

Domestic Abuse



DOMESTIC ABUSE AS A CAUSE OF POVERTY

The many faces of Domestic Abuse.

There is no typical victim, it occurs in all cultures.

It knows no racial, age or socioeconomic boundaries.

TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical-

- Pushing or shoving
- Pulling hair
- Throwing objects at another
- Slapping or hitting
- Kicking or punching
- Holding one with force
- Choking
- Being left in abandonment

Emotional-

- Criticizing, using names, yelling
- Wanting to control all actions
- Ridiculing one's religion, beliefs, or race
- Humiliating someone in public or around their friends
- Makes all decisions for them
- Withholds approval or affection as a punishment
- Manipulating one with lies or contradictions

Sexual-

- Forces them to take off clothing
- Demeaning remarks
- Touching one in ways that make them feel uncomfortable
- Forces them to have sex against their will
- Treats one as an object
- Accuses them of having sex with others
- Insist they dress more sexual
- Insist they dress less sexual

Economic Abuse-

- Preventing a partner from getting or keeping work
- Disabling cars and alarm clocks
- Destroying homework assignments
- Harassment at work

1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe domestic abuse in an intimate relationship in their lifetime.

Domestic Violence has been so commonplace in many societies and cultures worldwide that it has often gone unnoticed and failed to receive the level of concern it deserves considering the devastating effects it can have on children and families. According to Mary Hicks from the local DVPN (Domestic Violence Prevention Network) here in Muskogee, women must often face the choice of homelessness and poverty as well as staying in the abusive relationship. Separating them from support, including financial dependence, is part of the abuse. Unlike many domestic abuse programs that are in place after the abuse occurs, DVPN wants to prevent the domestic violence.

1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year nationally, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.

In 2017, research was done to understand the connection between intimate partner violence (IPV). Katie Sidlowski from Bucknell University says the abusers feel the need to control their partners in any way they can. They will withhold all financial information, using guilt and threats to get what they want, as well as isolating their partners from support systems. The question shouldn't be "Why didn't he or she leave?" but "Why did he or she abuse?" Poverty perpetuates this narrative in multiple ways.

When a person is living in poverty, there's not much that is within their control. They cannot control the job market, the price of housing, or minimum wage. They can, however, control their partners and families. The unique stressors associated with poverty can create an environment from which intimate partner violence may stem. Katie sees a distinct correlation between intimate partner violence and level of income: the lower the income, and the higher the likelihood of intimate partner violence. Katie believes the solution is to work to ensure victims have adequate resources and access to the legal system.

In 2010, 78% of women's shelters were seeing a rise in the number of women seeking help and 58% reported that the abuse they were seeing had become more violent. These numbers were shocking, but in fact we've known about the connection between abuse, economic stress, and poverty for quite some time, but it was rarely covered by the media.

Movies often show violence and abuse as comedy or as an acceptable personal choice.

As far back as 2008, workers at women's shelters were predicting an increase in violence. The equation looks simple: Economic stress causes poverty. But it's not that easy; to say that poverty "causes" abuse is classism. There are plenty of people with six-figure salaries that hurt their partners. Plenty of people withstand economic strain or poverty without hurting anyone. Abused women often miss work or perform poorly due to partner sabotage. Abuse harms its victims financially, but victims won't leave their abusers because they are afraid they won't be able to support themselves. It's crucial that members of struggling families understand the connection between poverty and abuse. Crossing the line and hurting a partner will not take away the fear of losing everything; it will make the fears come true.

On average, nearly 20 million people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States.

In 2012, there was a total of 219 homicides, of which 53 of them were classified as domestic abuse murders, according to NCADV (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence). Oklahoma is ranked 3rd in the nation for women killed by men in single victim offender homicides. Oklahoma law enforcement responded to 2,354 incidents of domestic abuse-related assaults. There are at least 36 domestic violence programs in Oklahoma according to the NCADV. In Muskogee, there is only one specifically

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for domestic violence which is WISH (Women In Safe Home). Generally, GRM (Gospel Rescue Mission) receives those who are unable to get into WISH or are at the end of their stay at WISH. When both facilities are full, then that could lead to the victim having nowhere else to turn except back to the abuser. The GRM currently can house 12 single female guests, 2 women with children and 32 men. The men's director Daniel Blankenship reports that he has had several men

Some statistics indicate that there is a 75% greater risk of homicide if the victim leaves the abuser.

that have reported being abused by their partner. Daniel also stated that he thinks men do not report as often as women for fear of being humiliated. He also stated there was a male guest that

caused himself to go to jail to get away from the abuser, then came to GRM to start over. The women's director at GRM reports that nearly all the women that we serve have been in a domestic abuse relationship at one point in their life. I think it is hard enough for the person being abused to leave the abuser. If there is nothing available at any of the shelters when they are in that critical stage of wanting to leave the abuser, they will tend to give up and stay with the abuser. Some women are also humiliated and sometimes won't always report the abuse.

Domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior.

When a person is told over and over that they are not worth anything, or if they are no longer wanted, they tend to believe what the abuser tells them. Most women will hide their abuse from friends and family. The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%. Nationally, victims lose a total of 8.0 million days of paid work each year and between 21-60% lose their jobs due to reasons stemming from the abuse. Victims of domestic violence are also at a higher risk for developing addictions to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

Most abusers do not consider themselves to be abusive and will often report themselves as a victim.

Solutions

Research shows that a variety of factors may contribute to the poverty of women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

This includes the lack of affordable housing and lack of accessibility to legal assistance. Some of the most significant factors are barriers to employment. According to Mary from DVPN, shelters and community support are the beginnings of answers. If we can get curriculum into the schools to help foster healthy relationships, then that will help prevent some abuse. Prevention is a key strategy. Longer sentences are necessary for those that abuse, along with more mandatory counseling. A second key would be education in the schools and through youth counseling.

As well as getting the word out there. Awareness!

Two key allies in the future prevention of abuse in our community are schools and youth groups. Taking time to address this issue with young people and train them up in the way they should go can be a powerful tool.

One Woman's Story

Domestic Abuse causes not only physical damage, but emotional and psychological damage as well. It is necessary to be free, physically, emotionally, and mentally in order to escape poverty. I had an experience with domestic abuse, the lack of family support, and even help, or the lack of, from law enforcement, left me feeling hopeless. I returned to the abusive relationship. I met a woman who had been in an abusive relationship. She understood, and didn't blame ME! I was able to leave that relationship with her help. Teaching the abuser what constitutes abuse, would be helpful, as well as teaching the abused.

One Professional's Thoughts

When I worked at the Sheriff's office this was my baby, I traveled to shelters and did presentations showing what vinelink (<https://www.vinelink.com/#/home>) was and how it could protect not only victims of domestic abuse but anyone who had testified against someone, and also had restraining/protective /no contact orders NCIC. This is a very useful resource if utilized. I also think MORE law enforcement awareness and policies in each department is needed for officers to take even the smallest argument seriously. More prevention programs early on middle school age and in our churches as you mentioned. More support groups developed with speakers or leaders who have overcome domestic abuse.

Sources

<http://www.thehotline.org/is-this-abuse/why-do-people-stay-in-abusive-relationships/>

<https://www.vinelink.com/#/home>

DVIS shelter and outreach in Tulsa, Ok

GRM Men's Director, Daniel Blankenship

Domestic Violence and Poverty article by Deborah Satyanathan and Anna Pollack

NCADV

DVPN in Muskogee, Ok

In these times- article The Poverty of Domestic Violence by Sady Doyle
National Statistics- ncadv.org/statistics

Katie Sidlowski, Bucknell University '18, How Poverty Perpetuates Domestic Violence

Emerging Strategies in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, David Wolfe and Peter Jaffe

A very special thank you to the men and women of the GRM for their participation in the survey.

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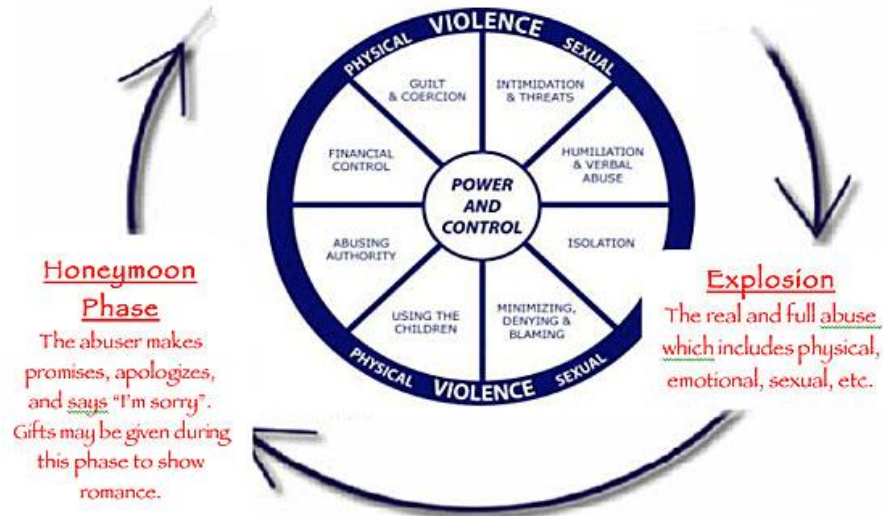
Further Questions to investigate:

- How can they support one another without making themselves more vulnerable to the abusers?
- Is there a safe place for the ladies to share their concerns?
- How can your organization empower others to stop the cycle of abuse?

