



Don't Scratch the Wound: Jamie Manzer
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What is domestic violence?

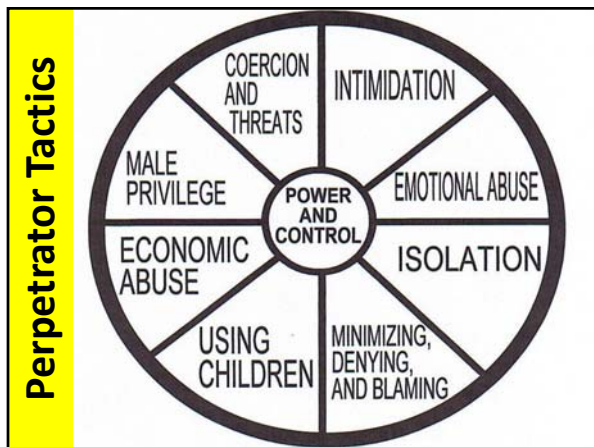


DV =

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Domestic Violence Defined

A **pattern of intentional, coercive behaviors** used by one partner to gain or maintain control over the other partner. Includes **repeated physical abuse, emotional/ psychological abuse, sexual violence, destruction of pets and property, financial abuse, progressive social isolation, deprivation and/ or intimidation.**



Impact of DV on Survivors

Domestic Violence Survivors:

- 54% to 84% suffer from PTSD
- 63% to 77% experience depression
- 38% to 75% experience anxiety


Other symptoms:

- Antisocial or flamboyant behavior
- Low self-esteem
- Emotional detachment
- Sleep disturbances
- Flashbacks

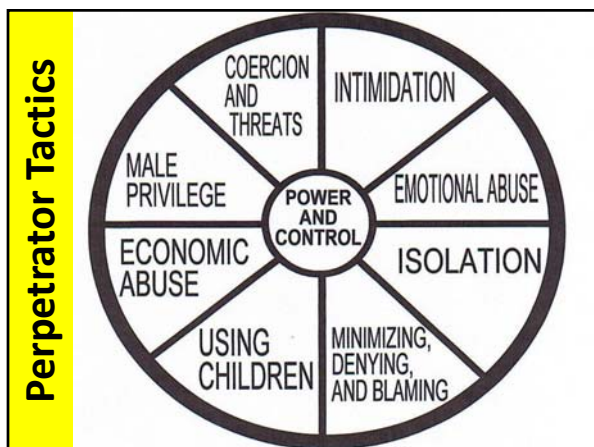
Sexual Assault Survivors:

- 3 times more likely to suffer from depression.
- 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.
- 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol.
- 26 times more likely to abuse drugs.
- 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide.

Causes of Distress in Children



- Loud noises
- Yelling
- Angry voices
- Sudden and unpredictable loud noises
- Disruption in the bonding process between parent and child
- Distracted and/or depressed parent who can't attend to the child's needs
- Risk of physical injury or actual injury
- Lack of consistent nutrition or other basic needs if financial abuse restricts access




Exposures to DV for Children

Direct Exposures

- Seeing a parent assaulted or demeaned
- Hearing loud conflict or violence
- Seeing injuries or property damage
- Holding the child hostage
- Seeing a parent arrested
- Loss of protective parent from home or routine

Indirect Exposures

- Withholding child support
- Prolonged court proceedings and custody process
- Talking inappropriately about the other parent to alienate the child from them
- Threatening violence against pets
- Undermining protective parent's efforts to support child



Needs of Infants & Toddlers

- Exposure to language including "motherese", reading and singing
- A safe environment to explore
- Social interactions and games that teach them about relationships
- Predictability and routines
- Secure attachments - learning that the world is a safe place
- Opportunities for serve and return
- Basic needs (nutrition, medical, dental)



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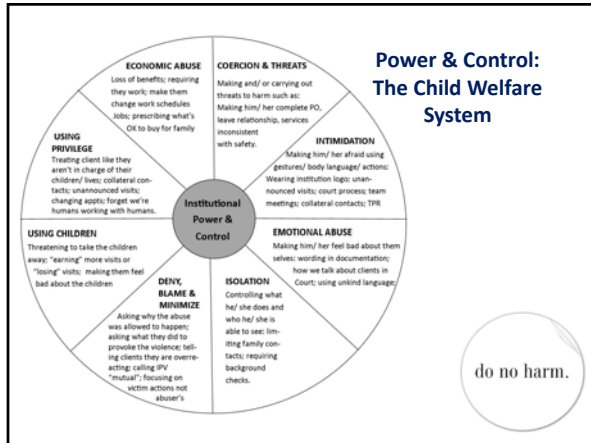
Now What? Assessment, Safety & Intervention



Re-evaluating Our Tool Kit



**We're Scratching the Wound:
Unintended Consequences of the Child
Welfare System**



Unintended Consequences

- Impact on completing family goals
 - Impact on capacity to parent
 - Impact on relationship building with worker
 - Impact to moving on safely
1. Coercion & Threats:
 2. Using intimidation
 3. Emotional Abuse
 4. Isolation
 5. Minimize/deny/blame
 6. Using Children
 7. Using Privilege
 8. Using Economic Abuse

Reflect on why you do your work...
"Do No Harm Principle"

Re-evaluating Our Tool Kit
Child Disclosure: "Dad hits mom."



 **VS.** 

Is the child safe?

Re-evaluating Our Tool Kit:
Gathering Information:

- Need info to assess intervention
- Build rapport to gain access to info
- Filter info with IPV knowledge
- Avoid distracting questions
- Accept/ Provide supportive supervision

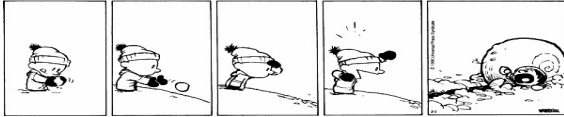
 

Re-evaluating Our Tool Kit:
Safety Planning:

1. Thorough assessment applying knowledge of tactics
2. Identify both safety threats & protective factors
3. Evaluate if safety threats or protective factors outweigh one another
4. Threat mitigation: Explore what's worked in the past; acknowledge protective parent's expertise.

Re-evaluating Our Tool Kit: Writing Documents



- Information (verbal/written) = snowball effect
- Behavior Driven communication
- Benefits of this concept
- Applying the “No-Harm Principle” to public information
- Implication of language

do no harm.

Re-evaluating Our Tool Kit: Toolkit Adjustment

Services-driven

ⓧ will participate in:
Batterer’s Intervention:
counseling; mental health eval



Vs.

Behavior-driven

ⓧ will support parenting
routine; ⓧ will not yell/ hit/
scream



Can we do both?

Find Your Local Program

Nebraska’s Network of Domestic Violence/
Sexual Assault Programs

