



Military & Veteran-Involved Domestic Violence Pt I

Brian Clubb
Military & Veterans Advocacy Program
Battered Women's Justice Project

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-TA-AX-K058 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Who is BWJP?

The Battered Women's Justice Project is a national non-profit technical assistance and training provider.

We develop and promote innovations in policy and practice that improve the response to intimate partner violence (IPV) by the civil, criminal, and military justice systems.

Programs include:

- Military & Veterans
- Firearms
- Child custody
- Probation
- Protection orders
- Criminal justice responses

www.bwjp.org

Agenda

- Terminology and Data
- Risk
- Co-occurring Conditions
- Context and Contextual Analysis
 - Break --
- Screening & Risk Assessment
- Firearms
- Intervention Programs
- VA & Military Response
- Victims and Victim Advocacy



Definitions - General

Domestic Violence (DV)

Most known and used term

Criminal statutes usually require violence, threat of violence, or violation of domestic violence protection order

In some states, victims include siblings, parents, and other adult relatives

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

More specific; commonly used by advocates, researchers, the VHA

Physical, sexual, or psychological harm

Limited to current or former intimate partners or spouses

Definition - Indiana

DOMESTIC OR FAMILY VIOLENCE

Committed by a Family or Household Member

- 1) Attempting to, threatening to, or causing physical harm
- 2) Placing in fear of physical harm.
- 3) Causing to involuntarily engage in sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress.



Lifetime IPV Victimization

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
Physical violence	32.4% (39.1 mil)	28.3% (32.3 mil)
Severe physical violence	23.2% (28 mil)	13.9% (15.9 mil)
Contact sexual violence	16.4% (19.7 mil)	7.0% (8 mil)
Stalking	9.7% (11.7 mil)	2.3% (2.6 mil)
Any IPV-related impact	27.4% (33 mil)	11.0% (12.6 mil)

CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey - State Report (2017)

Intimate Partner Homicides 2003-2016

79% of all homicide victims were male, but . . .

79% of intimate partner homicide victims were female

38% of all female homicide victims were killed by intimate partners vs. 2.5% of male victims

Firearms most common method in intimate partner homicides (54% for females/43% for males)

CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

*Is IPV involving Veterans
and Servicemembers
different than in the
general population?*

Domestic Abuse in the U.S. Armed Forces

Over 8,000 domestic abuse incidents (reported and “met criteria”); Three-quarters involved physical abuse.

Approximately two-thirds of victims are women with slight majority active duty servicemembers.

Highest rates in lowest ranks, but majority of incidents in slightly higher pay grades.

Firearms used in vast majority of domestic abuse homicides.

*DoD Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for
FY18*

Female Servicemember Victimization

Little difference found in military and civilian IPV except for active duty women

- Less likely to indicate IPV in the 3 years prior to the survey
- Less likely to experience stalking
- Higher rates of IPV and SV for those with deployment history

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2010)

IPV Risk Markers

- History of violent behavior
- History of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse toward intimate partners
- Use of or threats with a weapon
- Threats of suicide
- Estrangement, recent separation, or divorce
- Daily use of drugs or alcohol
- Employment/financial problems or recent loss
- Being a witness or victim of family violence in childhood
- Mental health problems and/or a personality
- Resistance to change and lack of motivation for treatment
- Antisocial attitudes and behaviors
- Attitudes that support violence toward women

Hotaling & Sugarman, 1986; Kropp & Hart, 2000; Pence & Lizdas, 1998; Roehl & Guertin, 2000; Sonkin 1997; Straus, 1992

Military Personnel & Family Factors



Servicemembers up to 2x as likely to have adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

