Audio Script:
Welcome to Domestic Violence for Child Welfare workers.
Slide 2 - Objectives

This course will:

- Help you recognize Domestic Violence (DV).
- Provide information about perpetrators and victims.
- Examine the effects of DV on children.
- Introduce you to safety planning and treatment options for victims.

Audio Script:
This course will help you to recognize domestic violence in the cases you work with, provide information on the perpetrators and victims of DV, examine the effects of domestic violence on children, and introduce you to safety planning, and treatment options for victims.
Audio Script:
This section will provide you with an overview of domestic violence. DV is an issue you’re going to confront daily in the cases you work with, and it’s important for you to be able to recognize it when you see it.
Secrecy is a common component in DV cases and we all know people who are affected.

- Family members
- Friends
- Neighbors
- Co-workers

Audio Script:
Secrecy is a common component in domestic violence, and it often cloaks the true extent of the problem. In reality, we all know people who are victims of domestic violence. We may not be aware of it, but a family member, friend, neighbor, or even a coworker may be a victim of domestic violence.
According to the FBI statistics, 85% of DV victims are female, and 97% of perpetrators are male. DV can be a difficult subject to discuss because it can often be perceived as male bashing, and it's important to recognize that the vast majority of men do not batter their mates. These statistics may be indicative of the fact that male victims may have a lower incidence of reporting DV. This may be because they don't want to appear weak to other men, they may be afraid of their partner, or they may not be aware that they can be victims of DV.
Audio Script:
What is Domestic Violence?
Audio Script:
Experts define domestic violence as a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that people use against their intimate partners with the intent to instill fear in, degrade, or humiliate the victim. These behaviors typically fall into five general categories.

After clicking continue:
As you can see, perpetrators may use many different kinds of behaviors against their victims, and these tactics tend to overlap. When one tactic doesn't work, the perpetrator moves on to another, but remember, when you are assessing a family, it's a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors you're looking for.
Why would someone use these tactics against someone whom they claim to love?

Power and Control

Even if the DV is infrequent, the fact that it has been used in the past tells the victim:

It can be used again!

The threat of violence creates an environment of fear.

Audio Script:

The next question we have to ask ourselves is why. What goal is achieved by perpetrators using these behaviors against someone they claim to love. The key to understanding the question of why lies in understanding the perpetrators need for power and control. Perpetrators of DV choose to exert control over their partners, and they are willing to use any of the methods you just reviewed to achieve that goal. Even if the actual physical violence is infrequent, the fact that it has been used in the past is significant to the victim. It tells the victim that it can be used again. It's not just the physical abuse itself, but also the threat of future abuse that the perpetrator will use to control the victim. The threat of violence creates an environment of fear, and victims live in a world of fear.
Audio Script:
In this section, we'll take a detailed look at the perpetrators, and victims of domestic violence
Understanding Terms

Child Welfare:

**Victim** = child or children involved

**Perpetrator** = Parent, legal guardian or person responsible for the children.

Domestic Violence prevention:

**Victim** = adult being assaulted

**Perpetrator** = Spouse, Living Together Partner (LTP) or significant other.

This training:

**Perpetrator** = person abusing the adult victim

Audio Script:

The words perpetrator and victim may mean different things to different people. In child welfare, when we think of the victims, we normally think of the child or children involved, the term perpetrator generally refers to the parent, legal guardian, or person responsible for the care and well-being of those children. When dealing with domestic violence, the terms perpetrator and victim take on different meanings. The term victim refers to the adult being assaulted, and perpetrator refers to the victim’s spouse, living together partner, or a significant other. When you’re speaking with someone who works with victims of domestic violence be aware that you may be using the same terms, but speaking about completely different people. For the purposes of this training, the term perpetrator refers to the person who is abusing the adult victim.
Perpetrators of DV do not fit into a single profile. They come from all racial and ethnic groups, socioeconomic classes, education levels, occupations, religions, and age groups. One common trait that all perpetrators share is that they use assaultive and coercive behaviors or tactics to exert power and control over their intimate partners. You may be wondering why someone would use these often brutal tactics on someone they supposedly love, and the answer is because these tactics work.
When dealing with perpetrators of domestic violence, don't make the mistake of assuming that they are inherently bad people. Perpetrators of domestic violence all have positive and negative qualities. They can be quite personable, charming, and well spoken, may be good providers, and can be very loving when they're not being abusive. This is often the same reason why victims display mixed feelings about their assailants. They want the violence and abuse to end, but they want their relationship to continue.

