

## Module 2 Information

### How Family Violence Was Discovered

- ❖ Historical Shift—the recent focus has shifted from collective social violence to
  - interpersonal violence
- ❖ Increased coverage in media
- ❖ Academic community acceptance
- ❖ The amount of research increased publications in multiple fields
- ❖ The social movement of organizations and federal agencies increased advances in the field
- ❖ International treaties included human rights protection
  - 1989: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - 1994: UN Elimination of Violence Against Women—rejected cultural relativism stating that all UN member countries must eliminate practices permitting abuse of women and children
- ❖ Challenges:
  - Theorizing has not kept pace with the increase in research
  - Progress in practice is meager
- ❖ Children’s Human Rights
  - As seen through family law
  - Children need more protection of property rights and custodial decisions
- ❖ Women’s Human Rights
  - Improvement in the status of women is slow internationally
- ❖ Social Constructionism
  - The process by which social conditions become social problems is based upon societal reactions
    - Individual citizens
    - Religious groups
    - Social movement organizations
    - Political interest groups
    - Media
- ❖ Claims-making
  - “Moral entrepreneurs”
  - Individuals and groups expressing distress or anger (social reaction) about the conditions they see as objectionable (social definition) leads to a more general acknowledgment by society (social problem)
  - The “winner” of the debate among cultural differences defines “the truth.”

### When Family Violence Was Discovered

#### ◆ IPV

- ❖ 1848: Women’s Rights Convention—insisted on all rights and privileges of US citizen status
- ❖ 1920: 19th Amendment to US Constitution—women’s right to vote
- ❖ WWII: women joining the labor force
- ❖ The 1960s: women’s rights and the feminist movement
- ❖ 1965: Supreme Court—access to birth control
- ❖ Current: focus on subordination and victimization of women within the family

### ◆ **Battered Women**

- ❖ Early laws to 1960s: despite attempts to acknowledge abuse, advocates were viewed as “too radical and antifamily.”
- ❖ 1971: England created Chiswick Women’s Aid, the first shelter for battered women
- ❖ 1974: “Scream Quietly or the Neighbors Will Hear” by Erin Pizzey, Chiswick’s founder
- ❖ In the 1970s: the US created National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Organization for Victim Assistance, National Council on Child Abuse and Family Violence

### ◆ **Marital Rape**

- ❖ 1700: marital exemption law—marriage is a contractual consent to sexual intercourse
- ❖ 1993: laws against marital rape are in all 50 states

### ◆ **Dating Violence**

- ❖ 1981: a study showed similarities between victimization of women in dating and marital relationships.
- ❖ Created educational programs in schools
- ❖ The 1980s: studied date rape

### ◆ **Sexual Assault**

- ❖ Currently, started studying sexual assault for all different types of people

### ◆ **Stalking**

- ❖ The 1990s: first acknowledged and defined as visual or physical proximity, nonconsensual communication, and/or threats causing fear in a reasonable person
- ❖ Current: criminal offense in all 50 states
- ❖ Current: cyberstalking

### ◆ **Elder Abuse**

- ❖ 1962: must provide protective services to older adults or persons with disabilities
- ❖ 1974: APS instituted in all states
- ❖ 1981: first research on elder abuse
- ❖ 1989: first scholarly journal
- ❖ 2003: Elder Justice Coalition
- ❖ 2006: inaugural Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15

### ◆ **Battered Men**

- ❖ to Current: debate on the subject of actual power, self-defense, or fear
- ❖ Not considered a social problem based on survey numbers
- ❖ Both sexes perform coercive control

## ◆ Co-Occurrence of Child Maltreatment & Marital Violence

- ❖ One or both adult partners are abusive towards each other and also their child(ren)
- ❖ Current: Research shows interventions must address the problems jointly, and organizations are altering their approaches