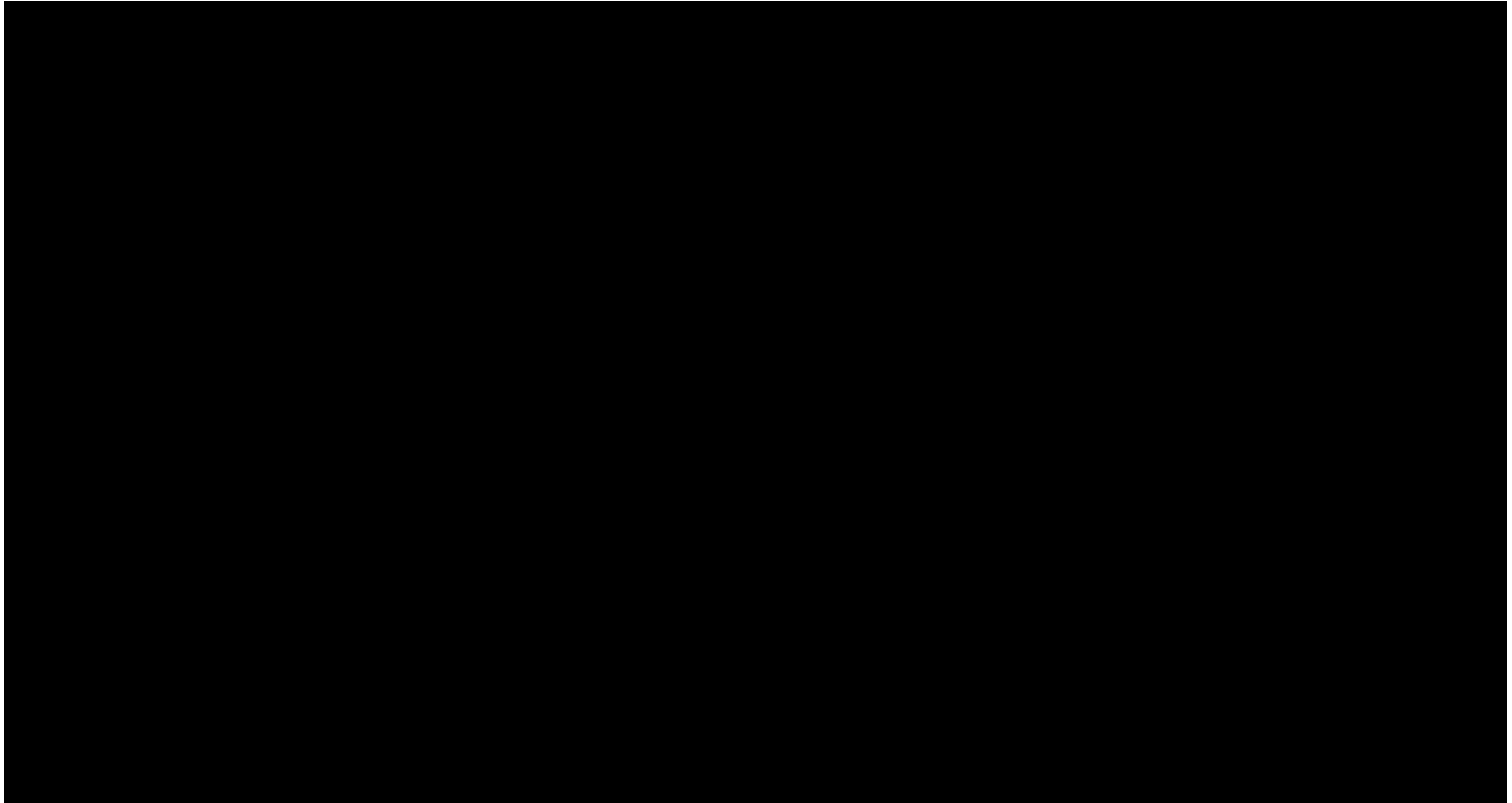
Majority of servicemembers in highest risk group for IPV (18-29).

Mobility and geographic separation can isolate.

Deployments and reunification create unique stressors; Medical and psychological sequelae.

Some servicemembers have extensive firearms, hand-to-hand combat training, and combat experience.

Veteran's Childhood



Co-occurring Conditions and IPV

Post-traumatic Stress Continuum

Combat and Operational Stress

- Expected and predictable emotional, intellectual, physical and/or behavioral reactions of those exposed to stressful events in war or military operations.

Acute Stress Response

- Includes most components of PTSD, but lasts 2 days-4 weeks
- Presence of dissociative symptoms (numbing, detachment, decreased awareness of surroundings)

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- ✓ Traumatic event
- ✓ Intrusive symptoms
 1. Persistent avoidance
 2. Negative alterations in cognitions and mood
 3. Marked alterations in arousal
 4. Re-experiencing
- ✓ Last longer than a month
- ✓ Cause distress & impairment
- ✓ Symptoms are not due to medication, substance use, or other illness

