



# Violence

Beth Peterson, DMin., MSN, RN

1

Adapted from the Faith Community Nursing Course Curriculum developed through the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing, which is owned by the Spiritual Care Association, New York, NY.



2

# Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize violence and the five forms of abuse.
2. Describe the incidence, prevalence, and risk factors related to violence.
3. Assess intimate partner, child, and elder abuse.
4. Assist the vulnerable in the context of faith traditions, spiritual interventions, and faith community nursing Scope and Standards of Practice.



3

## Outcome 1

Recognize violence and the five forms of abuse:Physical

- Sexual
- Psychological
- Emotional
- Economic



4

## Definitions

### *Key term: violence*

the pattern of violent and coercive behavior directed by someone toward another individual



5

### *Key term: physical abuse*

the infliction or attempt to harm someone by physical force, which may include behaviors such as hitting, shoving, kicking, burning, punching, or restraining



6

## *Key term: sexual abuse*

coercing or forcing someone into sexual contact without consent, which may include rape, forcing prostitution, or sodomy



7

## *Key term: psychological abuse*

threatening a partner or another person by instilling fear, which may include threats of physical harm to self, the victim, or others through blackmail, harassment, property destruction, and stalking



8

## *Key term: emotional abuse*

the attempt or act of undermining a person's self-worth, which may include constant criticism, belittling the victim's abilities and competency, insults, and manipulating the victim's feelings and emotions to induce guilt



9

## *Key term: economic abuse*

An attempt to make the individual financially dependent on the perpetrator or have total control over the victim's finances



10

## Outcome 2

Describe the incidence, prevalence, and risk factors related to violence.



11

## Small Group Discussions

- Choose a facilitator to keep the group moving and on time and a recorder to summarize the groups' discussion and present to large group
- 7 minutes for small group discussion, 3 minutes total for all groups to report



12

## Small Group Discussion #1

- What is the faith community's responsibility toward victims of family violence or abuse?



13

## Prevalence of Violence

Violence impacts many population groups.

- Family violence affects everyone, regardless of sexual orientation.
- Family violence affects all racial, ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic groups.
- Family violence is a community problem.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women.
- Men are also affected.
- All types of women are vulnerable.



14

## Prevalence of Violence (continued)

- Violence is usually a recurrent phenomenon that escalates.
- Drug or alcohol abuse is a contributing factor.
- Women may also abuse men.
- Intimate partners perpetrate the majority of all violent crimes against women.
- Abusers are often extremely jealous, possessive, and controlling.
- The single most common element among violent abusers is having been neglected or abused in childhood.



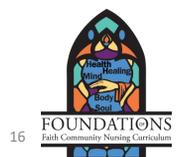
15

15

## Children and Minors as Victims

Children are the victims and are never to blame for maltreatment. Five main categories:

1. neglect
2. physical
3. sexual
4. emotional
5. spiritual



16

16

## Children and Minors as Victims (continued)

### Caregivers Who May Abuse

- difficulty bonding with a newborn
- not nurturing the child
- maltreated as children themselves
- lacking awareness of child development or having unrealistic expectations
- misusing alcohol or drugs, including during pregnancy
- being involved in criminal activity
- experiencing financial difficulties



17

17

## Children and Minors as Victims (continued)

### Family Characteristics or Situations that May Contribute to Abuse

- physical, developmental, or mental health problems of a family member
- family breakdown or violence between other family members
- being isolated or lacking a support network
- lack of support from the extended family in child-rearing



18

18

## Children and Minors as Victims (continued)

### Community Risk Factors

- gender and social inequality
- lack of adequate housing or services
- high levels of unemployment or poverty
- easy availability of alcohol or drugs
- inadequate policies and programs to prevent
  - child maltreatment
  - child pornography
  - child prostitution
  - child labor



19

19

## Children and Minors as Victims (continued)

### Consequences of Child Maltreatment

- perpetrating or being a victim of violence
- depression
- smoking
- obesity
- high-risk sexual behaviors



20

20

## Elders as Victims

- single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person



21

## Elders as Victims (continued)

- physical injuries from scratches to lasting disabilities
- neglect is the most common form of elder maltreatment in domestic settings
- unclear whether spouses or adult children are more likely to be perpetrators



22

## Impact of Violence or Abuse on Individuals of any Age

Exposure to violence is associated with increased:

- suicide
- homicide
- conduct disorder
- depression
- post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- alcohol and drug abuse
- impaired self-esteem
- feelings of helplessness and hopelessness



23

## Small Group Discussion #2

- Why is it important for FCNs to understand how to care for victims of family violence and abuse?