## ◆ International & Understudied Groups

- ❖ Important Terms
  - Human rights violations—oppression of women and children around the world
  - b. Customary laws—customs that predate international legal reform and are still widely observed
- ❖ Cross-cultural family abuse
- ❖ Diversity and discrepancy of definitions across cultures
- ❖ Immigrant family violence
  - They May be especially vulnerable because they are more likely to be socially isolated, economically dependent on their spouse, live in poverty, and/or use physical punishment in discipline
  - Need culturally competent counselors, tools translated, and program expansion aimed at minorities
- ❖ Violence among ethnic and racial minorities
  - Findings are mixed due to:
    - Police bias
    - Demographic and SES factors
    - Combining data from several ethnic groups
    - Faults in research tools
    - Lack of knowledge of racism experiences
- ❖ Violence between gay and lesbian partners
  - 1990's: first studied
  - Showed violence rates are similar to heterosexual partner violence, but forms vary with more injuries and more homicide brutality
- ❖ Abuse of disabled intimates
  - Limited research
  - Prevalence is unknown, but rates are theorized to be higher than non-disabled victims
- ❖ Religious diversity
  - Challenges
    - The power is given to men
    - Rigid gender roles
    - Religious freedom
    - Emphasis on parental rights
    - Rejection of modern medicine
    - Condemnation o homosexuality
- ❖ Strengths
  - Victims state spiritual beliefs to be beneficial to coping with abuse
- ❖ Abuse of rural residents
  - Isolated
  - More patriarchal social order
  - Greater gun use
  - Inadequate criminal justice response
  - Lack of transportation, technology, legal aid, or support

- ❖ Abuse among military inmates
  - Emphasis and training in weapons and killing
  - Some commanders hamper efforts to identify problems

### **Defining Family Violence**

- ❖ Definitions of Family Violence
  - Family—a shift from immediate family members to intimate partners/very close personal relationships
  - Violence—ranges from failing to include maltreatment, neglect, or control to possible over-defining to include spanking
  - Violent behavior—physical, sexual, or threats of physical or sexual assault
  - Abusive behavior—3 violent behaviors, plus psychological and/or emotional abuse
- ❖ Legal definitions
  - focus on injury outcome; not perpetrator actions only account for single incidents do not consider disparities between gender
- ❖ Costs of Family Violence
  - Medical
  - Mental health Homelessness and welfare
  - Criminal justice system
  - PTO in jobs
  - Societal productivity loss

### **Practice, Policy, & Prevention Issues**

- ❖ Prevention—designed to stop family violence before it occurs
  - Family Support & Training Programs
  - School-based Programs
  - Community Awareness Campaigns
- ❖ Intervention—responds to family violence after it occurs
  - Mandatory arrest laws
    - No-drop prosecution—requires prosecutors to move forward with criminal proceedings even if the victim has recanted
  - Criminal Sanctions
  - Restraining orders
- ❖ Child Protection
  - Family Preservation—intensive in-home help
  - financial management
  - nonviolent discipline
  - anger management
- ❖ education
- ❖ Foster Care
  - high rates of maltreatment
- ❖ Adoption
- ❖ Rehabilitation
  - Treating Offenders
  - Court-ordered group counseling
  - Dual diagnosis
  - Medicalization vs. punishment

- ❖ Treating Victims
  - Medical
  - Mental health
  - Social support
- ❖ Shelters & Hotlines
  - Services
  - Crisis housing
  - Counseling
  - Social support groups
  - Childcare
  - Economic support
  - Job training, legal assistance
- ❖ 1994: Violence Against Women Act—National Domestic Violence Hotline
- ❖ Coordinated Community Responses
  - Types
    - Educational campaigns
    - In-home visitations
    - School-based education
    - Treatment programs for victims and offenders
    - Mandated parent education
  - 1980: Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, “Duluth Model”—police, lawyers, and judges coordinated responses to perpetrators and in protecting victims

### **Theoretical Explanations**

- ❖ Theory—an integrated set of ideas that explain a set of observations
  - Ideological convictions are pivotal because they dictate the selection of research designs and interventions
  - Example: A feminist who believes that the patriarchal structure of society causes wife abuse will fashion a theory to cover this belief and then develop a research paradigm for testing the theory

### **Macro-theories**

- ❖ Identify the broad factors that make families prone to violence
- ❖ Culture: Socialization, learning, and influence by parents, peers, media, etc.
  - Example: Acceptance of violence, acceptance of patriarch
  - Social approval (e.g., accepting poverty as realistic)
  - Patriarchy—men hold greater power and privilege in the social hierarchy than do women, and men are given the right to dominate and control women and children (e.g., age, family stresses)
- ❖ Feminism perspectives—see domestic violence as only being understood using gender and power
  - gender and power relationships
  - family as a social institution
  - understanding and validating women’s experiences
  - research findings should help women
  - Social structure: link family violence to certain socially defined classifications
  - Family structure
  - Evolution

