

Parenting in the Context of DV

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Overview

- What we will cover today:
 - Child exposure
 - Parenting and DV
 - Emerging approaches
 - Remaining questions
 - An idea for engaging new fathers





Child Exposure



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Defining DV Exposure



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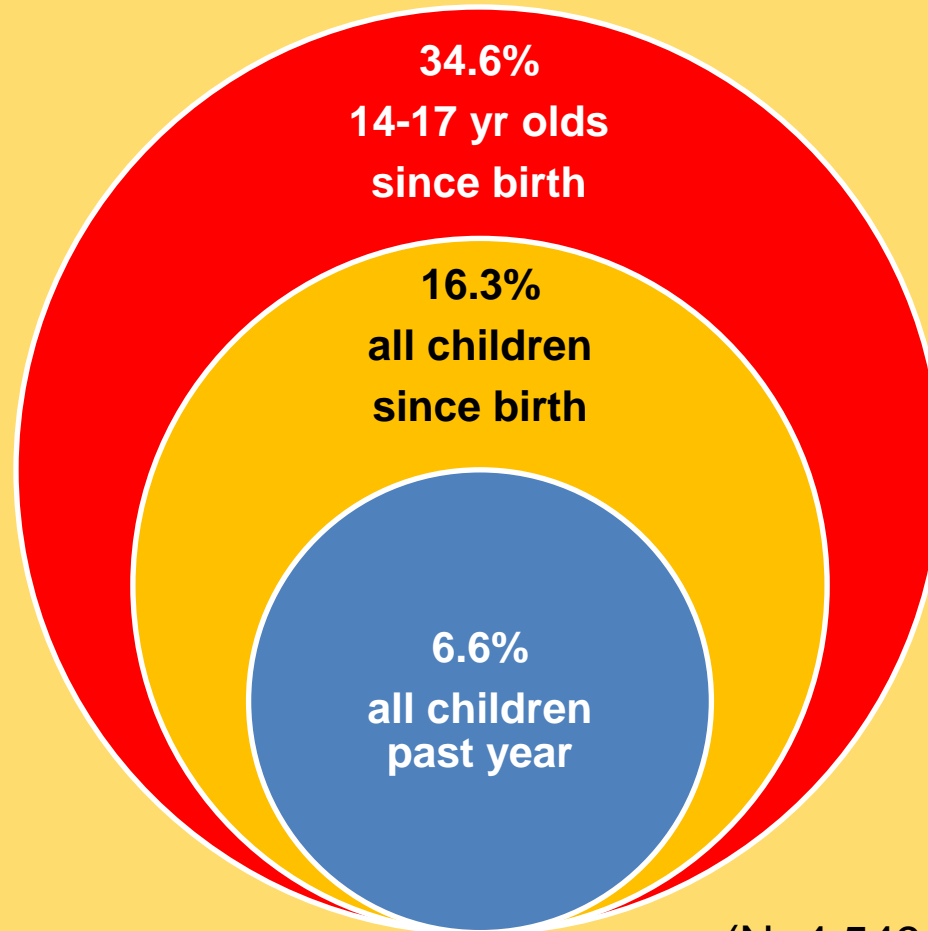
Video: Children See, Children Do

NAPCAN
Australia



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Child exposure



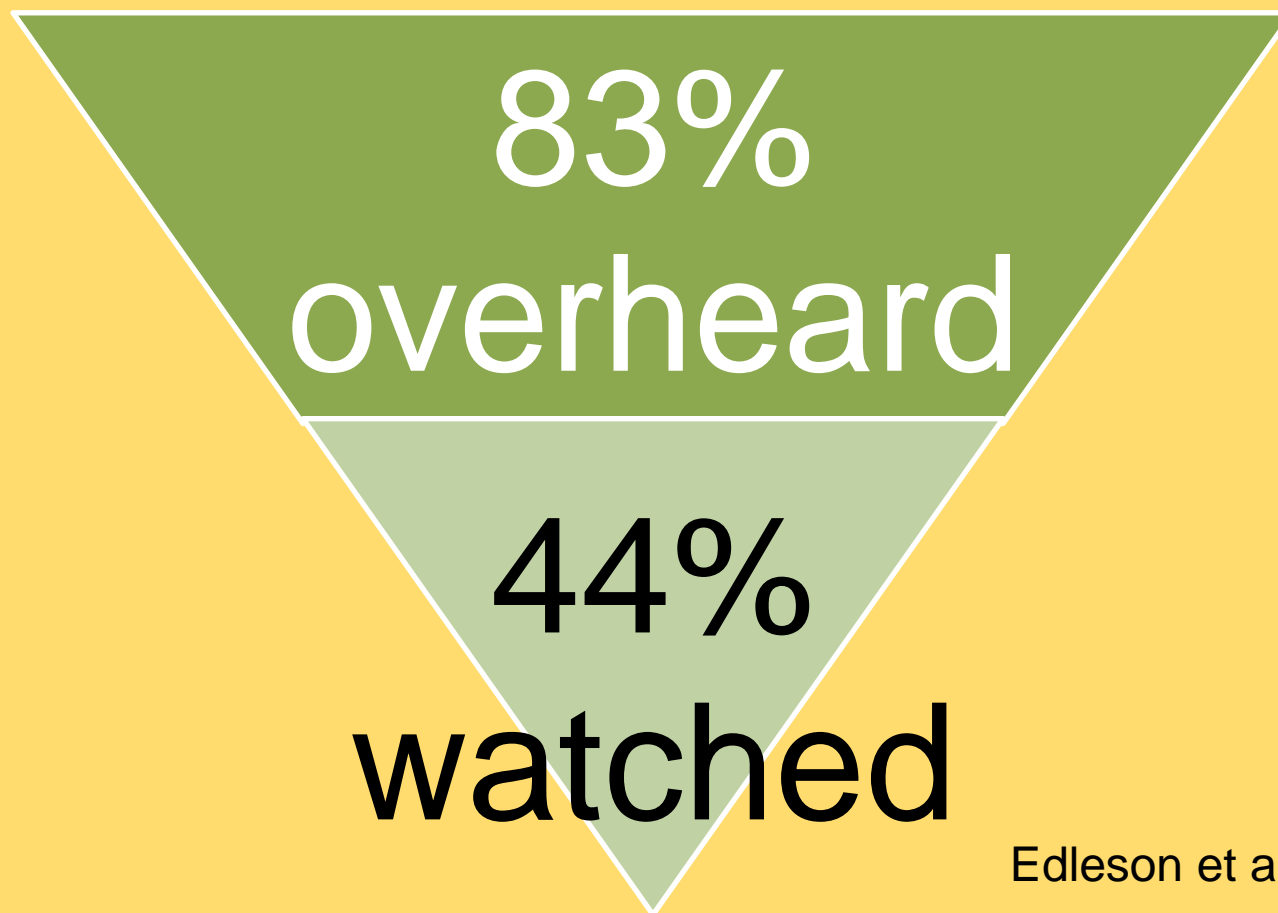
(N=4,549; Finkelhor, et al, 2009)



