



PACTS

Family Violence:

Groups at risk

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Outline of Lecture

- ▶ Reflection
- ▶ Groups at risk: the evidence
- ▶ Times of risk
- ▶ Take home message

Remember Family Violence is often hidden



Reflection: Who is at risk

- ▶ Who do you think is at risk?
- ▶ Jot down your list and then we will compare it with mine

Reflection : Who is at risk

- ▶ Women > men
- ▶ Children > adults
- ▶ Pregnant women > non-pregnant women
- ▶ Young women > older women
- ▶ Indigenous > non-indigenous populations
- ▶ Culturally and linguistically diverse groups > non-CALD groups
- ▶ Women with intellectual or physical disabilities > women without disabilities
- ▶ Women separating from their partners > Non separated women

Can you think of any other groups at risk?

- ▶ Children who witness family violence
- ▶ Children whose parents are separating
- ▶ Abused children who then experience adult violence
- ▶ Elder Australians

Family Violence

- ▶ Cuts across all social economic and racial backgrounds;
- ▶ Most family violence victim/survivors are women;
- ▶ Most violence to women is perpetrated by their current or former partner, followed by male family members and friends;
- ▶ Women at increased risk include women with disabilities, indigenous women, CALD women and younger women.

Intimate Partner Violence

- ▶ Globally 1:3 women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from their partner;
- ▶ Globally 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners;
- ▶ In Australia, 1:3 women in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from their partner;
- ▶ In Australian 60% of all murders of women are committed by male intimate partners.

Family Violence experiences of women with disabilities

- ▶ Women with disabilities are 3X more likely to experience IPV than women without disabilities;
- ▶ Women with disabilities are 10X more likely to experience sexual violence;
- ▶ Violence is more severe;
- ▶ Violence occurs over a longer time;
- ▶ Male partners remain the most likely perpetrators;
- ▶ Other perpetrators include carers, family members, healthcare and service providers.

Ref Howe (2000) Violence against women with disabilities
<http://wwda.org.au/issues/viol/viol1995/keran/>

Elder abuse

- ▶ Physical, psychological (70%), sexual abuse, neglect, financial (55%).
- ▶ 3-5 % Elders
- ▶ Probably underestimate
- ▶ Females > males (70% reported cases)
- ▶ Over 80 years old most likely to be reported
- ▶ Group at higher risk similar IPV

(Kurrle, S. Cameron, I. 1992 MJA 157.673-676)

When to think of abuse with Women with disabilities/the elderly

- ▶ Unexplained trauma
- ▶ Untreated injuries
- ▶ Increased visits, calls or attendances
- ▶ Symptoms of poor nutrition
- ▶ Symptoms of poor hygiene
- ▶ Inadequately treated medical problems
- ▶ Increased agitation

Contributing factors to elder abuse

- ▶ **Abuser is usually a family member**
- ▶ Increasing dependency of the elder family member;
- ▶ Psychopathology of abuser;
- ▶ Alcohol and drug use of abuser;
- ▶ PH domestic violence;
- ▶ Stress for the carer.

Remember, elder abuse is a crime in Australia.

Times of Risk

- ▶ Natural disasters: drought, fire, cyclones;
- ▶ War and conflict;
- ▶ Refugees and migration;
- ▶ Times of increased stress e.g. Financial loses, bankruptcy.

The Take Home Message

- ▶ Think of the increased risk of violence amongst different groups and at times of high community stress;
- ▶ BE PREPARED (Know your referral partners and networks)
- ▶ ASK ABOUT VIOLENCE
- ▶ RESPOND and SUPPORT
- ▶ PROVIDE ACCESS information to services