- ❖ Deterrence:
  - The backbone of the criminal justice system
  - Inadequacies for explaining family violence in theories, implementations, and results
  - Punishment—consistent, immediate administration of either an adverse event or the removal of a positive event to reduce unwanted behavior
    - punishment procedures do not have the desired outcome of reducing unwanted behaviors because following the rules that make punishment effective is often unmanageable

### **Micro-theories**

- ❖ Explain violence on an individual level: Social scientists want to know why individuals vary
- ❖ Learning theories— learning by individual family members
- ❖ Social Learning—modeling, social imitation, vicarious learning, observational learning
  - Bandura: aggression can be learned through observation
  - Transgenerational/intergenerational learning—violence tends to be perpetuated from one generation to the next
  - Mirror cells—neurons in the brain of an observer respond to the behaviors of the observed person in the same way they would if the observer had executed the action himself
    - Shortcomings: many individuals exposed to violent families do not go on to emulate abusive behaviors
- ❖ Conditioning
- ❖ Classical conditioning (emotional learning)—emotional changes that take place in an individual as a result of experience by pairing a signal or cue with a subsequent frightening and painful event (traumatic reactions)
  - Trauma Theory—contemporary learning theory that helps to illuminate more complex kinds of learning (e.g., prolonged reactions to traumatic events)
    - PTSD
- ❖ Revictimization—response to initial victimization is predictive of a second victimization
- ❖ vicarious trauma—professionals experiencing emotional responses as a consequence of listening to and treating abuse victims
- ❖ Operant conditioning (modification of behavior) — understanding of the relationship between actions and their consequences; shapes behavior in a step-by-step fashion
- ❖ Avoidance conditioning (both classical and operant conditioning)— classically conditioned fear and operantly conditioned escape or avoidance
  - Traumatized individuals indulge in a great deal of avoidance behavior
- ❖ Individual (intrapersonal) differences theories
  - Causation of family violence in individual differences among offenders and sometimes among victims
  - Psychopathology—mental disorder
  - Individuals who mistreat family members are seriously disturbed, and their view of the world is distorted or serves as a disinhibitor to prohibited behavior (e.g., child molestation)
    - Psychological Trait Differences—certain traits and/or patterns of traits (i.e., typologies) that help explain abusive behavior
  - Psychobiology—strong genetic or physiological basis greatly influences behavior

- ❖ Systems Theory and Interactional Theories
  - Systems theory—family violence is a product of interactions between individuals in a specific relationship
    - Sees violence in a relationship as not just the result of the behavior of only the perpetrator but also a result of the victim’s behavior
    - Interactions of both partners preserve the homeostatic balance of the violent relationship
    - Marital Dysfunction (i.e., dyadic/relationship stress)—a violent partner’s behavior may be a response to the other partner’s conduct
    - Some evidence contradicts dyadic stress as the “cause” of family violence
  - Interpersonal Interaction Theory—members of a dyad are responsive to actions of the other in terms of such issues as attachment needs and anger
    - Infant attachment—an enduring emotional bond that develops between a dependent infant and his or her primary caretaker during the first year of life
    - Adult Attachment—affectionate bond with a romantic partner that is a relatively long-lasting connection typified by wanting to be close to the partner
- ❖ Social, Symbolic, and Activity Theories
  - Social Exchange Theory—explores interactions from a cost-benefit point of view, assuming that humans enter and maintain relationships only when they judge that the benefits outweigh the costs
  - Symbolic Interactionism Theory—emphasizes the symbolic communication between humans, where actors construct and reconstruct their social reality, which propels behavior
  - Routine Activities Theory—recurring and prevalent activities that provide basic population and individual needs
- ❖ Multidimensional Theories—integrate several unidimensional theories because of the failure of single-concept frameworks to account for family violence
- ❖ Correlates and Single Factor Variables
  - Correlations are not causal because a third unknown variable may be responsible for the association (e.g., children of intelligent people earn more money (true). Perhaps intelligent parents provide a better education (third variable) for their children, who then earn more money)
  - Poverty is most associated with family abuse
    - Linked with neighborhood disadvantage
      - a high percentage of people living below the poverty line
      - high rate of unemployment and employment instability
      - a high percentage of female-headed households, women often living on welfare
  - social isolation
  - general financial strain
- ❖ Alcohol and Drug Use
  - The earliest factor proposed to correlate with family violence