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Children are exposed



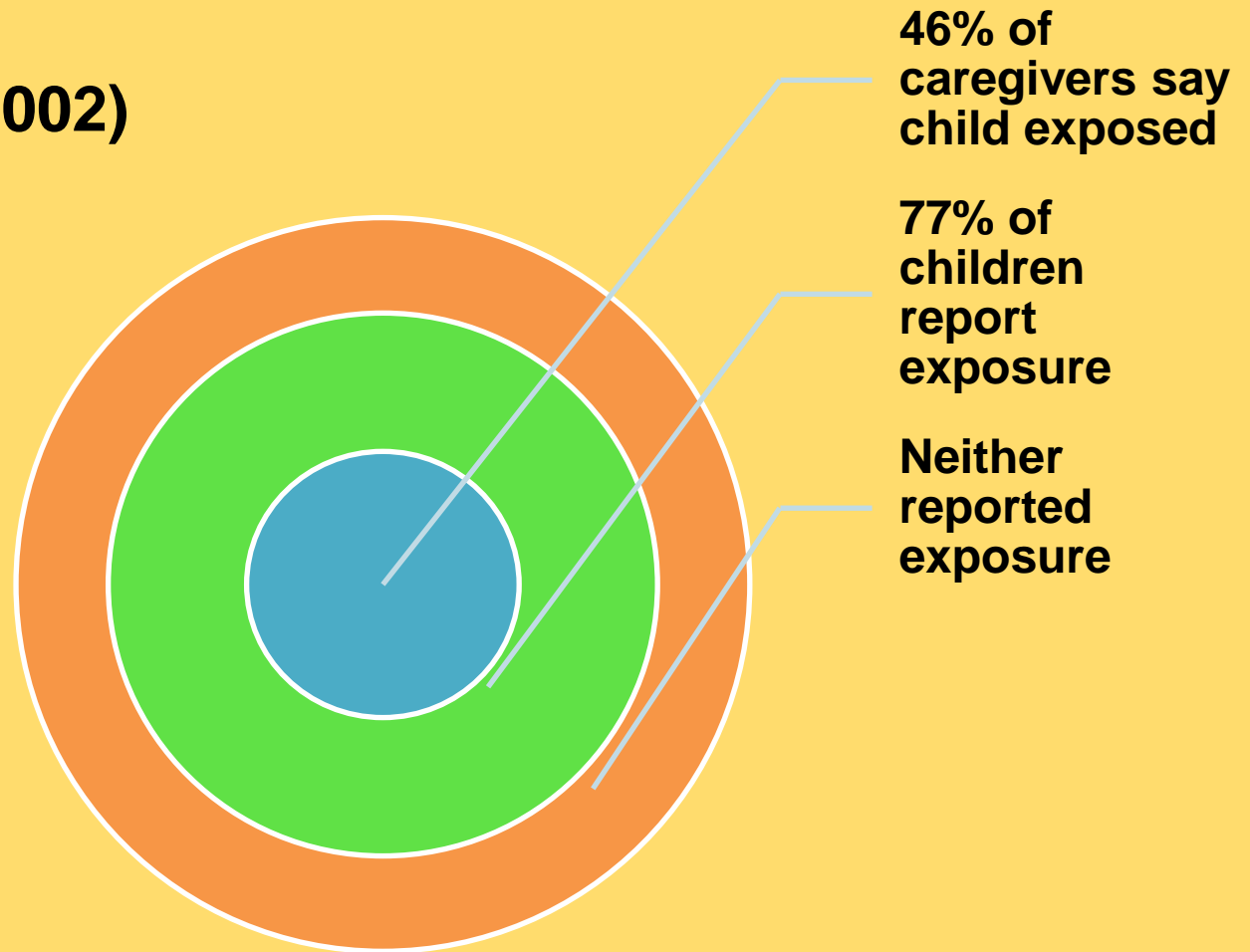
Edleson et al., 2003



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What children know

Johnson et al. (2002)