DSM-V

PTSD SYMPTOMS

- **Avoidance (Self-imposed Social Withdrawal)**
- **Negative Cognitions & Mood (Anger, Inability to experience Positive Emotions)**
- **Arousal (Hypervigilance, Irritability, Recklessness)**
- **Re-experiencing (Flashbacks & Nightmares)**

IPV TACTICS

- **Social Isolation (Victim from Family/Friends, Economic Control)**
- **Emotional Abuse (Suspicion, Jealousy, Accusations)**
- **Intimidation/Threats**
- **Physical/Sexual Assaults (outside of Flashbacks & Nightmares)**

PTSD and IPV

PTSD rates among veterans vary from 18% to 35%

Most military servicemembers and veterans with PTSD **do not become abusive or violent**

Veterans w/PTSD report significantly **higher rates of generally violent behaviors and aggression** than those w/o

Studies have consistently found veterans w/PTSD have **higher incidence of IPV perpetration** than veterans w/o

Correlation vs. Causation

National Center for PTSD
Gerlock, Szarka, Cox, & Harel, 2016; Gerlock, 2004; Orcutt, King, & King, 2003;
Sayers, Farrow, 18 Ross, & Oslin, 2009

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Traumatically induced disruption of brain function and disturbance of consciousness caused by an external injury to the head, possibly resulting in function/disturbance in impairment of **cognitive, emotional, behavioral and physical functioning**

Not unique to military/combat service



TBI Impairments

- ✦ **Cognitive Functioning:** Loss of consciousness, working memory problems, impaired attention, slowed thinking and reasoning processing, and communication problems
- ✦ **Emotional Functioning:** Depression, anxiety, irritability/rage, and mood swings
- ✦ **Behavioral Functioning:** Agitation, aggression, acting on impulse, not caring about things, and sleep disturbance
- ✦ **Physical Functioning:** Headaches, pain, visual problems, dizziness/vertigo, and seizures



TBI SYMPTOMS

- Depression
- Memory Problems
- Pain, Headaches
- Sleep Disturbance
- Impulsiveness
- Irritability
- Aggression
- Rage, Mood Swings

IPV TACTICS

- Social Isolation (Victim from Family/Friends, Economic Control)
- Emotional Abuse (Suspicion, Jealousy, Accusations)
- Intimidation/Threats
- Physical/Sexual Assaults

TBI and IPV

Aggressive behavior after a moderate to severe TBI is common and generally seen within the first year after injury

However, this aggression may also be associated with a major depression and pre-injury substance abuse

Both TBI and PTSD may include an element of paranoia

Current research on the intersection of TBI and IPV includes findings on TBI secondary to victimization

Strangulation (just once) related to a significant increase in risk of homicide [Gwinn, March 2015].

TBI Symptoms and IPV Tactics

Case Example

Wife of a Vietnam veteran:

“I know he got blown up in Vietnam. I can understand him forgetting things. I even understand him getting angry. I just don’t understand...anytime when I take a weekend to work at the arts and crafts fairs he calls me all day long. He calls me awful names. He accuses me of having affairs and sleeping with other men. Now just when am I supposed to do that...In between selling a bracelet and an earring?”

TBI Symptoms and IPV Tactics

Case Example

Wife of a Vietnam veteran:

“I know he got blown up in Vietnam. I can understand him forgetting things. I even understand him getting angry. I just don’t understand...anytime when I take a weekend to work at the arts and crafts fairs he calls me all day long. He calls me awful names. He accuses me of having affairs and sleeping with other men. Now just when am I supposed to do that...In between selling a bracelet and an earring?”

In this example, she identifies the general problems with memory and anger that can be associated with a TBI.

But, she correctly points out how a TBI doesn’t seem to explain his ongoing name-calling, accusations, and constant monitoring of her through the phone calls. This is an example of IPV.

Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) and IPV

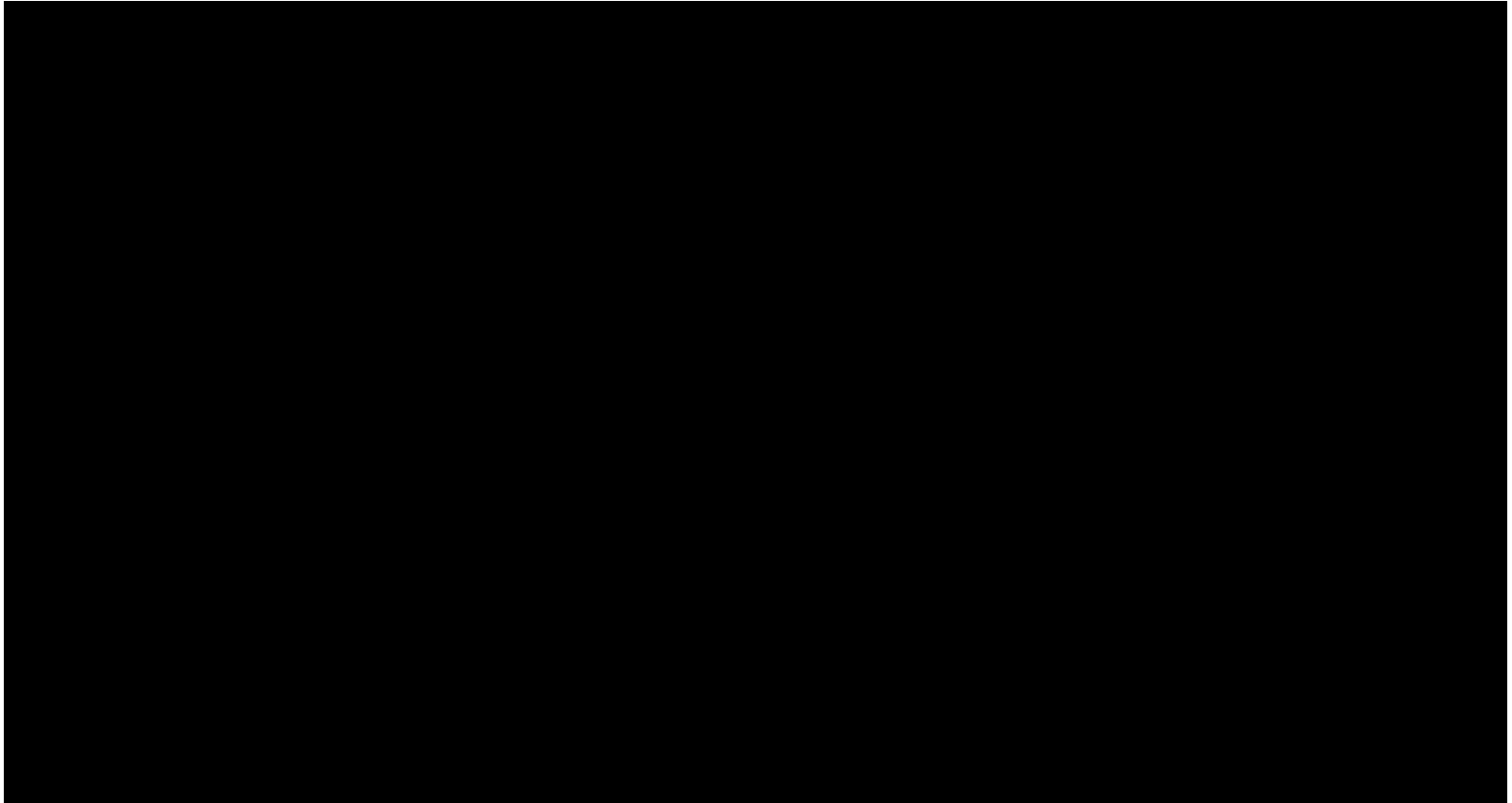
Both IPV perpetration and victimization are often co-occurring for people seeking alcohol and drug treatment

IPV perpetrators 2-3 times more likely to use illicit drugs and abuse or be dependent on alcohol or other drugs, or have serious mental illness [Lipsky et al., 2011]

While NOT causal, alcohol consumption (particularly binge drinking) linked to severity of IPV perpetration [Fals-Steward, 2003; Gerlock, 2012: NRI-04-040]

More alcohol consumption before violent IPV incidents among veterans and servicemembers [Marshall et al., 2005]

