

Redefining Domestic Violence:

From a Private Matter to a Public Health and Safety Crisis

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What is Domestic Violence?

“Domestic violence includes willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and other abusive behaviors as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one person over another.”

-National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV).

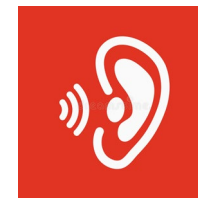
Abuse manifests as...



Physical



Emotional



Verbal



Sexual

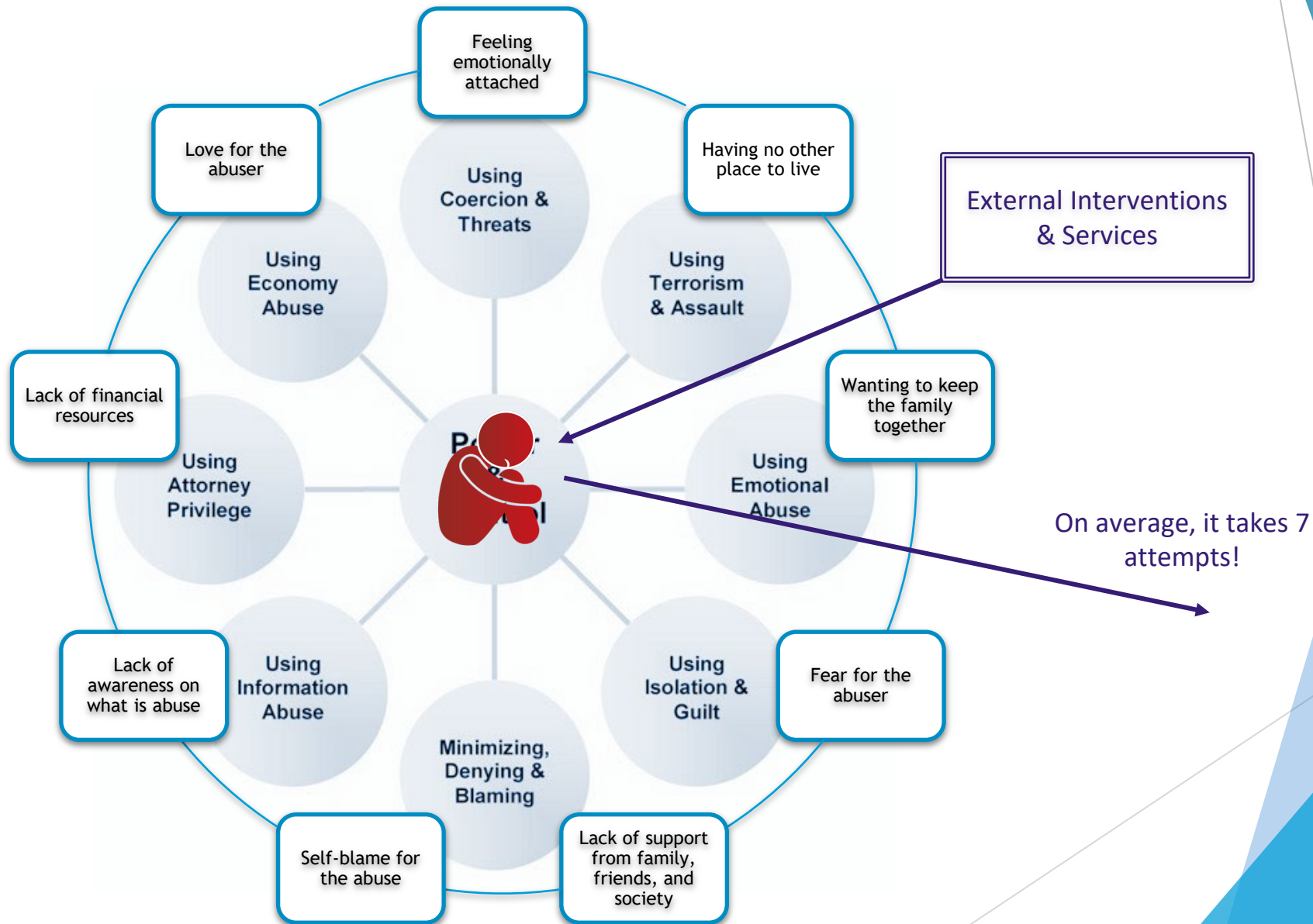


Financial

Domestic Violence in the U.S.

- Domestic violence can affect *anyone*, but over 85% of victims identify as women.
- Approximately **1 in 4 women** and **1 in 7 men** will be affected by domestic violence in their lifetime.
- In New Jersey, domestic violence occurs every **8 minutes and 52 seconds**.
- Nationally, more than **10 million adult victims** and **3-4 million children** are affected each year.
- As a social problem, it costs the U.S. **\$5.8 billion** each year in medical and mental health care.

Interrupting the Cycle of Abuse



Police: Maryland school shooter apparently was lovesick teen

AP Matthew Daret and Brian Witte, Associated Press
Mar. 21, 2013, 11:13 PM 68

LIFESTYLE AUGUST 28, 2009 / 8:04 AM / 9 YEARS AGO

f FACEBOOK in LINKEDIN t TWITTER

Man poisoned wife in "ill thought-out" act of love

GREAT MILLS, Md. (AP) — Tuesday's school shooting in s
dead and two students wounded increasingly appears to be

CNN U.S. World Politics Money Opinion Health Entertainment Tech Style Travel Sports Video VR
U.S. Edition +

April 5, 2009 — Updated 0019 CMT (0819 HKT)

Police: Husband killed another man in Central Michigan University dorm, campus police say

Grade Point

SHARE PRINT COMMENT

by father, police say
another man
d by chaplain

By Sarah Larmer March 3 Email the author

"This was a terrible incident, it was an isolated incident, but we had two people that were killed in a residence facility," Gov. Rick Snyder (R) said at a Friday news conference. "That's traumatic. To the students, to the parents, to the staff, to the faculty. In this case, the community, because this individual is still at large."

