

# Domestic Violence in Child Welfare

DCFS Latino Advisory Council Family Institute Day

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Nisha Patel, LCSW

Statewide Administrator

DCFS Domestic Violence Intervention Program

# DV & Child Abuse & Neglect

- 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence. (*www.ncadv.org*)
- 1 in 3 women, and 1 in 7 men are victims of domestic violence. (*Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence*)
- Domestic violence is considered a major risk factor for fatal child abuse. (*National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention, 2019*)

# DV is Underlying Condition

- DV
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Illness
- Developmental Disabilities

Underlying Condition (UC) – factor experienced by parent that may negatively impact ability to meet child's needs

Presence of UC does not predict abuse/neglect, but may increase risk of abuse/neglect

# Power and Control Wheel - English



# Power and Control Wheel - Spanish

Rueda del poder:



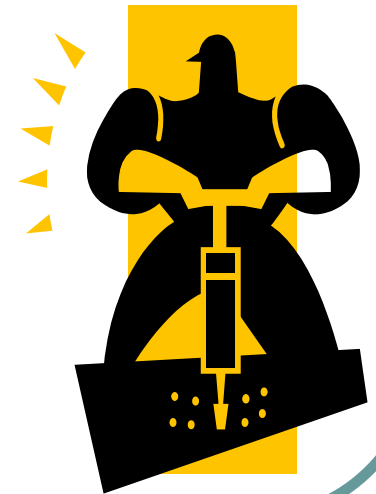
# What is Domestic Violence (DV)?

Domestic violence involves the establishment of power and control through a pattern of coercive behaviors that include physical, sexual, verbal, and emotional assaults perpetrated by one intimate partner against another.

*(Ganley and Schechter, 1996)*

# DV is...

- ...attributed to factors of power and control
- ...the result of many survivors and offenders witnessing DV in childhood
- ...Reinforced by cultural factors
- ...Reinforced by gender role expectations



# DV is not caused by...

- **...*Substance Abuse***

- Not causal
- Increases risk

- **...*Mental Illness***

- Meds don't stop abuse
- Not all offenders have MI

- **...*Relationship Issues***

- Offenders have hx of abuse in other relationships
- Supports minimization, denial and blame

- **...*Anger Issues***

- DV is about P & C!
- Offenders can manage anger well
- Offenders do not have triggers to behavior
- Anger causes lack of control – not DV
- Anger used as tool of intimidation, P & C
- Offenders carry attitudes that reinforce abusive behavior



# Stats – DV and Latino/Hispanic Families

- Incidents of domestic violence may vary within sub-groups of Hispanics: According to one study, Mexican origin women reported higher rates of domestic violence than other Hispanic sub-groups. (Frias & Angel 2005)
- The National Violence Against Women Survey found that 21% of Latinas report experiencing physical assault at some point during their lives, and 7.9% reported having experienced an intimate partner rape.
- According to the National Violence Against Women Survey, Hispanic and non-Hispanic women report similar rates of physical assault and stalking.

[www.latinodv.org](http://www.latinodv.org)

# Cultural Factors in Latino/Hispanic Families

- ***Familismo*** defined:

- Conflicts are to be handled internally within the family
- Problems are not to be shared outside of the family

- ***Implications***

- Reluctance to utilize outside service providers, such as shelters or counselors
- Reluctance to call law enforcement
- Especially problematic when family members blame the victim

# Cultural Factors in Latino/Hispanic Families

- ***Machismo*** defined:

- Responsibility and obligation to the family is important, and maintaining one's honor
- Includes unspoken expectations that a man should be masculine, in control, domineering

- ***Implications***

- Belief that men are in control of their family
- Masculine traits are associated with abuse, including a propensity to initiate violence

[www.latinodv.org](http://www.latinodv.org)

# Cultural Factors in Latino/Hispanic Families

- ***Marianismo*** defined:

