



Military & Veteran-Involved Domestic Violence Pt II

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Military & Veterans Advocacy Program
Battered Women's Justice Project

Screening - Service

Have you or your intimate partner ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces to include:

- Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard?
- Reserves?
- National Guard?

Screening for IPV Perpetration

Have you ever:

- Hurt or threatened your partner (wife/husband/girlfriend/boyfriend)?
- Pushed, grabbed, slapped, choked, or hit your partner?
- Forced sex or made your partner perform sexual acts they did not want to?
- Restricted your partner's freedom or kept her/him from doing things important to her/him?
- Belittled, insulted, or blamed your partner?

Institute for Safe Families, Journal of General Internal Medicine (2008)

Screening for IPV Victimization

E-HITS Screening Tool

In the part 12 months, has your partner:

- **H:** Physically hurt you?
- **I:** Insulted you?
- **T:** Threatened to harm you?
- **S:** Screamed or cursed at you?
- **Extended:** Forced you to have sexual activities?

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

Screening - PTSD

In your life, have you ever had any experience that was so frightening, horrible, or upsetting that you...

- Have had nightmares about it or thought about it when you did not want to?
- Tried hard not to think about it or went out of your way to avoid the situation that reminded you of it?
- Were constantly on guard, watchful, or easily startled?
- Felt numb or detached from others, activities, or your surroundings?

3 or more “Yes” answers = positive screen for PTSD

Screening - TBI

H.E.A.D.S.

Have you experienced:

Headaches

Ears ringing

Altered consciousness

Dizziness

Something isn't right

Screening - TBI

Screening helps determine if brain trauma occurred and if a referral needs to be made

Four sections

- Section 1 establishes a trauma to the head
- Section 2 establishes symptoms and injury immediately at the time of the event
- Section 3 establishes the symptoms after the event
- Section 4 establishes ongoing symptoms and problems that are connected to the injury

Model Doc for Screening, Assessment, & Intervention



Screening, Assessment, and Intervention Model
for Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration and
Co-Occurring Combat-Related Conditions

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April Gerlock, PhD, ARNP, PMHNP-BC, PMHCNS-BC

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Examines IPV's relationship to common co-occurring conditions, presents a model for response, and provides several easy-to-use screening tools for risk, dangerousness, and co-occurring conditions.

www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/screening_assessment_and_intervention_model_for_intimate_partner_violence_perpetration_and_cooccurring_combat_related_conditions.html

IPV Risk Assessment Tools

ODARA (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment)

- First responders
- Predictive of recidivism and severity of assault

LAP (Lethality Assessment Protocol)

- First responders
- Predictive of severe future assault

DVSI (Domestic Violence Screening Instrument)

- Pre-trial and probation
- Predictive of recidivism

SARA (Spouse Abuse Risk Assessment)

- Probation
- Predictive of recidivism

DVRNA (Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment)

- Intervention providers
- Determines level of intervention program

Danger Assessment (DA)

Predictive of lethality - "helps to determine the level of danger an abused woman faces of being killed by her intimate partner"

Most commonly used by victim advocates

Information gathered solely from the victim

- Calendar - severity and frequency of battering during the past year
- 20-item scoring instrument - weighted system to score yes/no responses to risk factors associated with intimate partner homicide

www.dangerassessment.org

Indiana DV Firearms Laws

Courts may prohibit a person subject to a domestic or family violence protection order from using or possessing a firearm or ammunition; May direct their surrender for duration of order [IC § 34-26-5-9(c)(4), (f)].

Domestic battery conviction bars firearm possession [IC §§ 35-42-2-1.3; 35-47-2-1(c); 35-47-4-6].

Expungement does not restore right [IC § 35-38-9-6(f)].



Federal Gun Control Act

18 USC §922

Prohibits possession and ownership of firearms and ammunition

(g)(8) Subject to a “qualifying” court order

- Prohibition for term of order
- Government use exemption

(g)(9) Misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence (MCDVs) (Lautenberg Amendment)

- Prohibition for life
- Restoration by pardon, expungement, or restoration of civil rights, but conviction must no longer be used for any purpose
- **No government use exemption**



Domestic Violence/Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs)

Most DV seen as a gendered crime

Men's violence against women is culturally learned, socialized behavior, not a sickness within offenders

Single gender group programs preferred

Cognitive behavioral approach

Many programs not clinically-based

Close relationship with victim advocates; offer accountability for programs

Limited confidentiality, accountability to criminal justice system

Military/Veteran Offender Intervention Programs

Strength at Home – Men’s Program (Veterans Health Administration (VHA))

- 12 weekly 2-hr sessions
- Group therapy
- Psychoeducation, Conflict Management, Coping Strategies, and Communication Skills
- 47 VAMCs and expanding; Currently available at Marion, Chicago, Cincinnati, and Louisville VAMCs.



VHA IPV Assistance Program

Expanded screening, prevention, and intervention for veterans

Strengthen partnerships with community providers/resources

Intimate Partner Violence Coordinators (IPVCs)

SAFER Protocol to include E-HITS Victim Screening Tool

Strength at Home - Offender intervention Program



VA IPV Coordinators

INDIANA

Fort Wayne

Amanda Jo Gonzalez

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Military System

KEY PLAYERS

Family Advocacy Program

Military Health Care

Chaplains

Commanders

Military Law Enforcement

Judge Advocates

RESPONSE

Restricted Reporting

Military Protection Orders

Enforcement of Civilian
Protection orders

Military Support Orders

Military Justice System

Transitional Compensation

IPV Victim Issues

GENERAL

Fear of violence/reprisals

Threats to recant/drop charges

Fear of losing children

Financial concerns/dependence

Shame and embarrassment

Reluctance to become involved with police and courts

Trauma/mental health issues

MILITARY & VETERAN-RELATED

Fear negative effect on military career

Loss of access to services and benefits

Lack of knowledge of civilian resources

Isolation and lack of support system

Caretaker role and guilt

Independent Community-based Advocates

Exclusively focus on the interests and autonomy of the victim (and support people)

