

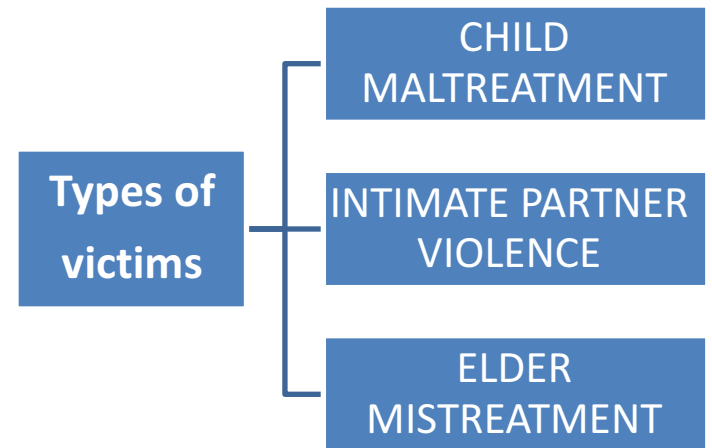
- **violence against women:**

“any act of gender based violence that result in, or likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, whether occurring in public or private life”.

- **Definition of domestic violence:**

All behaviors/actions within the family result in mental or physical injury (or death) to another member of the family.

- Studies show prevalence of domestic violence varies between 10-69%. This variation is due to different study designs and cultural factors.
- The annual incidence of all interpersonal violence has been estimated at 47 assaults per 1000 women and 32 assaults per 1000 men.
- Other estimates suggest that as a result of the 1.3 million women and 800,000 men who are physically abused in the United States each year, there are over 2 million injuries and 1300 deaths.
- Although 28% of female homicide victims were killed by their current or former male partners, only 3% of men were murdered by current or former female partners.



- **Physical violence:**

-intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm, like: scratching, pushing, shoving, throwing, grabbing, biting, choking, shaking, slapping, punching, burning, use of a weapon, and use of restraints or one's body, size, or strength against another person.

-In the most extreme cases, physical violence may involve **homicide**.

- **Emotional/psychological abuse:**

-includes humiliation, controlling behavior, repeated verbal assaults (name-calling), isolation (rejection, withholding attention and affection), threats, and public harassment, all of which can produce psychological trauma that reduces a person's self-worth, value, and sense of efficacy.

-The commonest type in KSA.

-Emotional/psychological violence often coexists with chronic physical or sexual violence, but can also stand alone.

- **Financial abuse:**

-is when a person withholds resources such as money or transportation, or limits freedom of movement or association (eg, domination, isolation) of another person—a tactic often found in abusive relationships.

-Financial abuse most often involves the inappropriate transfer or use of an elder's funds for the caregiver's purposes.

- **Neglect:**

-is the chronic failure of a person who is responsible for the physical and emotional needs of another person to provide for those needs. This form of abuse most often occurs in family relationships and is directed at children, elders, or disabled family members. However, caregivers in other social/community settings, including child and adult day care, schools, group homes, nursing facilities, and hospitals, may be involved in neglect of a dependent person.

-The most common form of elder abuse is **neglect**, followed by physical abuse, financial exploitation, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse.

- **Sexual violence:**

-is any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act by violence or threat, unwanted sexual comments or advances, acts to traffic a person or acts directed against a person's sexuality, regardless of the relationship to the victim.

Risk factors that make individual be victimized:

- **Age:** children and elderly. age is protective against IPV in adulthood.
 - **Gender:** men and women are relatively equally likely to perpetrate IPV.
 - **Psychiatric and mental retarded patients.**
 - **Education:** appeared to be a more significant predictor than employment status.
 - men with **low verbal IQ.**
 - **lower income** was associated with greater IPV. Dr. said (High income status more than low).
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- IPV: Intimate Partner Violence

Risk factors that make individual be victimized:

■ BOX 7-1 Risk Factors for Domestic Violence
Medical
Alcoholism/substance abuse
Mental or physical disability
Relationships
Past history of abusive relationships
Witness to parental violence as a child or adolescent
Rigid family rules or conflicted roles
Social isolation
External Stressors
Poverty, financial struggle
Losses
Work stress
Life cycle changes

- **Sign and symptoms:**

- Avoid eye contact.

TABLE 46.4 Intimate Partner Violence Red Flags Indicating Increased Risk for Serious Injury or Homicide (45)

Increasing frequency or severity of violence

Recent use of or threats with a weapon

Homicide or suicide threats

Hostage taking or stalking

Alcohol or drug use

Recent separation from or threats to leave partner

TABLE 46.1 Suspicious Injuries for Child Abuse

Bruises in non-weight-bearing child

Numerous bruises

Bruises over fleshy body parts (i.e., buttocks, thighs, cheeks)

Scalds (especially symmetric, perineal, clear margins)

Rib fractures

Metaphyseal fractures in children younger than age 2 years

Brain injuries (especially subdural hemorrhage)

Pattern skin injuries (i.e., iron, stove eye, loop, cigarette burn)

Oral injuries (especially labial frenulum laceration in non-weight-bearing child)

- **Sign and symptoms:**

TABLE 46.2 Situations that Should Raise Suspicion for Intimate Partner Violence

Injuries to the face or trunk

Pattern of injury not consistent with explanation given

Frequent somatic complaints

Chronic pain syndromes

Recurrent sexual health concerns

Late entry into prenatal care

Frequent late or missed appointments

Substance abuse

Frequent mental health complaints

- **Why a woman may not wish to report abuse or leave a relationship?**
- Fear of reprisal or counter charges being laid by their partner.
- Too worn down to seek help.
- Living in fear of severe violence.
- Fear their children will be taken away.
- Unable or to recognize the cycle of abuse.
- Social isolation.
- Financial and Emotional dependence.
- Poor self-esteem.
- Cultural or religious issues.

- **Consequences of domestic violence:**

- Has a significant negative impact on health and wellbeing.
- patients present to general practice with varying physical and psychological issues.

- **The Nine steps to intervention – the 9 Rs Health practitioners need to understand:**

- **Role** with patients who are experiencing abuse and violence
- **Readiness** to be open to
- **Recognize** symptoms of abuse and violence, ask directly and sensitively and
- **Respond** to disclosures of violence with empathic listening and explore
- **Risk** and safety issues
- **Review** the patient for follow-up and support
- **Refer** appropriately and also
- **Reflect** on their own attitudes and management of abuse and violence
- **Respect** for patients, colleagues and themselves is an overarching principle of this sensitive work.

- **Take-home messages:**

- Family violence refers to any abuse within a family and includes physical violence, emotional, sexual, economic and social abuse.
- Prevalence of the domestic violence is increasing due to increase reporting.
- Risk factors (**gender, health status, education and economy**).
- Family violence have a significant negative impact on health and are very common in clinical practice.
- FPs are in a unique position to recognize, ask and appropriately respond to families who are experiencing violence.
- Different women shelters are available for support in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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