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Why Exposure is Important

- High **co-occurrence** of child abuse and adult domestic violence
- Children are frequently **involved** in violent events
- Exposure to violence **affects child development**
- Exposed children are **more likely to be abusers and victims**



Longitudinal studies

- Yates et al. (2003):
 - 155 children over 25 years
 - Preschool exposure linked to externalized problems for boys and internalized problems for girls in adolescence and teen years
- Ehrensaft et al. (2003):
 - 543 children, prospective over 20 years
 - exposure to DV in childhood was a key predictor of both perpetrating and receiving as adult.
- Whitehead et al. (2003) ACE study
 - 8,629 adults, retrospective
 - Exposure doubled likelihood of perpetration and victimization as adult



Video: Roxane

Stukyoutoo.com
The Netherlands



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Stepping Back: Group Differences

- Between group differences: On *average* children exposed show more problems than those not so exposed
- Within group difference: In the exposed group, many children show *no greater* problems than comparison children, up to 50% in some samples



Studies of CEDV

- Hughes & Luke (1998; N=58)
 - Over half children were “doing well” (n=15) or “hanging in there” (n=21), others showed significant problems
- Grych et al. (2000; N=228 in shelters)
 - 71 no problems, 41 mild distress, 47 externalized problems, 70 multi-problem



CEDV studies (continued)

- Allen et al. (2003; N=80) four clusters:
 - **Aggressive/Helpseeking:** Responded aggressively toward assailant, high negative emotions (n=17)
 - **Overprotective:** Tried to stop the violence but few sought outside help, high negative emotions (n=17)
 - **Avoidant/Ignoring:** Tried to ignore the events, little help to mother, no response to assailant or seeking outside help sought, high negative emotions (n=25)
 - **Less Responsive:** Little response to assailant, some avoidance/ignoring, over half were protective of mother, lower negative emotions (n=19)



Variation in families

- Frequency, severity and chronicity of the violence
- Child's exposure to the violence
- Child's own internal capacity
- Protective and risk factors in a child's environment





Parenting and DV



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Discussion

- How does DV affect parenting?
 - By mother?
 - By father?