- Uses the Virgin Mary's self-sacrificing and uncomplaining nature as a role model for how women should behave
- Often includes unwavering support of the husband's decisions and an unquestioning acceptance of the husband's faults/behaviors

- ***Implications***

- Promotes unquestioning acceptance of abusive behaviors
- Can discourage women from leaving violent and abusive situation

[www.latinodv.org](http://www.latinodv.org)

# Cultural Factors in Latino/Hispanic Families

- Latina women underutilize formal helping resources because of language barriers, cultural barriers and differences, and fear and distrust.
- Latina women face obstacles to receiving help such as fear of deportation, social isolation
- Misinformation and lack of knowledge about legal rights and law enforcement capabilities and structure
- Language differences, and limited knowledge of available community providers/social services

# Values as Protective Factors

- Latino values can also serve as a resource.
- These values can also serve as protective factors and build on cultural pride.
- Emphasis on close family relationships (*Familismo*) can also be a protective factor.
- *Familismo* does not give the abuser permission to be abusive to the victim and children.
- *Machismo* does not have to mean violent.

[www.latinodv.org](http://www.latinodv.org)

# Impact of DV on children



Lisa 911



# Impact of DV on children

- Eating & sleeping disorders
- Verbally & physically aggressive behaviors
- Guilt – abuse is their fault, they must stop it
- Poor academic performance
- Low self-esteem
- Feeling isolated
- Easily frightened, anxious, clingy, startle response
- Frequent crying
- Adolescent substance abuse
- Teen dating violence
- Runaway behaviors
- Poor conflict resolution



# Red Flags & Warning Signs

## ● ***Significant Indicators***

- Concrete factors
- Reported incidents
- Third party reports
- Use or involvement of children
- Physical injuries
- Self-reported hx
- Police involvement
- Order of protection

## ● ***Verbal Indicators***

- DV dynamics of P & C in relationship
- Impact on safety
- Anecdotal hx
- Child exposure to DV
- Threats, harassment, intimidation
- Physical, verbal abuse

# Strangulation and DV

- Significant predictor for future lethal violence.
- If your partner has strangled you in the past, your risk of being killed by them may be seven times higher
- Strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of partner violence as unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes.
- Strangulation is an ultimate form of power and control, where the abuser can demonstrate control over the victim's next breath.
- Not choking

*[www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com](http://www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com)*

# Assessing Lethality Risk

- Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?
- Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?
- Do you think he/she might try to kill you?
- Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?
- Has he/she ever tried to strangle you?
- Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?
- Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?
- Is he/she unemployed?
- Has he/she tried to kill themselves?
- Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?
- Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?

*Messing, J., Campbell, J., Sullivan Wilson, J., Brown, S., & Patchell, B. (2015). The lethality screen: The predictive validity of an intimate partner violence risk assessment for use by first responders. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 1-22*

# Impact of COVID on DV

- Children more vulnerable to abuse during the pandemic – increased caregiver stress levels
- Pandemic can trigger violence when it did not previously exist
- Increased incidents of DV due to quarantine, being in closer proximity to abusive partner
- Fear to report incidents of DV
- Fear and barriers to safely leave
- Lack of ability to access resources – i.e. shelter, go to court for OP

*Adapted from “Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse Considerations During COVID-19” (SAMSA)*

# Protective Factors in DV

- **Parental Resilience** – ability to recognize and respond to DV
- **Social Connections** – ability to access support – religious, social, familial
- **Knowledge of Parenting & Development** – ability to understand the impact of DV on children
- **Concrete Support in Times of Need** – ability to develop a plan of safety from DV for self and children
- **Healthy Social & Emotional Development of Children** – steps taken to protect child
- **Healthy Parent-Child Relationships** – ability to communicate with child about non-blame and DV in home