Hector's Arrest



Contexts of IPV

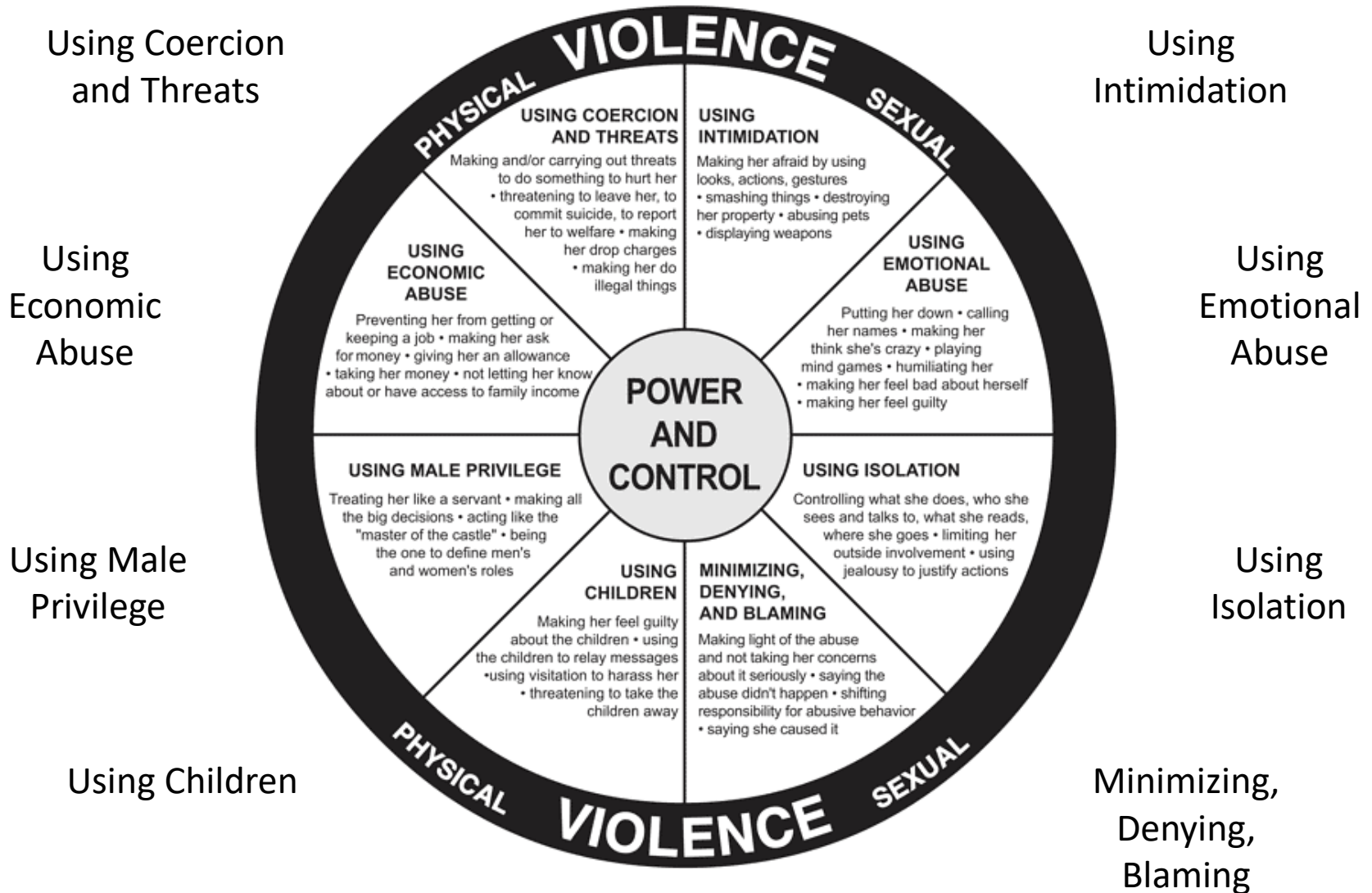
Pathological violence

- Substance abuse
- Psychological problems (e.g., PTSD, TBI, depression, mental illness)