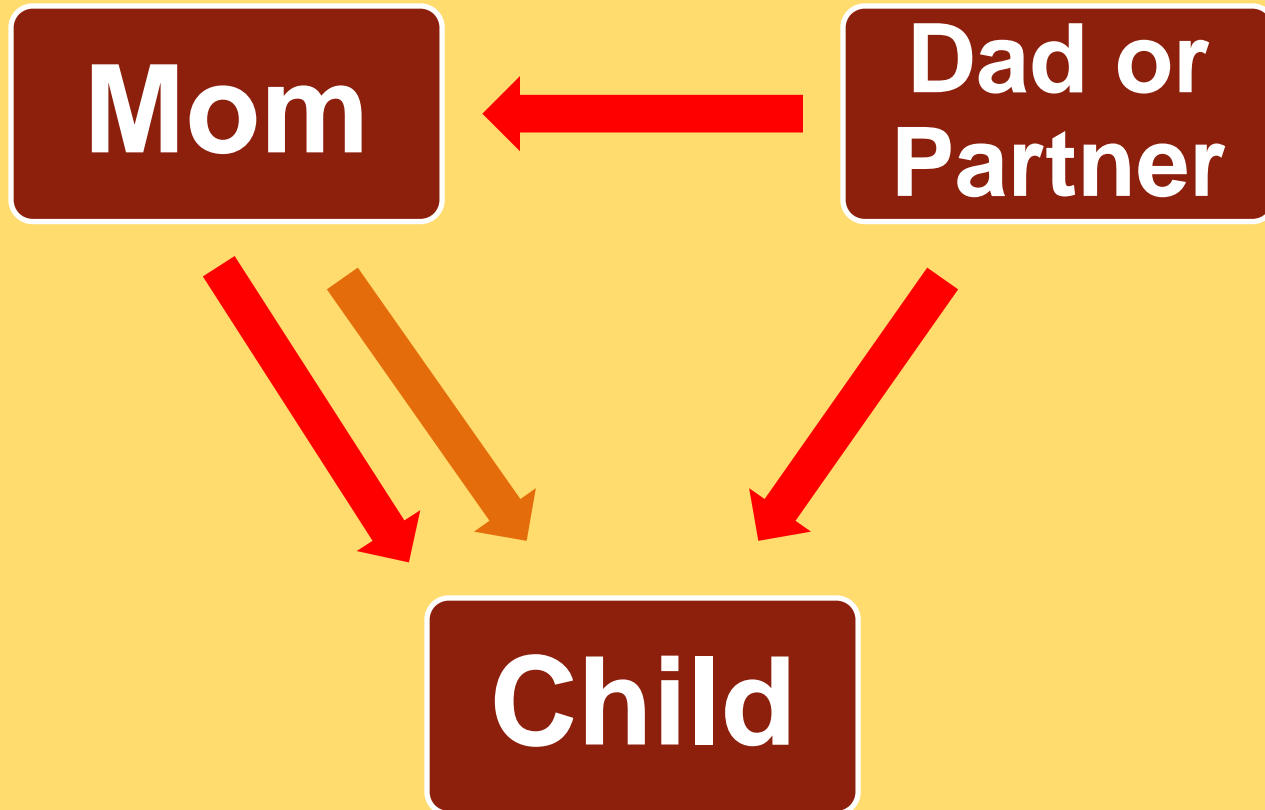


Why is parenting an issue?

- Battered **mothers** need parenting services
 - Using power and control
 - Making up for absent father
 - Using children as allies or confidants
 - Children's similarity to father
 - Developing new rituals and support networks
 - Some are abusive
- Gender-bias about **fathers** and parenting
 - Men as irresponsible, disconnected
 - Mothers as primary caregivers
 - Few services for fathers/boyfriends
- Courts often mandate a relationship



Parenting Impacts



Missing evidence

- 246 divorce cases with DV police incident or court order
 - 117 (47.6%) no evidence in case
 - 71 (28.9%) only unsubstantiated allegations in case despite evidence
 - 58 (23.6%) had substantiated evidence in case record

(Kernic, et al., 2005)



Father are given access

- Father access restricted:
 - 71.2% in DV cases
 - 17.5% no DV
- Judges assigned supervised visitation in:
 - 25.6% of substantiated domestic violence
 - 4.6% no evidence or allegation of domestic violence

(Kernic, et al; 2005)



Evaluations of parenting

- Judges, custody evaluators and others:
 - underestimate the danger of men to their children
 - undervalue the safety strategies used by mothers



Video

Digital stories

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu>

M'Liss' story

Chuck's story

Discussion of each story



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Supporting Abused Mothers



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Abused mothers

- More stressed than other mothers
- Maternal stress and child problems:
 - Some find relationship linkage to problems (Levandosky, Graham-Bermann)
 - Other don't find one (McClosky et al.)
- Mothering behavior:
 - No different in some studies
 - Current but not past victims show poorer parenting (Kelleher et al.)
- Perpetrators are seen as interfering in ability to parent



Programs for abused mothers

- Most often concurrent with children's programs
- Assistance in rebuilding their parenting
- Few evaluations



Abusive mothers

- Some are more likely to be abusive
 - Walker showed that move to safety lowered mother's abusive behaviors
- Some will continue to abuse their children



What Works


- Evidence-base is limited
 - Child-parent psychotherapy (Lieberman, McAlister-Groves dyadic trauma therapy)
 - Home visits to mother-child pairs (Jouriles & MacDonald's Project SUPPORT)
 - Small groups with mother participation (Graham-Bermann's Kids Club)
 - School-based prevention – 4th R (Wolfe, Jaffe et al.; <http://youthrelationships.org/>)



Importance of Mothers

- Several studies of child treatment point to improved outcomes when mothers are part of the intervention. (Graham-Bermann)





**WHEN do we engage
men who batter in
parenting?**



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Something My Father Would Do

Family Violence Prevention Fund
endabuse.org



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Discussion

- What changes did these men talk about in their lives around fathering?
- Did you believe them?
 - If so, why?
 - If not, why not?



How do MwB parent?

- Research shows:
 - Behavior negatively affects children
 - Continue threats and violence after separation
 - Limited evidence they are more controlling and abusive as parents
 - Perpetrators often involve children in violent events

(see Bancroft & Silverman, 2002, for summary)



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Voices of Mothers

- Safety
 - Initiating contacts and visitations
 - Parameters of Contact
 - Accountability
 - Structure
 - Enforceability
 - Terminating contacts and visitations
- Impact of Time

Tubbs & Williams (2007)



Children and fathers

- Children are confused and ambivalent about their feelings toward their fathers
- Some children express relief that their father is out of the house
- Some children express sadness/longing that their father is gone
- Some children ally themselves with their father and see him as a victim, especially if they have seen him arrested.
- Children idealize their fathers, especially if they have little contact with them.

(Groves, et al,2007)



Qs on father intervention

- What is the most appropriate forum in which to encourage such contact?
- Will court officers substitute fathering programs for batterer intervention programs and, if so, what are the consequences in terms of safety?
- What are the goals of our work with these violent men who are fathers?

