

## Health After Abuse

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Effective Reform

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IPV has many long term physical  
and mental effects on survivors.

Chronic pain is pain that continues a month or more beyond the usual recovery period for an injury or illness or that goes on for months or years due to a chronic condition. The pain is usually not constant but can interfere with daily life at all levels.

*American Chronic Pain Association*

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"Can I pick this up today?"



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Effects can include...

- Chronic Fatigue
- Degenerative Diseases
- Kidney Disease
- Heart Conditions
- Arthritis
- Breathing Issues
- Diabetes
- Chronic Pain Disorders & Syndromes
- Weight Related Disorders
- Neurological Conditions
- Pregnancy & Reproductive Problems
- Secondary Illness
- Drug Related Conditions
- High Blood Pressure
- Surgery
- Treatment Related Illness
- Mental Illness
- Worsen of Preexisting Conditions

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### "What Fresh Hell is This?" Women's Experiences after the Violence Ends

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### Correlates of Interpersonal Violence (IPV)

- Physical symptoms and disease
- Psychological symptoms and psychiatric diagnoses
- Social impairment

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## Goals of the current study

- To obtain women's personal descriptions of the implications of IPV
- To understand the overarching dynamic and cyclical processes of women's experiences after the violence ends
- To develop a model reflecting women's experiences

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## Qualitative study

- Five focus groups of women were recruited from local organizations that provide services to women with IPV:
  - Shelter-based support groups (n = 3)
  - Community survivor group
  - Transitional program for recently incarcerated women

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## Focus Group Questions

- To what extent do you believe IPV victims experience pain in their lives on a daily basis?
- To what extent do you believe IPV victims experience feeling sad or down? How do these feelings relate or not relate to their pain?

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## Summary Demographics (N = 31)

- Mean Age = 40.6 years (SD = 11.6, Range 20-59)

	N	%
■ Race		
■ Caucasian	23	74.2
■ African American	8	25.8
■ Education		
■ < HS	5	16.1
■ HS/GED	4	12.9
■ >HS	22	61.0
■ Health Insurance Status		
■ Yes	24	77.4
■ No	6	19.4
■ Missing	1	3.2

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## Primary Themes 1: Physical Concerns



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## Primary Themes 2: Psychological Concerns



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### Primary Themes 3: Social Concerns



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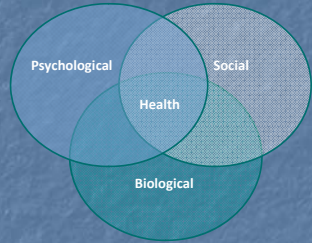
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### Biopsychosocial Model (Engel, 1977)



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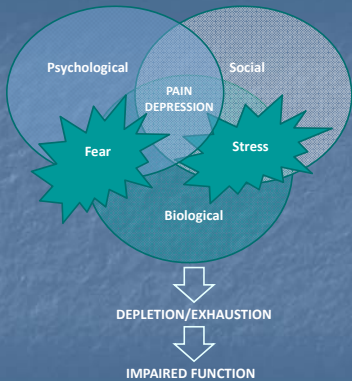
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## Conclusions

- The repercussions of IPV don't stop when the violence does
- IPV relentlessly affects women in multiple domains
- The biopsychosocial model helps us begin to capture women's dynamic, reciprocal experiences
- Interventions need to keep IPV victims' total experience in mind

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## Acknowledgements

- This study was funded in part by the University of Rochester Mind Body Center, NIMH K01MH75965 (Cerulli), and K23MH079347 (Poleshuck)
- Thank you to the participants for their openness and willingness to share their experiences
- This work was conducted in honor of Susan Horwitz, Ph.D.'s legacy to continue our efforts to understand and treat IPV

17

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