

The Intersectionality of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Substance Use

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the night

I lost control

What is loss of control?

1. Enuresis
2. Encopresis
3. Driving on ice
4. My dog broke the leash
5. A sneeze
6. ...

Perpetrators of domestic violence do not lose control of their behavior

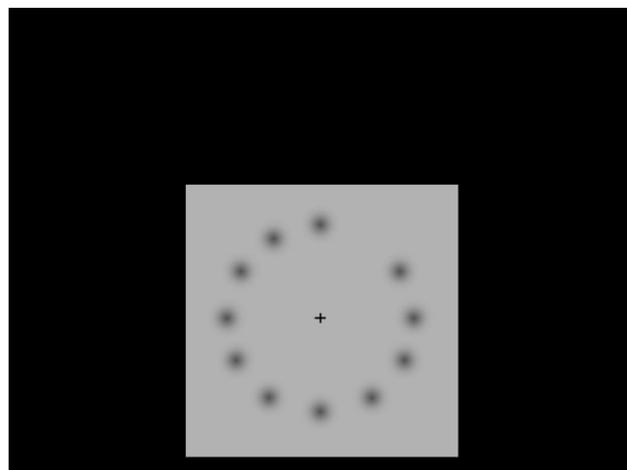


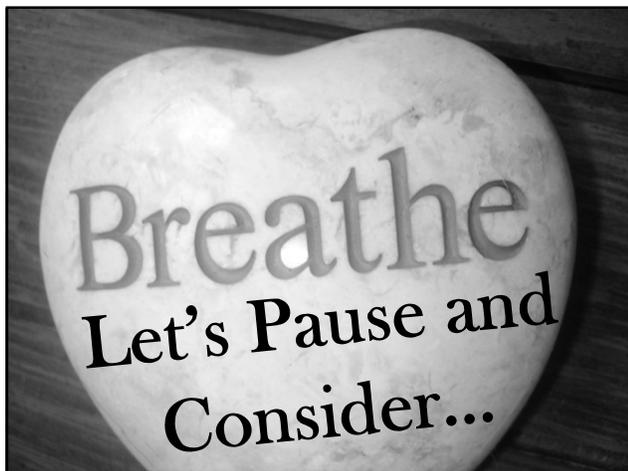
Presumption of competence and capacity to change

THIS I BELIEVE

What is the relationship between Intoxication and Domestic Violence?



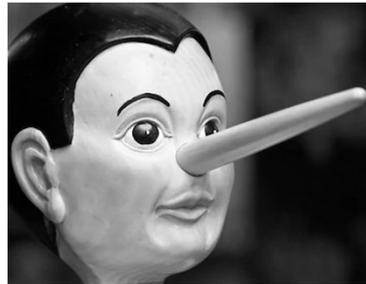
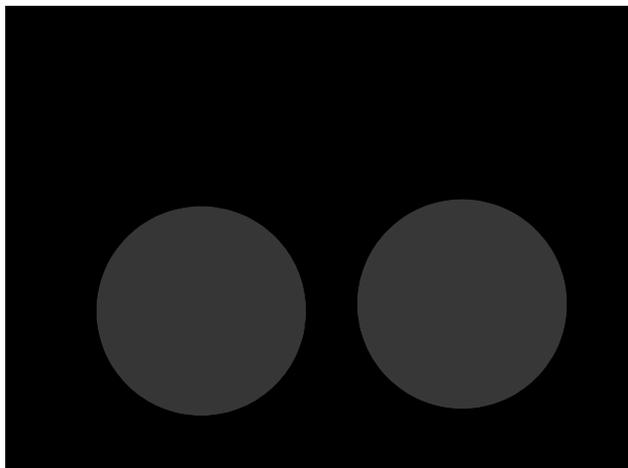




WHAT IF,
Someone told a lie...
That Alcohol or Other Drugs caused
Domestic Violence or Sexual
Assault?

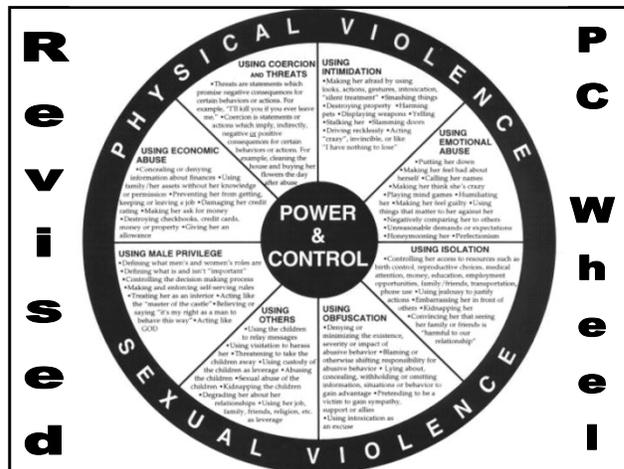


Who would *benefit* from
this misinformation?
Who would be *harm*ed by
this information?