(Edleson & Williams, 2007)



Court decision options

- Contact choices
 - No contact
 - Supervised visitation (professional vs. kinship)
 - Supervised exchange (professional vs. kinship)
 - Exchanges in public places
 - Unsupervised visitation
 - Liberal and regular visitation
 - Shared custody/parenting
- Not automatic! Behavior based, not time based.
- Not rushed to least restrictive
- Regular judicial reviews in any option

(Jaffe & Crooks, 2007)



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Visitation - access

- Some are too dangerous to receive visitation
- Use of professional supervised visitation centers
- Visitation centers require special precautions and training for domestic violence cases
- “Therapeutic visitation”
- *Safe Havens*, US federal initiative



Services decision options

- Sometimes it is clinically useful to the child to involve fathers, must ask:
 - Is the father complying with court orders and mandated treatment?
 - What do family members want?
 - What is the level of violence and safety?
 - How involved are other systems?
 - What protections/risks in cultural environments?
 - What is the worker's assessment?

(Groves et al, 2007)





HOW do we engage men who batter as fathers?



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DVD
Domestic Violence:
Tools for Dialogue

Addressing Fatherhood for Men who Batter
Advocates for Family Peace

<http://www.stopdomesticabuse.org/>



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Father content in Men's Programs

- Mothers want more programming about fathering in programs
- Programs ought to pay more systematic attention to the issue of fatherhood
- More tools need to be developed
- Men need to understand the effects of violence on their children and how to reverse them
- Fathers need training to be nonviolent parents

(Davis & Arean, 2007; Peled, 2000)



Intervention: Father program content

- **Specialized content**
 - Direct and indirect impact on children
 - Enhance empathy with children and mother
 - Men's continued use of abuse
 - Parenting without violence
 - Co- or parallel parenting
 - Father's future role in child's life



Father programs

- Modules as part of men's programs
 - Evolve's 6-session module
 - Non-Violence Alliance 4-session module
 - Center for Human Development's Program for Empowered Parenting 4-session module



Father Programs (2)

- After-care parenting groups
 - Caring Dad's Program (Scott, Crooks et al.; <http://www.caringdadsprogram.com>)
 - Addressing Fatherhood with MwB (Advocates for Family Peace, MN; stopdomesticabuse.org)
 - Wilder's 12-week skills group (Mathews, 1995)
 - Crager & Anderson 12-session (communication, online on MINCAVA)
 - Fantastic Fathers (Schwartz, online on MINCAVA)



Caring Dads

- Goals:
 - Develop trust and motivation
 - Increase focus on child-centered fathering
 - Increase responsibility of abuse and neglect
 - Consolidate learning, trust, plan for future
- Small groups, 17 sessions
- Most often after batterer intervention

Scott et al (2006)



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In conclusion

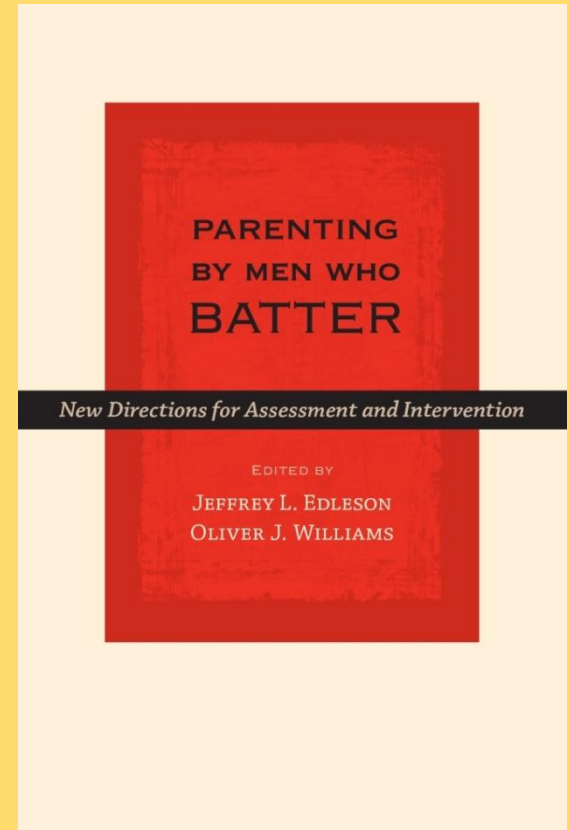
- Parenting by men who batter is important
- There are many opportunities
- But there are many concerns
 - Some fathers are too dangerous for contact
 - Do we encourage engagement? Where?
 - How do we ensure safety?
- In every area there is a dire need for research:
 - basic behavioral knowledge
 - assessment
 - decision making
 - intervention



Books

The Batterer as Parent. *By Lundy Bancroft and Jay G. Silverman (2002). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.*

Parenting by men who batter women: New directions in assessment and intervention. *Edited by Jeffrey L. Edleson & Oliver J. Williams (2007). NY: Oxford University Press.*



Online resources

Parenting in the Context
of Domestic Violence by Edleson et al.

