


**Rob Veale Ltd**

Family Violence Workshop Series (2020)


This series of slides covers material presented in the wider 'Strangulation in the context of Intimate Partner Violence' presentation. Topics include:

- Sexual Violence
- Threats to Kill
- Separation
- Risk assessments
- ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences)



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Question



“If a partner is controlling, abusive, and violent in the kitchen, in the living room, and in public, why would he stop the abuse at the bedroom door?”

-Hon. Jeffrey Kremers, Chief Judge  
First Judicial Administrative District, Milwaukee, WI.

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**What is Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse/Assault?**

- A continuum of behaviours ranging from degrading language to torture
- Victims may be coerced into sexual activity or denied control over their reproductive health through:
  - Verbal coercion
  - Threats against themselves or others
  - Financial or other extortion
  - Physical violence

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**Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse**

- Includes insensitive, critical or degrading behaviour relating to sex or sexuality.
  - Using sexually degrading names
  - Pressuring the victim to dress a certain way to please/attract other men
  - Accusing victim of having affairs, flirting, dressing provocatively, or coming on to others
  - Punishing victim for attracting attention of others

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**Reproductive Health Issues**

- Coercing sex without protection against pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections
- Coercing pregnancy
- Attacking partner when she becomes pregnant
- Coercing abortion

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**Extorting Sex in Exchange for Necessities**

- Demanding sex in exchange for money for necessities (e.g. food for children)
- Refusing to pay child support without sex
- Refusing essential medical transportation without sex

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## Pornography and Trafficking

- Making victim view, imitate or participate in pornography
- Trafficking the victim (forced prostitution)

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## Forced Sex Acts

- Forcing vaginal, oral or anal sex
- Forcing physically painful sex
- Forcing sex in front of children
- Forcing sex with or in front of others
- Forcing sex with children
- Forcing sex with animals

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## Houston Study

- A diverse group of 148 women seeking orders of protection for physical abuse
- Researchers used a conservative definition of sexual abuse and asked only behaviourally based questions

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## Houston Study

- 68% of the 148 women reported sexual abuse in addition to physical violence
- 15% attributed sexually-transmitted infections to the sexual abuse
- 20% had a rape related pregnancy
- High levels of post-traumatic stress disorder
- None of the women mentioned sexual abuse in their protection order petitions

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## Self-Test Question

- In a study of 229 men participating in a Northeastern batterers intervention programme, what percentage answered "Yes" to behaviourally-based questions about whether they had engaged in specific types of conduct that met the legal definition of rape or sexual assault?
- What percentage of men answered "Yes" to the question "Have you ever sexually abused your partner?"

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## Study of Men in a Batterers Intervention Programme in a Northeastern City

- 229 diverse men completed a questionnaire that included specific behaviourally-based questions
- 53% answered "Yes" to questions about conduct that met the legal definition of rape or sexual assault in the programme's state
- 8% answered "Yes" to the question "Have you ever sexually abused your partner?"

- Raquel Kennedy Bergen & Paul Bukovec, *Men and Intimate Partner Rape: Characteristics of Men Who Sexually Abuse Their Partner*, Vol 10, JOURNAL OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE 1375 (2006)

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## Femicide

Taking all risk factors into account, a batterer who subjects his partner to **forced sex in addition to physical violence is twice as likely to kill her** as a batterer who subjects his partner to physical violence only.

\*Jacquelyn Campbell et al. *Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study*, 93 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 1089 (2003)

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## Femicide

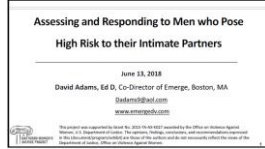
In the Houston Study cited previously in which 68% of the women were being both physically and sexually abused, the sexually-abused women reported **more of the risk factors for femicide, such as strangulation and threats to children**, than did those subjected to physical abuse only.

\*Judith McFarlane & Ann Malecha, *Intimate Partner Sexual Assault Against Women: Frequency, Health Consequences, and Treatment Outcome*, 105 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS 99 (2005)

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## Risk Factors for Homicide and Serious Abuse

- A. Past threats to kill
- B. Past threats of suicide
- C. Access to a gun
- D. History of serious domestic violence
- E. Sexual Violence
- F. Stalking
- G. Substance Abuse
- H. Separation
- I. Strangulation



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## Multiple threats to kill

In Emerge study of 20 attempted homicides:

- 19 victims said perpetrator had made at least one prior threat to kill
- 18 reported more than one threat
- 10 said monthly or more
- 5 said weekly or more
- 2 said daily threats

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## Examples of threats prior to homicide attempts

- To maim her, to kill daughter, to make her watch him raping new partner
- To kill her with axe he kept under the bed
- To make her watch as he killed her parents
- To shoot her in head and cut her to pieces
- To chop fingers and then arms off
- To have his daughter kill her

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## Threats

Threats serve two purposes for the serious abuser:

1. To intimidate and deter partner
2. To 'test the waters', psych himself up to carry out threats

Quote from one killer:

- "The more I said it, the more real it became that I could actually do it"

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## Threats

Never ask as a yes/no question

Ask:

- How many threats have been made?
- When, including the most recent?
- What were the exact words and actions?
- Have the threats escalated or changed?