When intervening, remember the strengths of the perpetrator, but also that they have a history of coercive and abusive behaviors which may make them extremely dangerous.
Audio Script:
Just as with perpetrators, victims of domestic violence do not fit into a single profile. Victims do share common feelings and reactions, and you may see some of these behaviors exhibited by DV victims on your caseload. Some of the items on this list are feelings; others are reactions to someone suffering from trauma and stress.
It is important for you to recognize that these feelings and behaviors are a result of the violence, not the cause of it. They’re indicators that a victim is in crisis, and these reactions are normal responses to an abnormal situation. You probably realize that many of these behaviors would make it more difficult for you to work with a victim of domestic violence. It's certainly easier to work with the good victims, ones who don’t abuse substances, cooperate with you, and work the treatment plan. Unfortunately, many DV victims will not present themselves as ‘good’ victims. Many of the negative behaviors will decrease, or disappear once the victim knows he or she is safe.

Regardless of their behavior, victims of DV have the right to be free from violence, and it’s our job to help them when we can.
Audio Script:
Now, let's examine the effects of domestic violence on children.
Audio Script:
You need to know whether DV is present in a family as soon as possible, because DV in the family poses a risk to all members of that family, and this information can assist you in making safety assessments, and case decisions. DV is a risk factor for child abuse and neglect, because violence often occurs against women and children in the same families. There are multiple studies that show a correlation between DV, and severe or fatal cases of child abuse. Studies in both Oregon and Massachusetts showed DV present in 40% of critical injury or fatal child abuse cases. And in Michigan CPS cases, DV is identified in 35% of risk assessments. In fact, children in DV families are abused at much higher rates than other children, with the perpetrator of DV usually being the abuser.
Audio Script:
The symptoms and behaviors included in these lists look remarkably like what you might see in children who have been abused or neglected. At the same time, it's important for you to remember that not all children demonstrate negative behaviors when they witness domestic violence. Similar to kids who grow up in alcoholic families, some DV children exhibit no negative behaviors at all.
The question that arises in many child welfare cases is who needs to be held accountable for harm to the children, the DV perpetrator, or the victim. The victim of DV, by staying in the relationship and exposing the children, is putting their safety at risk. This leads to the problem that most victims in domestic violence situations face, and that is that they’re in a vicious cycle. The police, the courts, and child welfare personnel, often blame the victim more than they blame the perpetrator.
Audio Script:
The victim of DV may be asked questions like why have you stayed so long, or why do you keep going back? There may also be pressure from family, friends, or the church, who say you can't just walk out on your marriage, or you should stay for the kids. Child welfare agencies tell the victim you have to leave to protect your children, at the same time failing to recognize the steps that have already been taken to protect the children, the victim's strengths, and the possible danger the victim faces when trying to leave.
Audio Script:
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Victims make choices that help cope with the perpetrator, and protect their children. Although sometimes not the best choices, they may be the best s/he can do given the circumstances.

NEVER insist that a victim leave until you have had a chance to develop and implement a safety plan. This will help ensure the safety of both the victim and the children.

Audio Script:
Victims make choices that help them cope with the perpetrator, and protect their children. These may not be the best choices, but they may be the best the victim can do given the circumstances. Before you talk with a victim about leaving, ensure that they have a chance to develop a safety plan, and never insist that they leave without first making sure a safety plan is in place. No matter what choice the victim makes about the relationship, planning for the victim’s safety makes the children safer as well. We’ll cover more on safety planning in a few minutes.
Audio Script:
In this section, we'll identify some of the barriers a victim faces when trying to leave.
Why do you stay, is the most common question a victim faces, and the most common misconception about domestic violence. In fact, most victims don’t stay, they come and go. Leaving is a process.
Slide 24 - Cycle of Violence

Audio Script:
The first time the abuse occurs, the victim may not leave. She may think it's an exception, it's never happened before, he's under a lot of pressure and stress, and he apologized and said it would never happen again. She's hurt, and angry, but this doesn't fit within the normal context of their relationship. The second time, she may leave for a few days because she wants to send the message that he could lose her if it happens again. The perpetrator apologizes, begs her to return, and showers her with gifts, and lots of attention. Some people call this the honeymoon period, because perpetrators will behave in a way that reminds the victim of why they fell in love, so she returns, and things are better for a while. This can happen several times, because the victim may face barriers that prevent her from staying away, or she may still have hope that the relationship can improve. Gradually, she begins to lose hope.
Why Stay or Return?