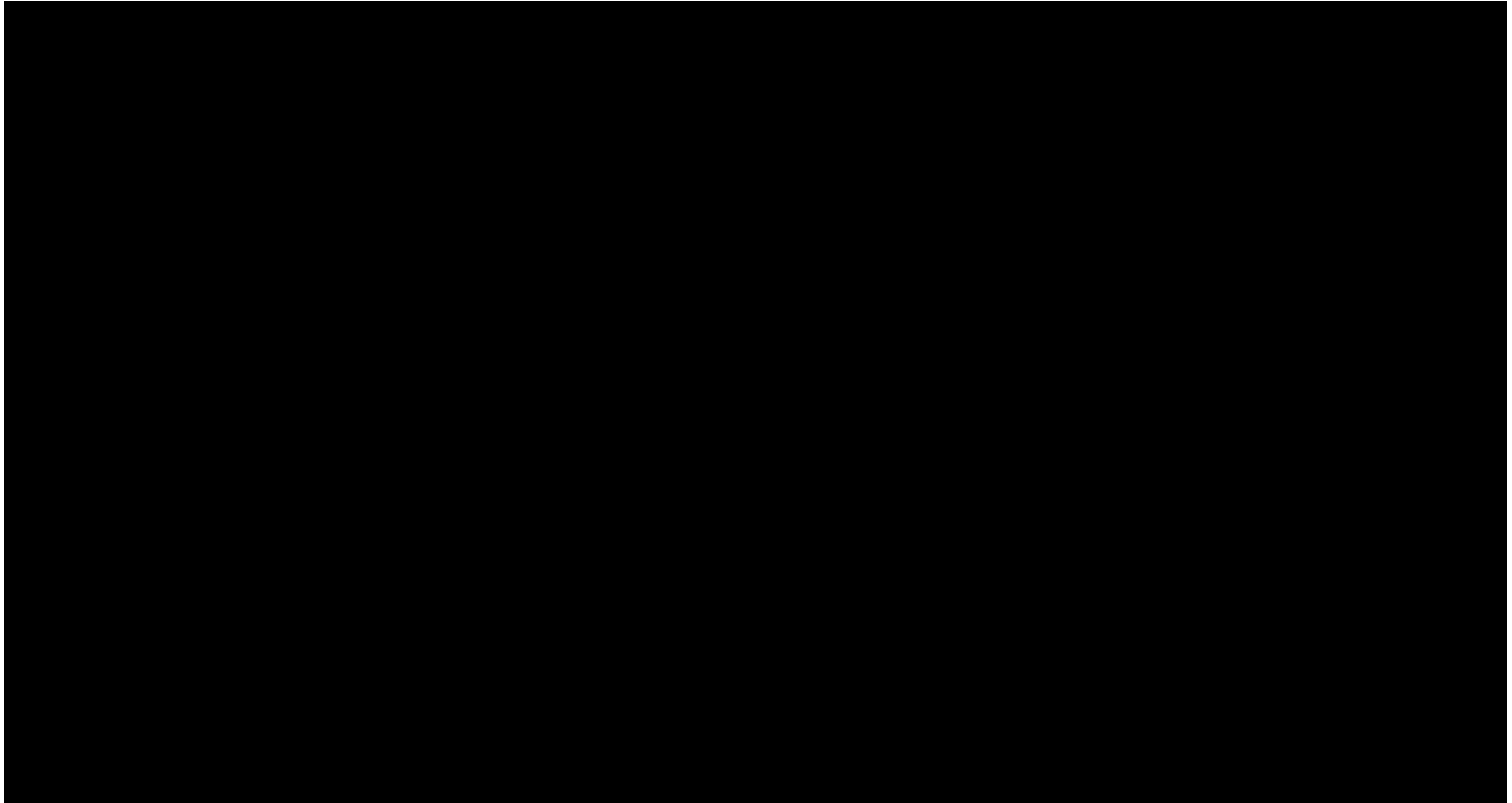
Violence in exercise of coercive control (Battering)

- Patterned set of behaviors
- Coercion and intimidation distinguish it from non-battering
- Entrapment essential goal