# Domestic Violence Intervention Program

## ***Specialty Services Program, Clinical Division***

- Consultation
  - Assessment of DV dynamics
  - Staffings
  - Does not replace supervisory decision making
- Training
  - DV Policies
  - DV dynamics, trends
- Referral & Resources
  - Identification of appropriate interventions
  - Linkage to community providers

# Domestic Violence Intervention Program

Nisha Patel, LCSW, Statewide Administrator

[Nisha.Patel@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Nisha.Patel@Illinois.Gov)



Robin Greer-Jogun, M.Ed., QMHP, CDVP, CTP, Senior Clinical DV Specialist,  
Northern Region

[Robin.Greer-Jogun@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Robin.Greer-Jogun@Illinois.Gov)

Aiden Ethington, MA, ICDVP, Clinical DV Specialist, Central Region

[Aiden.Ethington@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Aiden.Ethington@Illinois.Gov)

Julia DeGroot, QMHP, MSW, Clinical DV Specialist, Cook and Southern Regions

[Julia.DeGroot@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Julia.DeGroot@Illinois.Gov)

# For Your Rolodex

Illinois Domestic Violence Helpline

877-863-6338

National Teen Dating Violence Helpline

866-331-9474

National Domestic Violence Helpline

800-799-7233





# Sarah's Inn

## Domestic Violence Services



**Liz Figueroa-Serrano**

*Advocacy and Community Partners Supervisor*

# Our Mission

*To improve the lives of those affected by domestic violence and to break the cycle of violence for future generations.*

# Sarah's Inn – Survivor Services

- **24-hour crisis line**
- **Advocacy**
- **Safety planning**
- **Individual counseling** for adults and children
- **Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)**
- **Support groups** for adults, children, and teens
- **Legal advocacy** for orders of protections (Maybrook Courthouse and Daley Center)
- Limited **pantry and financial** assistance



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together strong

# Sarah's Inn – PAIP Services

## PAIP = Partner Abuse Intervention Program

- Weekly groups for individuals who have perpetrated DV against an intimate partner
- 26 weeks total
- Participation is typically mandated but can also be voluntary.
- Focuses on accountability and victim safety
- Sarah's Inn provides weekly groups in English and Spanish but only for men who have harmed women partners.



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# DV Co-Location Program

- Collaboration with DCFS
- Christina Jacobo, DV Co-Located Advocate with Sarah's Inn – housed at 1911 S Indiana
- Consult on cases: Investigators, Intact and Placement Workers
- Directly interact with families
- Serve as a link to services

# Best Practices

## for Working with Survivors



### Do:

- Believe them.
- Inform them know that there are resources and offer to provide information.
- Ask if they are currently safe or if they need help with finding a safe place.
- Listen for what they want help with, even if it is simply talking with someone.
- Recognize their strengths.
- Respect their autonomy.

### Don't:

- Question or minimize their experience.
- Blame them for the violence they have experienced.
- Say, “Why haven’t you done \_\_\_\_\_ yet?”
- Set up services on their behalf. DV agencies will need to talk with them directly.
- Tell them what they should or shouldn’t do. They are survivors and already take many steps to protect themselves and kids.

# Accessing Services

- All domestic violence victim services are **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL**.
- All services are provided in both English and Spanish.
- We provide to services to survivors of all genders and backgrounds. We do not inquire about insurance or legal status.



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# Client Confidentiality

The Illinois Domestic Violence Act (IDVA) protects the confidentiality of survivors in DV services.

- We need to hear from the individual directly; we cannot “cold call” or schedule on someone’s behalf.
- We cannot disclose *any* information about a client without their consent.
- This is critical for safety and building trust.
- What this means for you...



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# Contact Us

## **24-Hour Crisis Line**

Phone: (708) 386-4225

Text: (708) 669-6149

## **PAIP Line**

314-635-0557

## **Website**

[Sarahsinn.org](http://Sarahsinn.org)

## **Sarah's Inn Podcast**

*\*episodes in English & Spanish*

Google, Apple Podcasts, & Spotify



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