Assessment of current and past violence exposure: Hope requires action

DR. LISA RAPP-MCCALL
PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK
Agenda

- Demographics of Violence
- Interrelated nature of Violence & Risk Factors
- Consequences & trauma symptoms from violence
- Assessment of Violence
- Use brief standardized measures with clients
- There is Hope
During this presentation, 7 people will die from violence

9.2 of 1,000 children are victims of child abuse

60% of children were exposed to violence during childhood

1 in 4 women, 1 in 10 men victims of IPV

42% of Americans live in homes with a firearm

1 in 10 elders are victims of Elder abuse
Public Health Crisis

- Violence is a public health crisis but also part of American culture
- Violence is found throughout the Lifespan, and in most every social context
- High levels of Violence means its highly likely that many of our clients have been victim/survivor, perpetrator, or witness of violence
- It’s critical to understand interrelationships and risk factors for violence, as well as trauma symptoms to complete assessment
Violence is Interrelated

- Violence begets violence
- All types of violence are related to at least one other type
- For ex.- child abuse is related to bullying, school violence, youth violence, animal abuse, Human Trafficking, DV, community violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse.
- One type of violence may be a risk factor for another type or two types may simply co-occur due to sharing the same risk factors
Risk Factors & Escalators

- Proximity
- Dose
- Social Norms
- Substances
- Firearms
Consequences & Trauma Symptoms from Violence

- Unwanted memories/flashbacks, unwanted thoughts, fear, anxiety, mistrust
- Hypervigilance, agitation, hostility, self-destructive behavior, isolation, dysregulation
- Loss of interest or pleasure, guilt, loneliness
- Nightmares, insomnia
- Physical disorders/diseases
- Increased risk for future victimization and perpetration of violence
Assessment of Violence Past and Present

WHY?

- Due to frequency, it’s highly likely that most of our clients have a history of violence either as victim/survivor, witness, or perp.
- The consequences are serious
- All clients should be assessed: a.) understand future risk as victim or perp, b.) as a point of intervention, c.) to prevent further violence

TYPES OF VIOLENCE

- Child Maltreatment
- Bullying- online and face to face
- School Violence
- Family Violence/ DV
- Dating Violence
- Animal Abuse
- Human Trafficking
- Community Violence
- Workplace- harassment, bullying, violence
- Elder Abuse
Assessment of Violence Past and Present

BIOPSYCHOSOCIALSPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT

- For each type of violence- describe the abuse/violence
- Age(s) it occurred
- Role – victim/survivor, witness (knew or didn’t know vic.), and/or perp.
- Dose- frequency and severity
- Proximity

- **Firearms**- access to guns, types of guns, storage of each gun, storage of ammo., carrying guns, firearms training, purpose for guns?
- **Alcohol and substance consumption**- type, frequency, dose, relationship to abuse/violence
- **Diet of Violence**- consumption of violent TV, social media, movies, videos, music, video games, & direct obs. (home, community, school)
- **Social norms toward violence**- Attitudes, beliefs, & behaviors which exhibit acceptance, appreciation, enjoyment of violence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Measures</th>
<th>Compilation of Measures</th>
<th>University of Miami, School of Nursing and Health Studies, Center of Excellence for Health Disparities-Violence Measures</th>
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Hope for Reduced Violence requires action
Assessment is the beginning
Thank you

QUESTIONS?