Judicial Council of California's Center for
Families, Children and the Courts

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc>

Three-part online learning module by Scott
& Root at:

<http://www.globalvp.umn.edu>



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Promise of Prevention



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Ordinary Magic

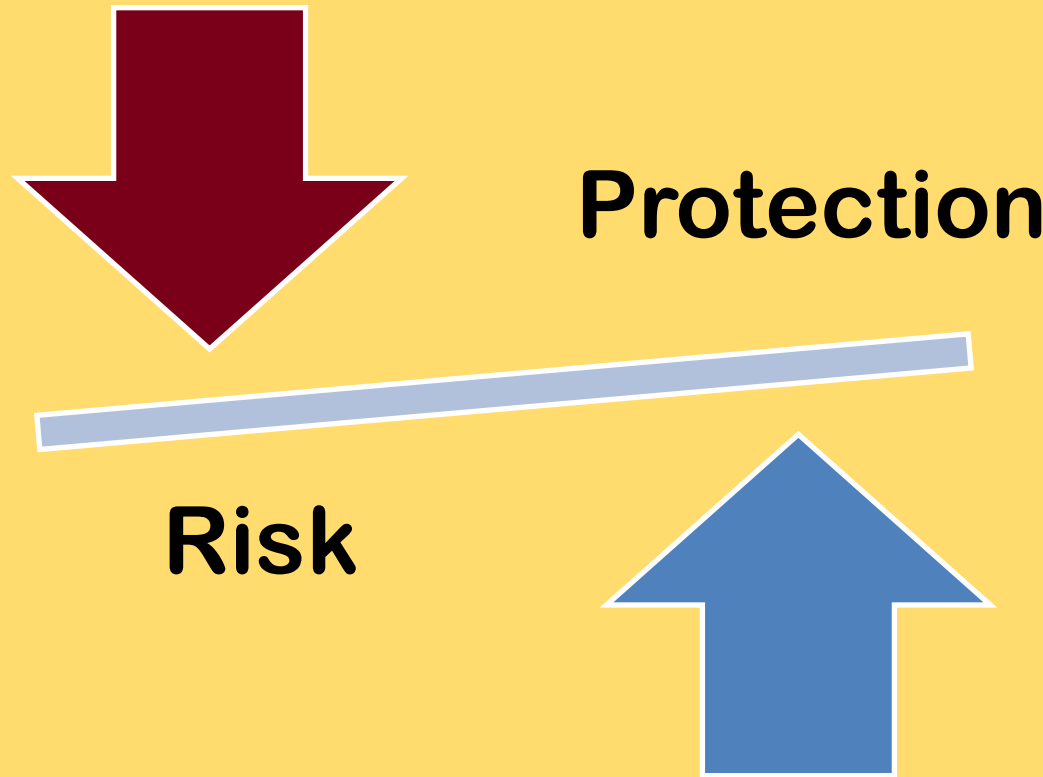
- Children exposed to trauma on a regular basis
- Resilience child was seen as extraordinary
- Study of resilience show it is *ordinary* rather than extraordinary!

(Masten, 2001)



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Risk and protection



(Masten
& Sesma, 1999;
ACE studies)



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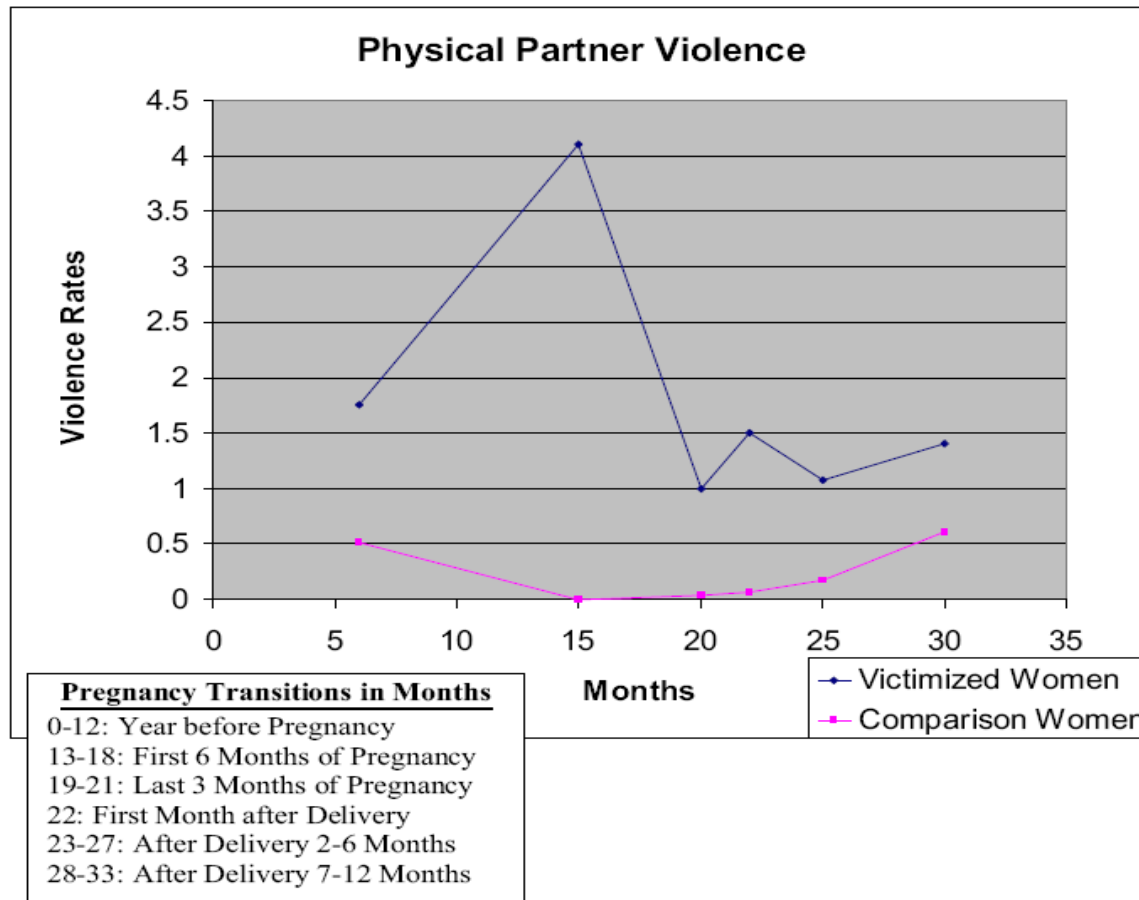