- YOU ONLY USE 10 percent of your brain.
- Eating carrots improves your eyesight.
- Vitamin C cures the common cold.
- Crime in the United States is at an all-time high.
- ...None of these things are true.

**WANT TO MAKE A LIE SEEM TRUE?
SAY IT AGAIN. AND AGAIN.
...AND AGAIN**



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS

- A pattern of coercive behavior used to control an intimate partner
- Includes physical and/or sexual violence, or the credible threat of such violence
- ...and numerous power and control tactics.



What is Sexual Assault?

- ❖ Within an Intimate Relationship
- ❖ By a known assailant
- ❖ By a person in a position of authority or power
- ❖ By a stranger assailant
- ❖ ...More

Consent

CONSENT

IT'S SIMPLE AS TEA

Sexual Assault and Substance Use

Women with substance use/abuse problems are more likely to have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives, with as many as **60% of women** and **20% of men** undergoing substance abuse treatment reporting having survived physical, sexual or emotional abuse as a child



~(National Center for PTSD)

What is the most common drug to facilitate sexual assault?

- #1 Roofies/Rohypnol
- #2 Alcohol
- #3 Marijuana
- #4 Cocaine

pop? quiz

Correct Answer

Alcohol is the most common drug used to facilitate sexual assaults. Unlike some other drugs, alcohol is legal, readily available, and socially acceptable (Scalzo) if not socially encouraged in some settings.





Causes of Domestic Violence

- Alcohol and other Drugs
- Anger, Stress, Loss of Control
- Unemployment
- Family History/Genetics
- Trauma
- Provocation
- Poor Communication Skills
- Culture
- Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

The *only* cause of domestic violence are the perpetrators of domestic violence who are perpetrating these behaviors within a culture and climate that promotes, tolerates, endorses, condones, celebrates, and encourages violence against women.

**BLACK OUT
Vs. PASSING OUT**

<p>Black Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full functioning ○ Others can not discern ○ Not doing anything that goes against your moral code ○ Don't remember what happened after the black out ○ Can be a few seconds or days 	<p>Passing Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You are unconscious 
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ISSUES WE ENCOUNTER WORKING WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL AFFECTED MEN WHO ABUSE



- Their lives seem to be in more chaos than the non-drug/alcohol affected men who abuse.
- They, and their (ex)partners, tend to blame the drug/alcohol for the battering.
- Their overall denial seems higher.
- They are better at lying and manipulating.
- "I didn't come here for my drinking" is a major impediment to getting these men to work on their drug/alcohol issues while involved in battering intervention, sometimes the courts do not see this as something they want to take on and monitor
- The concept of "codependency" is a popular framework in the industry, even though it has serious conceptual and ethical problems when applied to real people's lives. When applied to survivors of a drug/alcohol affected batterer, the term blames the victim for her victimhood. *A better term for this condition would be "captive dependent" or "hostage."*
- Drug/alcohol affected men who who are engaged in accountably dealing with both issues will be spending a good deal of time away from family, work, etc.

HARM FACING BATTERED WOMEN USING DRUGS

- Impairs her ability to leave
- Reduces her ability to protect herself and her children
- If illegal drugs, puts her in **harm's way**
- Effects of SA **prevent her** from accurately assessing the level of danger posed by the perpetrator
- **Erroneously** believes she can defend herself against physical assaults
- If getting high is a "couple thing" her non-use may **threaten her** perpetrators access



THERE IS A LINK...



- Over **50%** of men in BIPs have SA issues and are 8 times as likely to batter on a day in which they have been drinking.
- **Half** of partnered men entering SA treatment have battered in the past year and are 11 times as likely to batter on a day in which they have been drinking.
- **25%-50%** of the women receiving services for DV have SA problems.
- Between **55% and 99%** of women who have SA issues have been victimized at some point in their life and between **67% and 80%** of women in SA treatment are DV victims.



- Impaired cognition makes safety planning **more difficult**
- **Reluctant** to seek assistance or contact police for fear of arrest, deportation or referral to a child protection agency
- Compulsive use/withdrawal symptoms make it **difficult** for SA survivors to access shelter, advocacy, or other forms of help
- A recovering woman may find the stress of securing safety leads to **relapse**
- If she is using or has used in the past, she may **not be believed**

**REMEMBER:
HE THOUGHT IT WAS A
GOOD IDEA!**



Men who batter and abuse are not all that different than the rest of us...similar, but turned up

1. I **want** what I **want**, when I **want** it and I am willing to get it at another's expense!
2. Who has not thought about hitting another person...men who batter, have the same thought, **but think it is a good idea!**
3. ... and Justifications abound!

FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AOD



- Alcohol is present in more than **50%** of all incidents of domestic violence.³
- 76%** of physically abusive incidents occur in the absence of alcohol use.⁴



FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AOD

- Rates of domestic violence were almost **15 times higher** in households where husbands were described as often drunk as opposed to never drunk.²
- Women who have been victims of violence have a **higher risk** of alcohol and other drug problems.⁵



FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AOD



- Battered women often report that, in addition to medicating the emotional and physical pain of trauma, chemical use helped to reduce or eliminate their feelings of fear and became part of their day-to-day safety strategies.¹¹
- Battered women are disproportionately represented in chemical dependency treatment populations.^{7, 8 & 9}



FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AOD

- Chemically involved battered women are less likely to be believed or taken seriously by others; they are more likely to be blamed for the violence.⁶
- Many chemically dependent battered women are addicted to drugs that were prescribed by the health care providers from whom they sought help.¹⁰



ALL THOSE FACTS ARE TRUE, BUT...

- Alcohol and drugs do not cause domestic violence.
- Domestic violence does not cause addiction, but may include drug or alcohol misuse.
- ...“You can have strep throat and a broken leg at the same time.”



FACTS ABOUT DV AND AOD

- A victim's chemical use or addiction provides the abuser with yet another weapon he can use as a means to control her.
- Use of chemicals can compromise cognitive functioning and motor coordination, making victims less able to develop and implement safety-related strategies.



SOME PEOPLE STILL DON'T GET IT...

- Addicted to “Power and Control”
- Addicted to Facebook
- Addicted to Chaos
- Addicted to Tanning
- Addicted to Work
- Addicted to Shoes



A CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

A culture of accountability is the only thing that will end domestic violence and sexual assault.



SafeHouse Center provides support for those impacted by domestic violence or sexual assault. Free and confidential services are available for any person victimized that lives or works in Washtenaw County. Our services include emergency shelter for those in danger of being hurt or killed, counseling, legal advocacy, support groups, and especially, *hope*.

www.safehousecenter.org
 4100 Clark Road
 Ann Arbor, MI 48105

24/7 HelpLine: 734-995-5444
info@safehousecenter.org
 Also, find us on Facebook!



SAFEHOUSE CENTER
 Building communities free of domestic violence and sexual assault

HOW CAN WE HELP SURVIVORS GET SAFE AND SOBER?

Does Safety = Sobriety?
 Does Sobriety = Safety




Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County

Domestic Violence Intervention Services

- ADA
- RENEW
- Jail Programming

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www.csswashtenaw.org/renew





AL-ANON ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- *No one has to accept violence...we all deserve to be safe*
- *Al-Anon doesn't advocate any particular course of action. We are not urged to either stay or go...All of us deserve to remain safe long enough to discover this for ourselves.*
- *These decisions are best left to each individual member*



LEARN ABOUT 12 STEP PROGRAMS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Powerlessness (Step 1)
 - Empowerment
- Insanity (Step 2)
- Moral inventory (Steps 4 & 5)
- Amends (Steps 8 & 9)
- Acceptance
- Codependence



Why Does He stay?



- ✓ He gets what he wants...
- ✓ He gets to control the money...
- ✓ He gets to make the rules...
- ✓ He gets waited on...
- ✓ He gets to be The Boss ...
- ✓ He knows that violence works ...
- ✓ He knows nobody knows about his violence ...
- ✓ His Neighbors and Church Members Still Like Him ...

Why Does He stay?



- ✓ He knows the Protective Order is Not Enforced ...
- ✓ He believes It's her Fault ...
- ✓ He knows no one believes her ...
- ✓ He is aware that his Community Does Not Condemn Violence ...
- ✓ He likes getting free sex & housework on demand ...
- ✓ He likes her income...
- ✓ He Gets Free Childcare ...
- ✓ **He stays, because he is getting what he wants...when he wants it...and is willing to get it at the expense of another**



DRUNK ! ?

How drunk would you have to be..

How COMMON IS DV?

- o **25% of women and 8% of men** surveyed said they were raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former partner during their lifetime. ¹ The vast majority served for DV are women.
- o SafeHouse Center served over 6000 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in the past year.



DRUNK ! ?

