

Summary & Recommendations

Screening vs. Assessment

SCREENING

- Quick check to determine if something exists (e.g., high blood pressure)
- Questions routinely asked to determine a problem
- Goal is to identify problem
- Conducted by anyone with some knowledge
- Need protocols for action for positive screen

ASSESSMENT

- A more in-depth, focused look at a problem
- Needed to establish a diagnosis
- Needs to be done by qualified people
- Guides intervention once the problem is confirmed

Screen for IPV

Do not rely solely on self-report as offenders often deny, blame others, and minimize

Screen all veteran and military personnel for IPV

Obtain information from multiple sources

- Prior police reports
- Protection order affidavits & protection order registries
- National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
- Military records
- Victims & former partners

Assess for IPV

Assess IPV separately from PTSD, TBI, substance abuse, etc.

MH providers and substance abuse counselors typically do not have specific IPV expertise

Collaborate with community-based and military victim advocates to assess victims; when permitted by victim, utilize shared information in VTC process



Develop a Victim Component

Connect victims to a community-based victim advocate

- Part of Domestic Violence Court model
- Risk & danger assessments
- Safety planning

Connect victims to community, military, and/or VA resources

- Legal services, shelter, employment services, etc.

Develop a victim communications plan

- With whom will info be shared?
- Conducted separate from VTC participants

VTCs: Inform victims participation is voluntary; Consult/seek approval on veteran program entry

VTC Eligibility Criteria

Nexus between combat/service-related conditions?

First time domestic violence offenders?

Victim approval?

Context

- Battering, Situational, Pathological, Resistive
- Don't take veterans lacking Pathological context

High risk/high need differs for DV

Require and enforce firearm prohibitions



Firearms

Prohibit owning or possessing firearms and ammunition when in criminal justice, treatment, and intervention programs

Enforce court and military orders, conviction prohibitions, and

Consider effect of reducing, dismissing, or expunging charges

Official use exemption does not overrule court or command orders



IPV Treatment/Intervention

Provide separate treatment for IPV, mental health, and substance abuse

- Sequencing of treatment?

Anger management not generally effective in stopping IPV

Couples counseling not a substitute for offender intervention programs; can increase danger for victims

Consider culturally-competent BIPPs



Modify Supervision & Sanctions

IPV perpetration can be significantly deterred by swift and certain court response for violations, intensive programming for high-risk men, and ongoing monitoring .

While relapse is common and often expected for addicts, for IPV perpetrators it means re-assault and harm to others (relapse vs. re-offense).

VTCs: Consequences for continued violence and abuse must differ from other violations (Program termination?)

Expand, Educate and Coordinate

Coordinate with:

- Domestic Violence Court
- Community-based IPV victim organizations
- IPV treatment organizations
- VHA Domestic Violence Coordinators (DVC)
- Cases should be routed there before treatment court



Work within existing CCRs

Expand interdisciplinary court team

Takeaways

All IPV can be lethal

Firearms access should be restricted during program participation

Contextual analysis and risk assessments should be conducted

Battering can coexist with PTSD and/or TBI

Treat the IPV, not just substance abuse and mental health

Community-based victim advocates, intervention program staff, and DV courts bring expertise and resources

Treatment courts must operate as part of existing CCRs

Resources

BWJP's Military & Veterans Advocacy Webpage
www.bwjp.org/military.aspx

- e-Learning Course - *Safety at Home – Intimate Partner Violence, Military Personnel, and Veterans*
- *Intimate Partner Violence: Insights into Military Personnel and Veterans* (Video and Facilitator's Guide)
- *Offender Intervention with Military Personnel and Veterans*
- Webinars & Archived Recordings
- Legal and Advocacy listservs

Resources

BWJP - www.bwjp.org

- Firearms
- Protection Orders & Full Faith & Credit
- Child Custody
- Probation

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP) - www.theduluthmodel.org

- Offender intervention/Non-violence programs
- Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

Resources

Center for Court Innovation –

<http://www.courtinnovation.org/topic/domestic-violence>

- Domestic Violence Courts

Aequitas - www.aequitasresource.org

- Prosecutors

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Questions and Answers