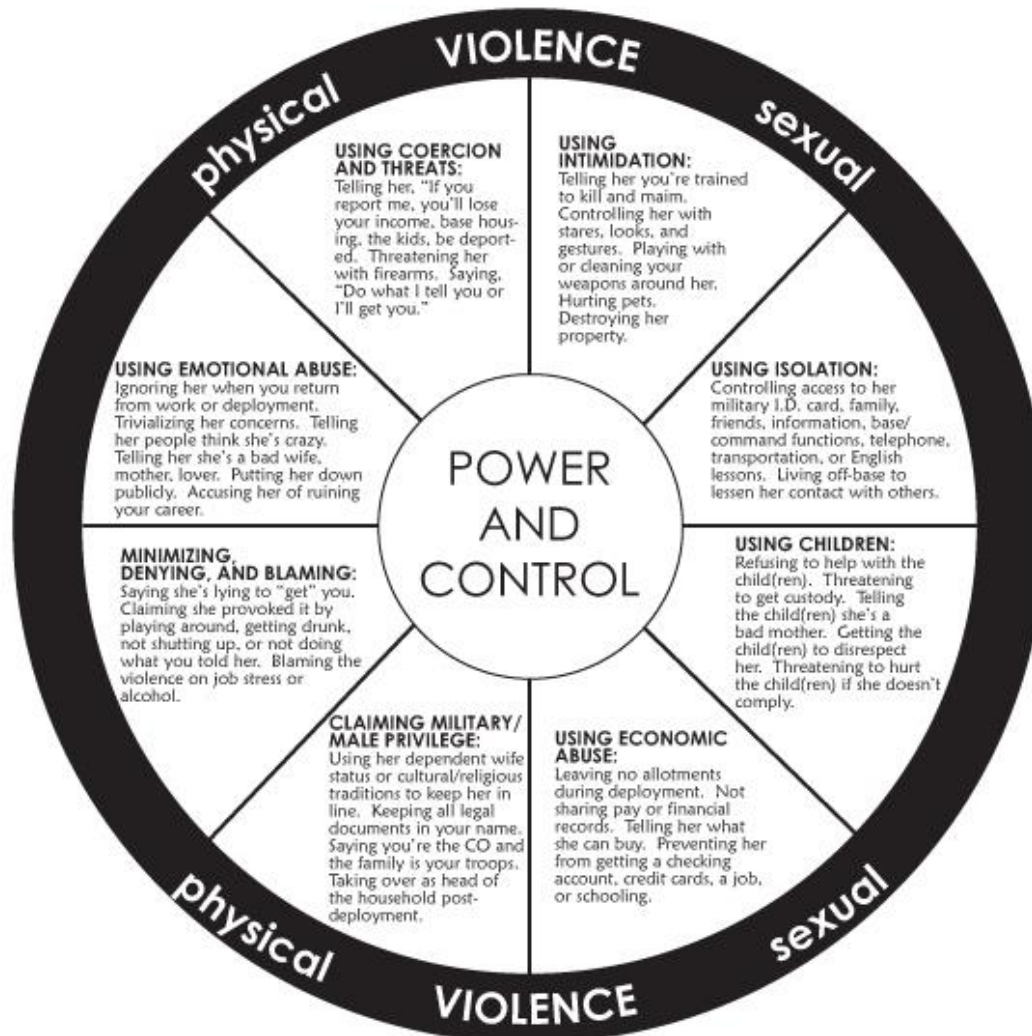
Power & Control Wheel



Power & Control



Military Power & Control Wheel



Contexts of IPV (Cont'd)

Non-battering use of violence (Situational)

- NOT part of an attempt to establish an ongoing position of dominance in a relationship or in response to being battered

Violent resistance

- Broader strategy by victims to stop or contain abuse, including violence directed at the abuser
- Imperfect self-defense
- Battered Women's Syndrome

All IPV can lead to serious bodily injury or death.

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

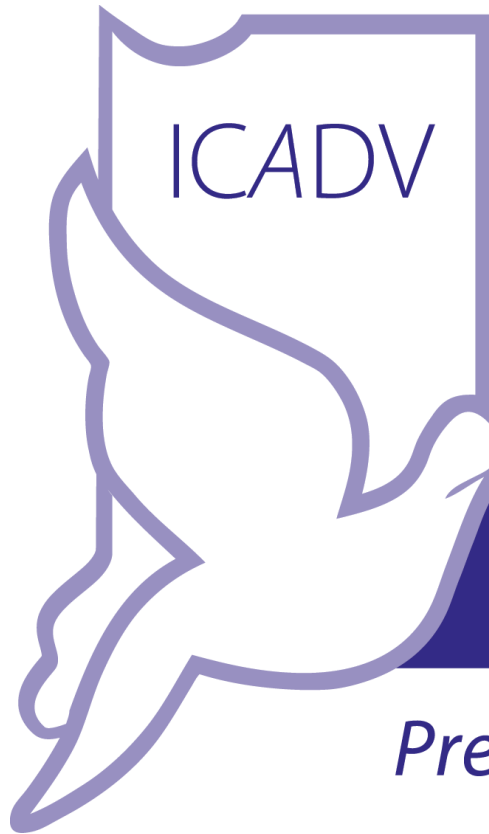
Safety at Home



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/>

Contact Information

Brian Clubb

Military & Veterans Advocacy Program Coordinator

Battered Women's Justice Project

571-384-0985

[**bclubb@bwjp.org**](mailto:bclubb@bwjp.org)