provides advocacy services, (D.V. & S.A.) to those clients who are Deaf, Deaf-blind, or Hard of Hearing
- Sensitivity Training for Police Departments
- Sensitivity Training Judges

Cramer, Plummer 2008

# RESOURCES

❖ Cramer, E., Plummer, S.B., People of Color with Disabilities: Intersectionality as a Framework for Analyzing Intimate Partner Violence in Social, Historical, and Political Contexts, Columbia University Press, 2010.

❖ Crawford, M., Transformations Women,  
– Gender and Psychology, McGraw Hill,  
– Boston, 2006.

Devore, W., Schlesinger, E.G., Ethnic Sensitive Social Work Practice, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., Allyn and Bacon, Needham Heights, 1999.

Schaeffer, R.T., Racial and Ethnic Groups, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, 2008.

# ***THANK YOU***

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