A Rising Public Health Crisis

- ▶ Nearly 3 persons are murdered every day by a current or former romantic partner.
- ▶ In the U.S., domestic violence homicides comprise 40-50% of all murders of women.
- ▶ Of the 11 murder-suicides that occur each week in America, 72% involve an intimate partner.
- ▶ 20% of all victims are NOT partners or primary targets of abuse.



Children
45% of all
murder-suicide
victims

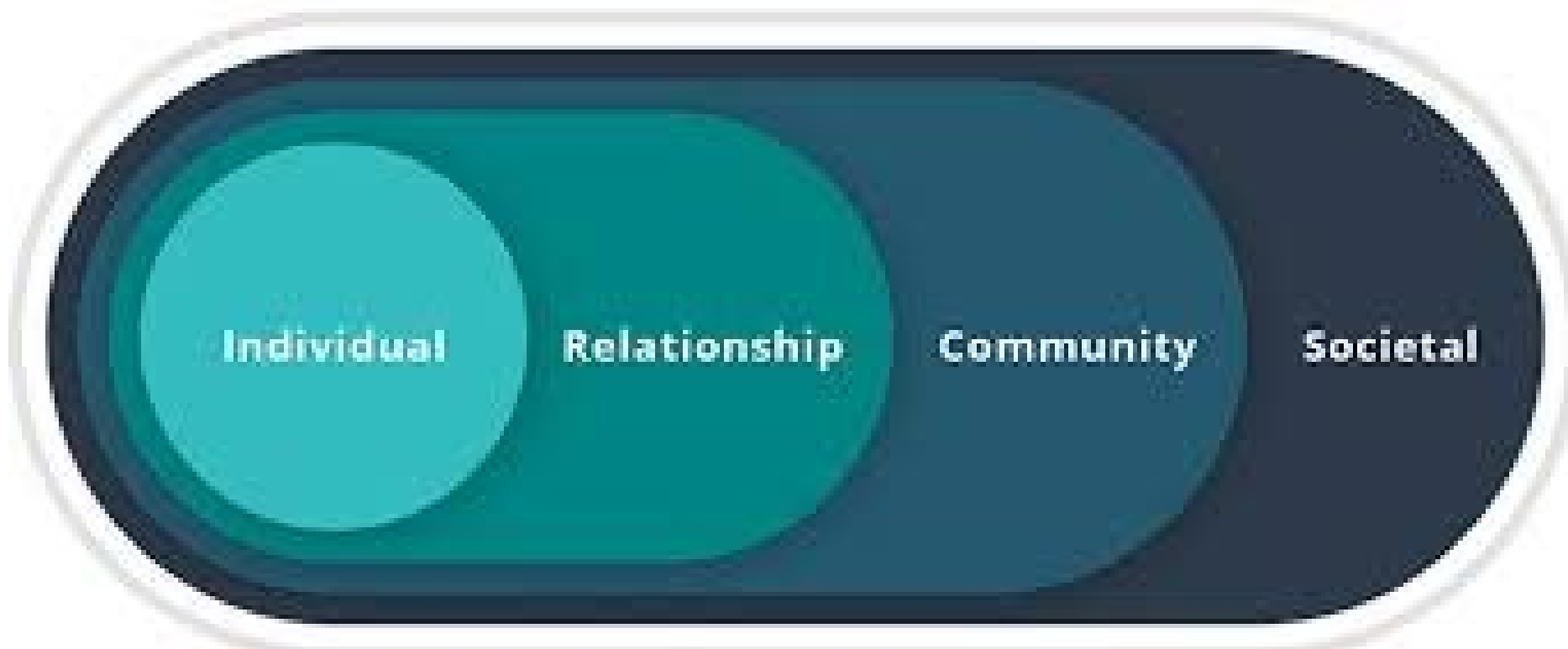


Police
Officers
22% of calls that
lead to officer
deaths



Mass Shooting
Victims
60% of mass shooters
have domestic violence
histories

The “Ingredients” for Violence: The Social Ecological Model



Negative attitudes towards women; Associating masculinity with aggression; History of child abuse

+

Family members that accept violence against women and do not intervene

+

Lives in a neighborhood where domestic disputes are ignored; Counseling services unavailable

+

Laws did not mandate risk assessment or inhibit the future purchasing of weapons

What Are We Missing?

- ❑ More widely accessible mental health services
- ❑ More gun legislation that takes into account histories of domestic violence
- ❑ More training on how to conduct lethality assessments
- ❑ And most importantly...

Solutions that address the **community-** and **society-level** factors that enable violence to occur in the first place and to continue post-intervention!

- How do we normalize abuse in relationships and justify not intervening in “private matters”?
- How do we provide survivors with the tools and resources necessary to detect/leave abusive relationships?
- Why do boys and men still represent the majority of perpetrators?
- How do our notions about masculinity affect men’s abilities to navigate power struggles healthily and to seek help when coping with rejection or anger? How does it affect conversations about mental health and gun legislation?
- What role does gender, race, and class have in the way beliefs about toxic entitlement are fostered?

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