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## Separation

- Acknowledged as a 'high risk' period for women leaving a relationship.
- Sexual violence increases before the woman actually leaves.
- Separation is not necessarily the physical act of leaving but psychological separation – especially when the person starts a new relationship.
- Safety plans should not only consider victims and children, but new partners and family/whanau who provide safety for the primary victim.

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## Separation Cycle

When a woman leaves her abuser, some abusers goes through a predictable process of emotions and behaviours. This is the separation process:

- Indifference
- Manipulative "Anger"
- Manipulative Courting
- Defaming the Survivor
- Renewed Manipulative "Anger"

What You Can Do - consider safety planning

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## CONNECTING THE DOTS

FAMILY VIOLENCE RISK AND DANGEROUSNESS

Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment  
*Danger Assessment*  
**DV-MOSAIC 2000**  
 Spousal Assault Risk Assessment  
**ASAP B-SAFER**  
 Stalking Assessment Management

**DASH**  
 Dynamic Risk Assessment for  
 Offender Re-entry (DRAOR)

'Danger Assessment is a **process not a product**' and that it can consist of two parallel processes – a brief re-offending risk assessment for criminal justice cases and a danger (lethality) process which is a longer process carried out with the victim for safety planning.

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## Training & Understanding

**57%**  
 of women  
 named as  
 perpetrators  
 were actually  
 victims



Data: Women's Legal Service Victoria

"[Aggressors] are gaming the system, they know that if they call the police first ... that the police are more likely to believe they are the victim and not the aggressor," she said.

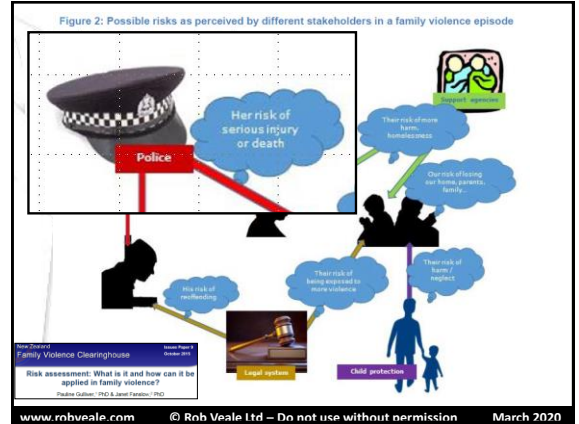
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Table 1: Examples of types of risk assessed by NZ government agencies (not intended to be comprehensive)

Government agency	Types of risk assessed
New Zealand Police	Future harm Re-assault Risk to children living in a family violence context Repeat victimisation
Work & Income	Immediate danger of violence experience
Ministry of Justice	Lethality Risk of harm to victims
Corrections	Re-offending Further sexual offending
Ministry of Health	Identification of intimate partner violence Identification of elder abuse Identification of child abuse or maltreatment
Child, Youth and Family	Whether a child or young person is in need of care and protection

New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse  
Risk assessment: What is it and how can it be applied in family violence?  
Patsy Ogden, PhD & Janet Felson, PhD

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- ### Summing Up
- Consider the specific purpose of your risk assessment.
  - Risk assessment is not an end in itself, it should be completed for the purpose of safety planning.
  - Risk is not static, so an assessment should be completed or reviewed at every opportunity.
  - Ensure the ‘voice’ of the victim (their experiences) is included in your risk assessment and safety planning process.
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- ### Summing Up
- Using a conversation style, ensure all the risk assessment questions are covered.
  - Remember the relationship is key.
  - Consider how you could ask direct behaviourally-based questions about high risk factors such as: -
    - Strangulation
    - Sexual violence
    - Threats to kill
    - Separation
    - Access to weapons (particularly firearms)
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- ### Remembering the children
- Breaking the inter-generational cycle of violence may be addressed by limiting the exposure of children to ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
- ACEs may include exposure to:
    - Intimate Partner Violence
    - Alcohol and drug addiction
    - Untreated mental illness
    - Loss of a parent through separation, death, incarceration
    - Child abuse and neglect
  - Do our assessments include ACEs? If not, why not?
- 
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- ### ACE Study – Health Impacts
- ACE score of 6 and higher – an almost **20-year shortening of lifespan**.
  - ACE score of 4 – 260% more likely to have **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD)** than a person with an ACE Score of 0.
  - ACE score of at least 7 increased the likelihood of childhood/adolescent **suicide attempts 51-fold and adult suicide attempts 30-fold**.
  - ACE scores of 4 or higher increases your chance of having self acknowledged **alcoholism as an adult by 500%** (with a history of parental alcoholism).
  - ACE scores of 4 or more were **12 times more likely to have attempted suicide, 7 times more likely to be alcoholic, and 10 times more likely to have injected street drugs**.
- The prevalence estimates reported below are from the entire ACE Study sample (n=17,337).  
Prevalence of ACEs by Category for CDC-Kaiser ACE Study Participants by Sex, Waves 1 and 2.  
Note: Collected during Wave 2 only (N=4,620). Research papers that use Wave 1 and/or Wave 2 data may contain slightly different prevalence estimates.
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## Further contact

If you would like any further information following the session or follow-up training, please feel free to contact me on [robveale@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robveale@xtra.co.nz)



Strangulation brochure