Appendix 1

Tension Building (Longest Phase)

Victim is nervous around their partner in this phase. There are many small situations of physical or emotional abuse. In this phase the victim cannot



TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PHYSICAL ABUSE	Is the use of physical force against another person in a way that ends up injuring the person, or puts the person at risk of being injured.
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Can be verbal or nonverbal.
FINANCIAL ABUSE	May include withholding resources, stealing from the victim, or using the victims name to incur debt.
SEXUAL ABUSE	Is often linked to physical abuse; they may occur together, or the sexual abuse may occur after a bout of physical abuse
SPIRITUAL ABUSE	Is anything that comes in the way of you doing something or feeling good about yourself.

Appendix 2

Signs that you may be in an abusive relationship...

- Your partner requires constant check-ins and wants to know where you are and who you are with always.
- Your partner says hurtful things about you disguised as “jokes.”
- Your partner refuses to acknowledge your strengths and belittles your accomplishments.
- Your partner withholds affection, sex or money to punish you.
- You feel sorry for your partner, even though they hurt you.
- Your partner is always changing plans to “surprise” you — or so they say.
- Your partner attempts to separate you from family and friends.

Signs that you may be an abuser...

- Does it feel like your partner pushes your buttons?
- Are there times when you don't want to speak to them or be around them?
- Can you be having a nice time and then out of nowhere they say or do something to set you off?
- Does it feel like they make you yell or shut down when you really don't want to raise your voice or be in a bad mood at all?
- Do you treat them in ways you couldn't have imagined when you first started loving them?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then there may need repercussions.

Appendix 3 Why don't they just leave?

- **Fear:** A person may be afraid of what will happen if they decide to leave the relationship.
- **Believing Abuse is Normal:** A person may not know what a healthy relationship looks like, perhaps from growing up in an environment where abuse was common, and they may not recognize that their relationship is unhealthy.
- **Fear of Being Outed:** If someone is in an LGBTQ relationship and has not yet come out to everyone, their partner may threaten to reveal this secret.
- **Embarrassment or Shame:** It's often difficult for someone to admit that they've been abused. They may feel they've done something wrong by becoming involved with an abusive partner. They may also worry that their friends and family will judge them.
- **Low Self-Esteem:** When an abusive partner constantly puts someone down and blames them for the abuse, it can be easy for the victim to believe those statements and think that the abuse is their fault.
- **Love:** So often, the victim feels love for their abusive partner. They may have children with them and want to maintain their family. Abusive people can often be charming, especially at the beginning of a relationship, and the victim may hope that their partner will go back to being that person. They may only want the violence to stop, not for the relationship to end entirely.
- **Cultural/Religious Reasons:** Traditional gender roles supported by someone's culture or religion may influence them to stay rather than end the relationship for fear of bringing shame upon their family.
- **Language Barriers/Immigration Status:** If a person is undocumented, they may fear that reporting the abuse will affect their immigration status. Also, if their first language isn't English, it can be difficult to express the depth of their situation to others.
- **Lack of Money/Resources:** Financial abuse is common, and a victim may be financially dependent on their abusive partner. Without money, access to resources or even a place to go, it can seem impossible for them to leave the relationship. This feeling of helplessness can be especially strong if the person lives with their abusive partner.
- **Disability:** When someone is physically dependent on their abusive partner, they can feel that their well-being is connected to the relationship. This dependency could heavily influence their decision to stay in an abusive relationship.

Appendix 4 What is Vine?

VINE is a solution that lets victims of crime and other concerned citizens access timely and reliable information regarding offenders. It is offered free of charge to registrants, is completely confidential, and features multiple language support.

Offering peace of mind, the VINE service lets victims call a toll-free number, visit www.vinelink.com, or use the VINELink™ mobile app to anonymously check on an offender's custody status.

Victims can also register to receive automated notifications about changes in that status via their choice of format: phone, email, or text. TTY (hearing impaired) service is also available.