Health Impact of Domestic Abuse

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Quiz

• Introductions
• Quiz
Key Areas for Exploration Today:

1. Health Impact of Domestic Abuse
2. Presentation of Domestic Abuse
3. Pregnancy as a risk factor
4. Wider impact on the family
Health Impact of Domestic Abuse – 2 minute exercise:

• Domestic abuse and health - what images / thoughts come into your head......who / what / where...
• Murder ?
• Physical abuse ?
• Sexual abuse ?
The Statistics:

• 2 women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner (Office of National Statistics, 2015) – 1 woman killed every 3 days.

• Estimate 8.2% of women and 4% of men reported experiencing domestic abuse in 2015 = 1.3 million women and 600,000 men (CSEW 2016).

• 27% of women and 13.2% of men have experience domestic abuse since the age of 16 years (gap between women and men is closing 2016)

• 75% of partner abuse was not physical – and where physical was minor.

• Non physical effects: mental emotional problems (women 45% men 29%) difficulties in relationships (women 23% men 18%) attempts to harm self (women 5% men 4%)
Where was help sought:

• Only 32% said they sought medical attention (CSEW 2016).
• GP 84%
• A/E 13%
• Specialist mental health service 28%
• More women than men sought medical attention (73% / 27%)
• Most common type of abuse leading to seeking medical attention = stalking (33%) physical abuse (27%) non physical abuse (22%)
Presentation: the hidden harms

- Fractures / bruises / facial injuries / dental injuries
- No or unusual history for injuries
- Delay / reluctant to seeking help
- Frequent attendances / non specific issues
- Back problems / gastric problems
- Number of pregnancies / miscarriages
- Non specific issues
- Depression / low mood / poor sleep pattern
- Partner always present
- Missed appointments
- Shame / stigma

Clinical enquiry - safe / sensitive / signpost
Pregnancy – a risk factor

• Over a third of domestic violence starts or gets worse when a woman is pregnant

• One midwife in five knows that at least one of her expectant mothers is a victim of domestic violence

• A further one in five midwives sees at least one woman a week who she suspects is a victim of domestic violence. www.refuge.org.uk

• Late booking, missed appointments, miscarriage, premature labour, low birth weight, foetal injury and death.
Wider Impact - children

- Physical harm
- Emotional harm
- Developmental delays – speech & language
- Neglect – medical conditions not managed
- Missed routine appointments - developmental checks / dentist / immunisations
- Poor nutritional status
- Weight
Key Messages:

• Health Impact of Domestic Abuse: think physical and emotional impact.
• Presentation: the harm maybe hidden.
• Pregnancy: is a high risk factor especially after 5 months.
• Wider impact on the family: children are at risk of maltreatment and neglect.