

Health After Abuse

Carly Wise
Coordinator
Survivors Advocating For
Effective Reform

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

“Can I pick this up today?”



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

“What Fresh Hell is This?”
Women’s Experiences after
the Violence Ends

Catherine Cerulli, J.D., Ph.D., Ellen Poleshuck, Ph.D.,
 Christina Smith, Stephanie Veale, B.A.,
 Nancy Chin, M.P.H., Ph.D.
 University of Rochester Medical Center

5

Correlates of
Interpersonal Violence (IPV)

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

6

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

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

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?

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

Primary Themes 1: Physical Concerns

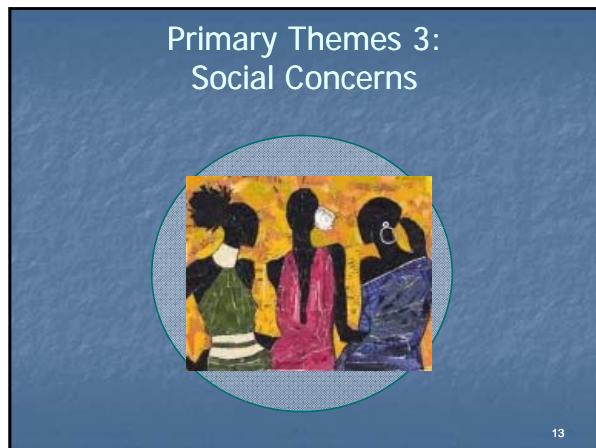


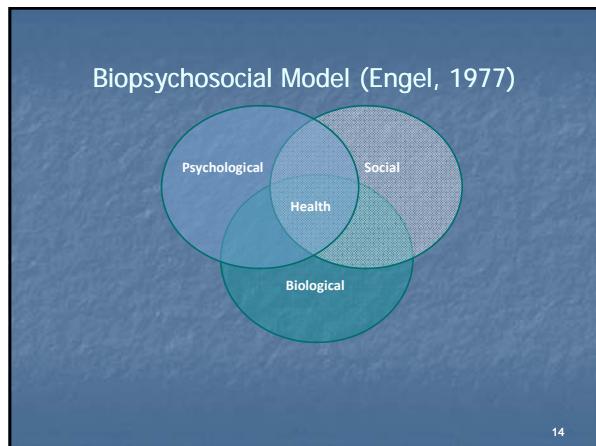
11

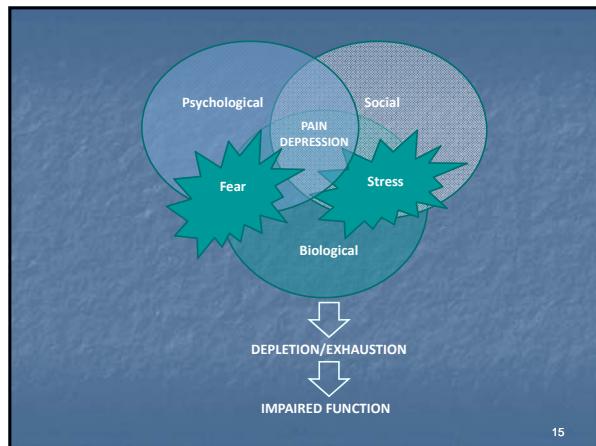
Primary Themes 2: Psychological Concerns



12







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

Acknowledgements

- This study was funded in part by the University of Rochester Mind Body Center, NIMH K01MH75965 (Cerulli), and K23MH079347 (Polshuck)
- 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