

Recognising and responding to IPSV utilising safe practice principles

Di Macleod

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IPSV Definition

Sexual violence occurring in a broad range of intimate relationships including married, unmarried, dating, heterosexual and same sex relationships. Includes any form of unwanted sexual activity with a current or former partner that is without consent or due to force, intimidation or threat (direct or implied) (Winters, 2008)

IPSV is the intersection of DV and SV



IPSV is a common REALITY

No Domestic Violence WITHOUT Sexual Violence
EVER never met a batterer that wasn't a rapist
Dr Dean Hawley (2014)

“If a partner is controlling, abusive, and violent in the kitchen, the living room, and in public, why would he stop the abuse at the bedroom door?”

Hon. Jeffrey Kremers, Chief Judge, First Judicial
Administrative District, Milwaukee, WI

Unpacking IPSV behaviours



Seriousness of IPSV

- Frequency of the violence
- Intensity of the violence
- Higher levels of physical injury
- Multiple rapes
- Increased psychological effects
- Longer lasting trauma

(McOrmond-Plummer, L. , 2013).

A physically-abused woman also subjected to forced sex is over seven times more likely than other abused women to be killed.

(Campbell, J, Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicides, Vol.250
NIJ JOURNAL 15, 2003)

Why are we NOT asking about IPSV

- Not sure how to ask
- Worried about making things worse
- Don't feel comfortable
- Don't have the skills/experience

Consider that NOT asking

- Doesn't keep women safe
- Denies women's reality
- Silence may prolong the danger

Considerations in asking about IPSV

- Context
- Consider the timing
- Develop appropriate behavioural questions
- How will you respond?
- What will you do with the answers?
- Will you need to refer?

MUST UNDERTAKE TRAINING FIRST

Universal Safe Practice

Implementation of universal safety principles into everyday practice, rather than waiting for a disclosure of violence and then adapting to certain practices.

Universal safe practice is:

- Ethical and based on the needs of the most vulnerable
- Beneficial and can do no harm
- Respectful and inclusive
- Evidence based

The goal is to maximise safety and minimise harm for ALL service users

Universal Safe Practice Principles



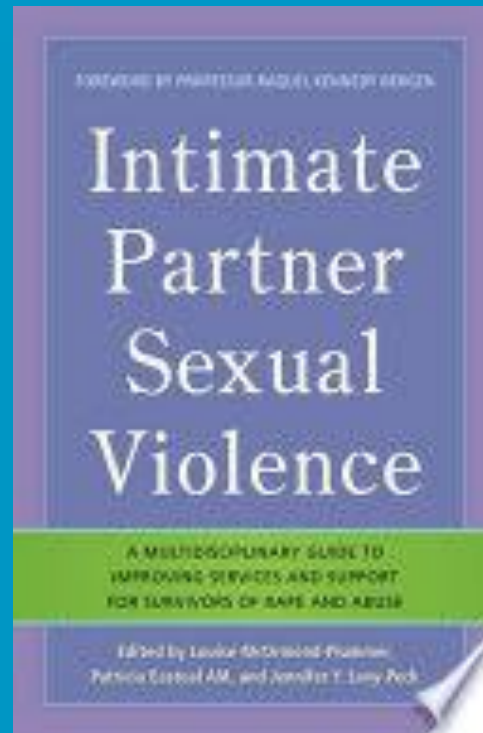
Environmental safety considerations

- Outside the building
- The public area inside the building
- The counselling/support room

How do we incorporate these principles into our practice?

- Prioritise safety
- Understanding of violence and its impact
- Consent
- Respect
- Build trust
- Maximise choice and control
- Communicate effectively
- Utilise specialist support

Suggested Resource



Intimate Partner Sexual Violence: A Multidisciplinary Guide to Improving Services and Support for Survivors of Rape and Abuse

Eds. Louise McOrmond-Plummer, Patricia Eastal and Jennifer Y. Levy-Peck
[Jessica Kingsley Publishers](http://www.jessicakingsley.com), UK, 2014

Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. www.stopsexualviolence.com



Thankyou