Why would a victim stay in a violent relationship, or leave only to return again? The answer is complicated, and the exact reasoning is specific to each relationship. Thinking back to the tactics of power and control used by perpetrators, may provide us with some answers.
As a caseworker, you should never lose sight of the fact that these relationships are volatile and potentially dangerous for all people involved, especially when a victim is considering leaving, or just after leaving. You're conflicted, because you want the children to be safe, but you don't want to remove them from their parent. You realize that although it's the victims responsibility to keep the children safe, leaving without a safety plan in place may threaten the safety of everyone involved, so when you're making decisions or developing treatment plans, you need to keep in mind that safety planning is a critical, sometimes lifesaving step in ensuring the safety of both the victim, and the children. With that in mind, let's take a look at the information that should be included in a good safety plan.
Slide 27 - Developing a Safety Plan

- **Identify an escape plan**
  - Know how to get out of the home quickly, visualize an escape plan, call 911 if necessary.

- **Have a bag packed and ready**
  - Keep a bag hidden or leave elsewhere with a friend.
  - Include legal documents, school and health records, birth certificates, and all other important papers if possible.

- **Plan a destination in advance**

- **Devise a code word or signal**
  - Let children, family and friends know that this word means they need to call the police.

- **Identify a Domestic Violence Program**
  - Find out what options are available within the community and keep the contact information ready for when it’s needed.

**Audio Script:**

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The state of Indiana has several statutes that address the issue of domestic violence. Click the links on your screen to review the applicable statutes.
There are a number of resources available to victims of domestic violence and their children, some of which are included here.

- **Emergency Shelters**
  - Provide advocacy services from specially trained case management staff.

- **Hospitals**
  - Most have social workers on staff who can function as an initial resource.

- **Transitional Housing Programs**
  - These offer ongoing advocacy services as part of the survivor's residency contract.

- **Prosecutor's Office**
  - Most have advocates on staff to assist survivors in navigating the legal process.

- **National and Statewide programs**
  - [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](https://www.nrcdd.org)
  - [Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence](https://icadv.org)
Audio Script:
There are a number of certified batterer's intervention programs available in Indiana. Click the link on your screen to find a program available in your region.
Audio Script:

In this section, we'll be focusing on safety and lethality. Remember that these interventions require specialized training, and should only be completed by trained domestic violence counselors. You should refer your clients to these services, and then provide the necessary support to complete the assessments.
Slide 32 - Lethality Assessment

Lethality Assessments are the first step in a DV intervention.

They help to identify:

- Level and immediacy of danger for the victim AND the children.
- Victim strengths, available resources, support system.
- What the victim and the children want.

Identifying the level and urgency of danger helps determine what services are needed.

Audio Script:

The first step in a DV intervention is a lethality assessment. A lethality assessment considers the level and immediacy of danger to the victim and the children, the victim's strengths, available resources, the victim's support system, and what the victim and the children want. The level and urgency of danger help determine what services are needed. Once lethality has been addressed, a safety plan needs to be developed. A good safety plan will help the victim work out all the details involved with leaving before they are needed, so when the time comes, she's prepared to get herself and the children to safety.
As previously mentioned, the most dangerous time for a victim is when leaving, or planning to leave an abusive relationship. This is why safety planning is so important.
Your responsibility as a family case manager is to connect the victim of DV with the DV provider, help identify strengths and needs, provide for the needs that you can, and provide support as needed. These cases are extremely difficult, emotional, and can at times seem overwhelming, but don't try to be a superhero. Remember that the information will be collected over time, and should be stored in a safe place outside the home. Help the victim to build a strong support system, and to connect with the services available in the community, which will be available long after your case is closed.
QUIZ QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN OMITTED FROM THIS DOCUMENT

Test Your Knowledge

You must receive an 80% or higher to pass.

Continue
DCS09002: Domestic Violence for Child Welfare Workers

Slide 61 - Thank You

Audio Script:
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