Figure 1. Physical violence predicted means for victimized and comparison women.

Macy (2007). Partner violence among women before, during, and after pregnancy: Multiple opportunities for intervention. *Women's Health Issues*, 17(5), 290.



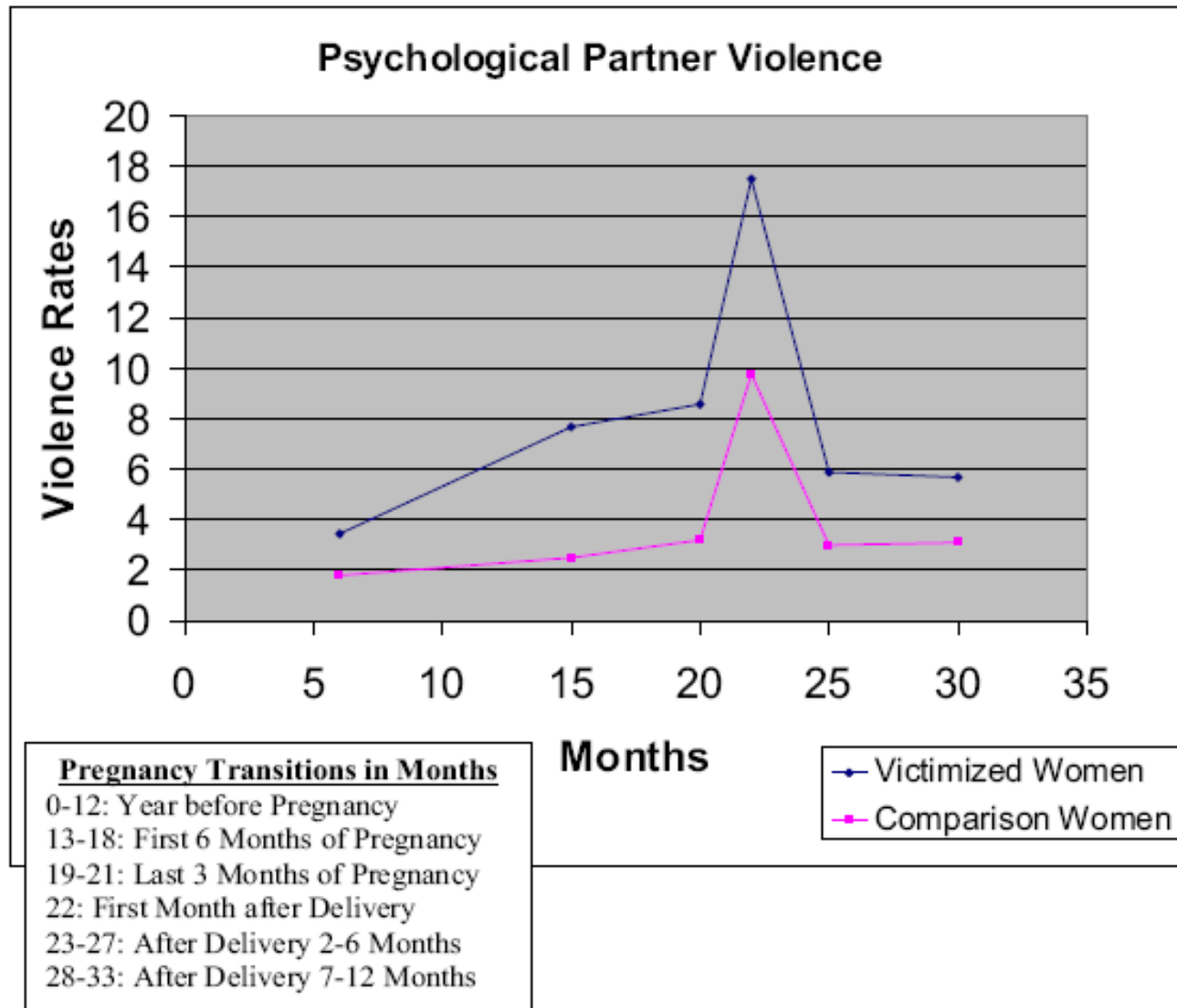


Figure 2. Psychological violence predicted means for victimized and comparison women.