There are three major theories about the relationship between domestic violence and intoxication




Disinhibition
Social Learning
Deviance Disavowal

DISINHIBITION NOTES:

- o No such inhibition center has ever been located in the brain.
- o If disinhibition explained the relationship between substance abuse and woman abuse we would expect assailants/perpetrators who were substance abusers to be non-violent when their substance use was terminated...this is not the case



12 fl oz of regular beer = 8-9 fl oz of malt liquor (shown in a 12 oz glass) = 5 fl oz of table wine = 1.5 fl oz shot of 80-proof distilled spirits (gin, rum, tequila, vodka, whiskey, etc.)

			
about 5% alcohol	about 7% alcohol	about 12% alcohol	40% alcohol

The percent of "pure" alcohol, expressed here as alcohol by volume (alc/vol), varies by beverage.

If you think alcohol causes you to do
 And are invested in that thought



Then, when you drink, you will do...

...he's Only Violent when

- Barley, Wheat, Hops make Beer
- Grapes make Wine
- Potatoes make Vodka
- Sugarcane make's Rum
- Agave make's Tequila
- Apples make Cider
- Juniper Berries make Gin

The active ingredient in alcoholic beverages is ethanol, a molecule that directly affects the stomach, brain, heart, gall bladder and liver.



Ice cream consumption and murder rates are highly correlated

Does ice cream incite murder, or does murder increase the demand for ice cream?



Victim safety

The most essential consideration is the safety of domestic violence victims.

The interventions must account for the safety of victims whether they are in domestic violence programs or in substance abuse treatment.

Ask Yourself:

How is what I am doing enhancing victim safety?

Larry Bennett

IMPORTANT FACTORS:

1. **His** growing up in a violent and substance-abusing family
2. **His** believing that violence against women is sometimes acceptable
3. **His** believing that alcohol or drugs can make people violent.
4. **His** personal desire for personal power and a willingness to get what he wants at the expense of another.



**Does Safety = Sobriety?
Does Sobriety = Safety?**



Safety and sobriety are interconnected

Lack of sobriety, either in victims or in offenders, increases the risk for further violence against victims.

Lack of victim safety threatens the sobriety of both victim and offender.

Abstinence and sobriety are not sufficient conditions for safety.



What is step #1 of the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous?

“WE ADMITTED WE WERE POWERLESS OVER ALCOHOL---THAT OUR LIVES HAD BECOME UNMANAGEABLE”

Does this read like you though it did?

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT AA AND DV



THEORETICAL COMPARISONS

MEN BATTER

- ✓ Because they can and we let them.
- ✓ Because it is effective.
- ✓ Because they want what they want when they want it.
- ✓ To stop her from doing something, to get her to do something, or simply to revel in dominance over her.

ALCOHOLICS/ADDICTS USE

- Because it is a disease.
- Because they have lost the power to choose.
- Because it's their best friend.
- Because they can't imagine life with it or without it.
- Because they have a different physiological reaction to it than non alcoholics or addicts.

STRENGTHS OF 12 STEP PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS

- *Power with* or *power to be able* (feminine) rather than *power over* (masculine)
- Relational emphasis
 - Growth-fostering relationships
- Non-hierarchical
- Safe, caring environment
- Available most times of day
- Free
- Women affiliate w/AA at higher rates than men

CONTACT INFORMATION


 Contact Us


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WEAKNESSES OF 12 STEP PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS

- Their primary purpose is something other than domestic violence
- They are not experts in domestic violence
- Member beliefs often reflect the community beliefs

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SURVIVORS WITH CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT PARTNERS ¹²

- Codependency and Effects of Victimization
- Implications of Codependency Treatment for Survivors
- Recommendations for Substance Abuse Treatment Counselors
- Relational Model (Self-in-Relation Model)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNSELORS

- Give priority to safety and explore safety-related options;
- Provide referral information to the local domestic violence service provider as a resource designed primarily to assist with safety-related needs;
- Provide complete and accurate information about the purposes of twelve-step groups and codependency groups and the potential limitations of these forums as sources of help regarding safety-related concerns;
- Provide referral information to Al-Anon and other resources designed to provide help for family members of substance abusers; and
- Offer opportunities to become educated about chemical dependency independent of her partner.

CODEPENDENCY TREATMENT

When victims of domestic violence are encouraged to stop the behaviors associated with codependency—enabling, caretaking, over-responsibility for a partner's behavior, not setting limits or defining personal boundaries—they are, in essence, being asked to stop doing the very things that may be keeping them and their children most safe. These behaviors are not symptomatic of some underlying "dysfunction," but are the life-saving skills necessary to protect them and their children from further harm.