Represent the interest of the IPV victim, providing information and support that allows him/her to make an informed choice that best serves his/her interest

Facilitate the risk assessment conversation and safety planning

Enhance the system's response by providing resources and direct support to victims of IPV

Recommendations for Criminal Justice Intervention

VTC IPV-related Homicides

2012 - Graduate killed estranged wife, girlfriend, and 2 of their children

2014 - Court participant killed estranged wife and several of her relatives before committing suicide

2015 - Court participant killed girlfriend and infant child before committing suicide

2017 - Graduate killed ex-girlfriend's boyfriend

Firearms used in all

Recommendations for Criminal Justice Response

Screen for DV

Utilize Risk Assessment Tools

Refine Eligibility Criteria

Conduct Contextual Analysis

Enforce Firearm Restrictions

Develop a Victim Component

Incorporate Victim Advocates into Court Teams

Operate within existing Coordinated Community Response

Screen for DV/IPV

Screen all veteran participants for IPV

Do not rely solely on self-reporting

Obtain information from multiple sources

- Victims & former partners
- Prior police reports
- National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
- Protection order affidavits & registries
- Military and VA records



Investigate DV/IPV History

Protection order registries to include NCIC's Protection Order File (POF)

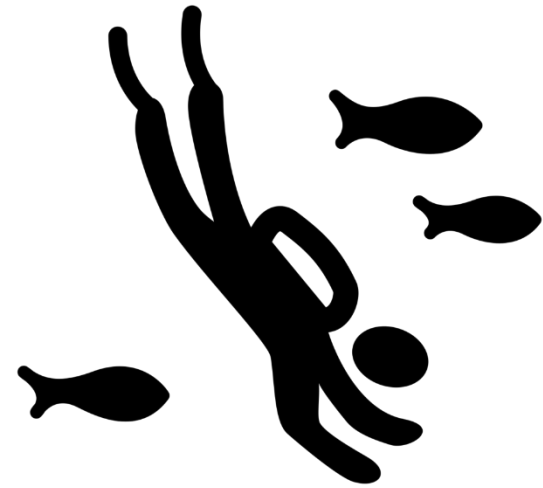
Service/Personnel Records

Military and VA health records

Family Advocacy Program records

Incident Determination Committee (IDC)

Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM)



Deep Dive

Refine Eligibility Criteria

Utilize objective risk assessment tools

- High risk/high need differs for DV

Conduct Contextual Analysis

- Battering, Situational, Pathological, Resistive
- Don't take veterans lacking Pathological context

Require firearm prohibitions



Assess for DV/IPV

Assess IPV separately from PTSD, TBI, substance abuse, etc.

MH providers and substance abuse counselors typically do not have specific IPV expertise

Collaborate with community-based and military victim advocates to assess victims; when permitted by victim, utilize shared information in VTC process



DV/IPV Treatment/Intervention

Provide separate treatment for IPV, mental health, and substance abuse

- Sequencing?

Consider veteran culturally-competent intervention programs

Anger management not generally effective in stopping IPV

Couples counseling not a substitute for offender intervention programs; can increase danger for victims



Modify Supervision & Sanctions

IPV perpetration can be significantly deterred by swift and certain court response for violations, intensive programming for high-risk men, and ongoing monitoring

While relapse is common and often expected for addicts, for IPV perpetrators it means re-assault and harm to others (relapse vs. re-offense)

Consequences for continued violence and abuse must differ from other violations (Program termination?)

Prohibit firearms/Enforce existing prohibitions

Victim is usually best source of information.

Expand, Educate and Coordinate

Expand collaboration
/interdisciplinary court team

- Community-based IPV victim advocate
- IPV treatment staff
- VHA Domestic Violence Coordinators (DVC)

Coordinate with existing Domestic
Violence Court

- Cases should be routed there before
treatment court

Work within existing CCRs



Develop a Victim Component

Connect victims to a community-based victim advocate

- Part of Domestic Violence Court model
- Risk & danger assessments
- Safety planning

Connect victims to community, military, and/or VA resources

- Legal services, shelter, employment services, etc.

Develop a victim communications plan

- With whom will info be shared?
- Conducted separate from VTC participants

Inform victims participation is voluntary; Consult/seek approval on veteran program entry

Insights Video and Facilitator's Guide

Designed for presentations and trainings on military and veteran-related IPV and intersection with co-occurring conditions.

Intended to further understanding especially among professionals who intervene with IPV perpetrators.

www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/ipv-insights-into-military-personnel-and-veterans.html



eLearning Course

Safety at Home



Self-paced course includes modules with mini-lectures, case studies, video clips, practice scenarios, and opportunities for self-assessment to test mastery of course content.

Modules include Context of Violence; Risk & Danger; Combat Stress; Co-occurring Conditions; Cultural Competence; Military Response; and VA Response.

www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/safety-at-home-intimate-partner-violence-military-personnel-and-veterans.html



Indiana Coalition *Against* Domestic Violence

*Prevention • Awareness • Advocacy
Until the Violence Ends.*

<http://icadvinc.org/>

External Resources

Center for Court Innovation –

www.courtinnovation.org/topic/domestic-violence

- Domestic Violence Courts

Aequitas - www.aequitasresource.org

- Prosecutors

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP) -

www.theduluthmodel.org

- Offender intervention/Non-violence programs
- Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

Contact Information

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