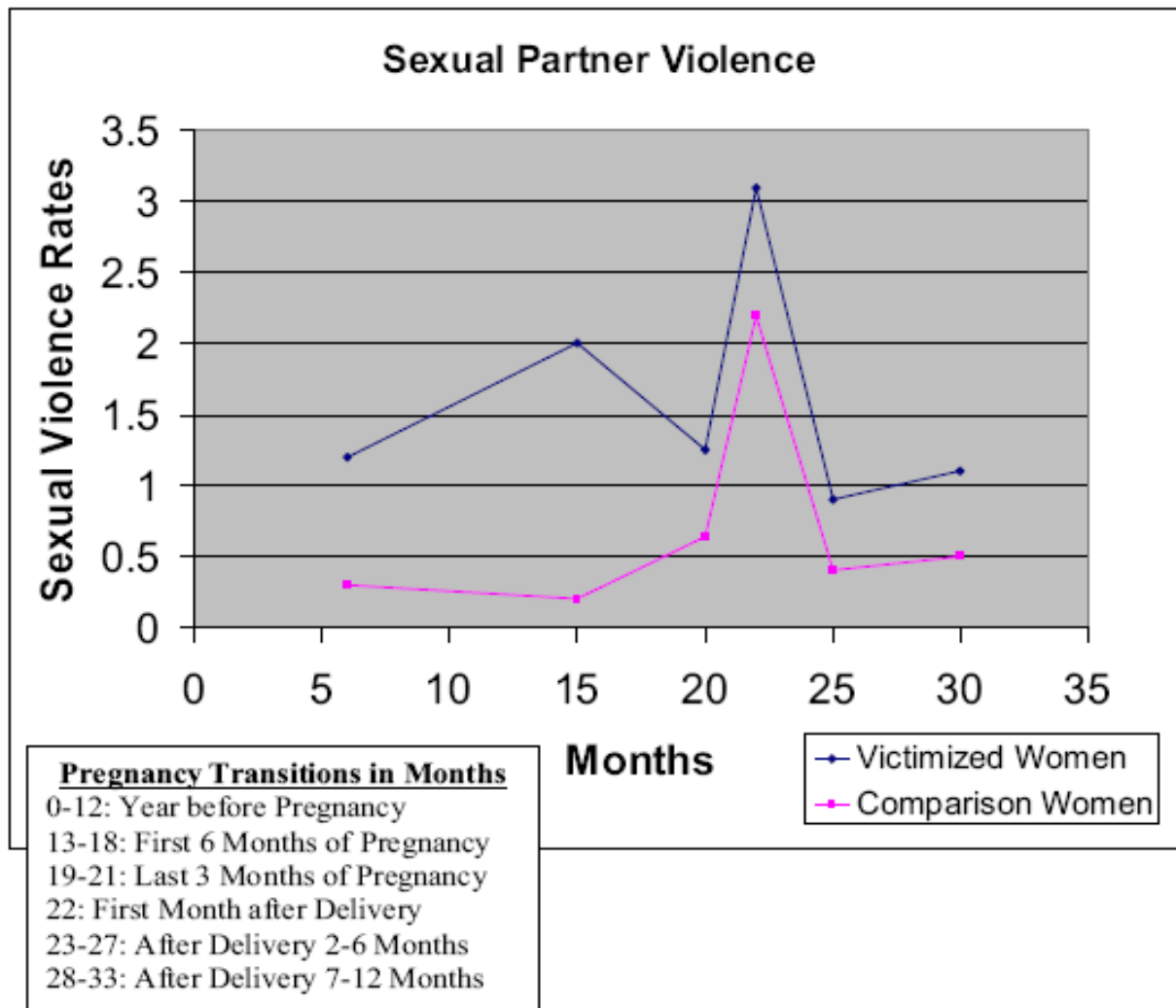


Figure 3. Sexual violence predicted means for victimized and comparison women.

Opportunities for interventions with new fathers

- Prenatal support
- Prenatal education programs (e.g. birthing)
- Delivery involvement
- Immediate post-delivery period and well-child check-ups
- Home visiting programs
- Parenting preparation programs
- Social marketing to men, reaching them in non-traditional settings



New mobilizing men project

[Contact Us](#)

Global Research Program on Mobilizing Men for Violence Prevention

Welcome!

The mission of the Global Research Program on Mobilizing Men for Violence Prevention (MMVP) is to develop effective strategies with men to create respectful relationships and prevent childhood exposure to family violence. This project will collaborate on the development and testing of early prevention strategies to engage new fathers and non-violent men in preventing violence against women and children.

Our Goals:

- prevent childhood exposure to domestic violence,
- prevent violence against women, and
- promote positive father involvement in the lives of their children and intimate partners

We invite you to read about our [current projects](#). In the near future, we will post papers resulting from this project. We have developed a list of websites for [U.S.](#) and [International](#) organizations and programs focused on engaging men in violence prevention. If you would like to be listed please [contact](#) us.

MMVP is a member of [MenEngage](#) and the emerging [MenEngage North America](#).

- [Homepage](#)
- [MMVP Projects](#)
- [Global Advisory Council](#)
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MINCAVA

Minnesota Center Against Violence & Abuse

MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu> (search “child exposure”)

Mobilizing Men for Violence Prevention

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/mmvp>

MenEngage

<http://www.menengage.org>

PreVAiL

<http://www.prevailresearch.ca>



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