24

## Outcome 3

Assess intimate partner, child, and elder abuse.



25

## Assessing Partner Abuse

The victim frequently is kept isolated from any social network and activities.

- restricted access to health providers and services
- personality changes or is excessively private
- frequently nervous, anxious, and easily upset
- partner has excessive control of the victim's activities
- partner speaks for and makes the victim's decisions
- partner insults or ridicules the victim in public
- victim has unexplained injuries



26

## Assessing Child Abuse

Possible indicators of child abuse

- hygiene and appearance
- social
- behavioral

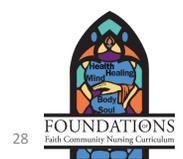


27

## Assessing Elder Abuse (continued)

Possible indicators of elder abuse

- malnutrition, dehydration, poor hygiene, untreated health problems
- evidence of multiple injuries
- caregiver is openly hostile
- elder is unwilling to discuss injuries
- elder acts fearful of caretaker



28

## Legal Responsibility in Reporting

- RN as a mandatory reporter in child and vulnerable adult abuse
- Faith Community policies and procedures



29

## Outcome 4

Assist the vulnerable in the context of faith traditions, spiritual interventions, and faith community nursing Scope and Standards of Practice.



30

## Helping the Faith Community Engage

More people go to spiritual leaders (clergy, FCNs, chaplains, spiritual directors) than any other helping professional for assistance with personal problems.

1. Be cognizant of religious teachings of faith communities.
2. Become aware of legal concerns on abuse regarding assault, battery, and neglect.
3. Attend additional training
4. Educate spiritual leaders, faith community, and larger community about violence with: sermons, articles, programs, and prayers.



31 FOUNDATIONS  
Faith Community Nursing Curriculum

31

## Helping the Faith Community Engage (continued)

5. Encourage age-appropriate curriculum on healthy relationships and bully prevention in children's classes and youth groups.
6. Partner with local violence organizations, law enforcement, and emergency medical services (EMS) to raise awareness and care for victims.
7. Post contact information for local services and national violence hotlines in bathrooms and other places.
8. Explore denominational resources.



32 FOUNDATIONS  
Faith Community Nursing Curriculum

32

## Helping the Faith Community Engage (continued)

9. Practice a safe sanctuary policy, including background checks and screening volunteers and staff members.
10. Always have more than one adult involved with youth activities and classes.
11. Encourage the faith community to offer parenting classes and support for single parents.



33

## Helping the Faith Community Engage (continued)

Be ready to respond to suspicious incidents.

1. Speak to the victim alone.
2. Assist the victim to access personal strengths and support systems.
3. Offer and strongly encourage seeking help.
4. Support the victim's decision even when you disagree.
5. Remember that reporting suspected abuse is required by law.



34

## Helping the Faith Community Engage (continued)

Safety is always the top priority.

- Never take a victim into your own home.
- Never attempt to confront a batterer.
- Never blame victims.
- Never give in to the temptation to “rescue” victims.
- Never use clichés.



35

## FCN Self-Assessment

If I have had personal experience with family violence, have I sufficiently dealt with and healed from my own victimization so that I can care for others?



36

## Large Group Discussion

The wife and mother of a family that is a part of your faith community has a bruise on her face . You comment about it and she responds that she fell, “laughs and says “I’m so clumsy,” and changes the subject. As a FCN how would you respond?

- What if the person with bruises was a child or elder adult?



37

## Recommended Viewing

- Why Domestic Violence Victims don't leave

[https://www.ted.com/talks/leslie\\_morgan\\_steiner\\_why\\_domestic\\_violence\\_victims\\_dont\\_leave](https://www.ted.com/talks/leslie_morgan_steiner_why_domestic_violence_victims_dont_leave)

- Elder Abuse in America

<http://www.witness.org>

<http://www.ncoa.org> | An Age for Justice



38

# Comments and Questions

