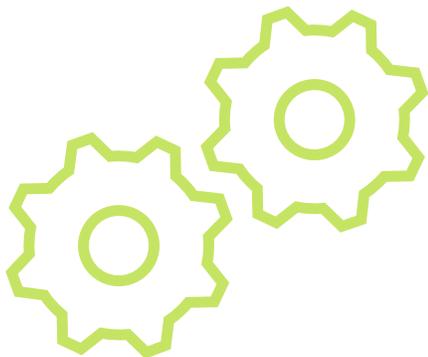


OPIOID, SEXUAL, AND GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE CONNECTIONS

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There are several pathways through which sexual assault and other forms of intimate partner violence can contribute to opioid use and misuse.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



nsvrc.org/saam

The Opioid Connection



Sexual assault is associated with both opioid use and suicidal ideation

Effect may be mitigated if mindfulness techniques are offered soon after assault

Gilmore, A.K., Walsh, K., Frazier, P., Ledray, L., Acierno, R., Ruggiero, K.J., Kilpatrick, D.G. and Resnick, H.S. (2019), Prescription Opioid Misuse After a Recent Sexual Assault: A Randomized Clinical Trial of a Video Intervention. *Am J Addict*, 28: 376-381.

Routine screening at the emergency department for PO use and prior SA may help prevention efforts for suicide among adults who recently experienced SA.

Gilmore, A. K., Hahn, C. K., Jaffe, A. E., Walsh, K., Moreland, A. D., & Ward-Ciesielski, E. F. (2018). Suicidal ideation among adults with a recent sexual assault: Prescription opioid use and prior sexual assault. *Addictive behaviors*, 85, 120–124.

Effects are particularly pronounced among adolescents

Baiden P, Graaf G, Zaami M, Acolatse CK, Adeku Y. Examining the association between prescription opioid misuse and suicidal behaviors among adolescent high school students in the United States. *J Psychiatr Res*. 2019 May;112:44-51. doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychires.2019.02.018. Epub 2019 Mar 1.

Gender difference in the effect, with Intimate partner violence was associated with opioid misuse among men and adverse childhood experiences were associated with misuse among women.

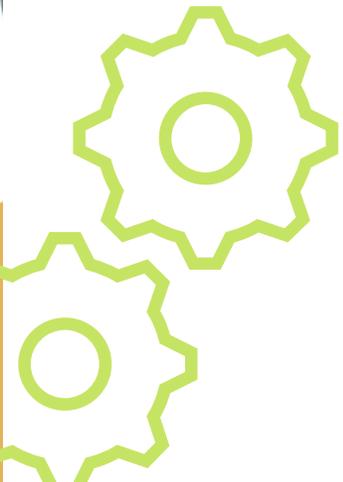
Williams JR, Girdler S, Williams W, Cromeens MG. The Effects of Co-Occurring Interpersonal Trauma and Gender on Opioid Use and Misuse. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. February 2020.

Stein, M. D., Conti, M. T., Kenney, S., Anderson, B. J., Flori, J. N., Risi, M. M., & Bailey, G. L. (2017). Adverse childhood experience effects on opioid use initiation, injection drug use, and overdose among persons with opioid use disorder. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 179, 325–329.

Opioids may be used to drug potential victims, whether alone or in combination with alcohol or other drugs

Grela A, Gautam L, Cole MD. A multifactorial critical appraisal of substances found in drug facilitated sexual assault cases. *Forensic Sci Int*. 2018 Nov;292:50-60.

Fiorentin TR, Logan BK. Toxicological findings in 1000 cases of suspected drug facilitated sexual assault in the United States. *J Forensic Leg Med*. 2019 Feb;61:56-64.



INTERPERSONAL TRAUMA

Williams JR, Cole V, Girdler S, Cromeens MG. "Exploring stress, cognitive, and affective mechanisms of the relationship between interpersonal trauma and opioid misuse," PLoS ONE 15(5):e0233185 (2020).

- Interpersonal trauma has been shown to increase risk for chronic pain conditions, prescription opioid use, and opioid misuse
- Among people with a history of interpersonal trauma, stress, cognition, and affective function are potential mechanisms that may influence opioid misuse
- Opioid prescription, depressive symptoms, and intimate partner violence (IPV) increase the odds of reporting opioid misuse

PAIN CONDITIONS & IPV



- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is extremely prevalent in society and considered a public health epidemic even when considered in isolation**
 - **Up to 60% of adults will report at least one form of IPV experience in the lifespan**
- **People who experience intimate partner violence are 3.35 X more likely to have a chronic pain condition**
 - **They are 2 X as likely to be prescribed opioids**
 - **And are 4.5 X more likely of developing an opioid use disorder than those without a history of IPV**



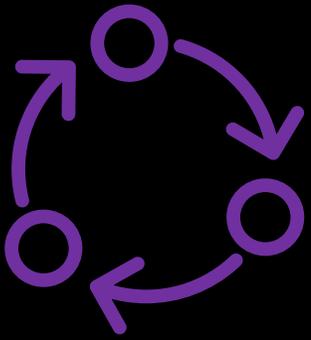
MENTAL HEALTH & IPV

*Balousek S, Plane MB, Fleming M.
Prevalence of interpersonal abuse in
primary care patients prescribed opioids
for chronic pain. Journal of General
Internal Medicine, 2007; 22(9): 1268-73.*

Mental health conditions such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are a common consequence of intimate partner violence.

Depression and PTSD are consistently identified risk factors for opioid misuse.

Those with a history of IPV who are currently prescribed opioids or are currently opioid dependent demonstrate higher rates of mental health conditions.



WHICH COMES FIRST?

.... and does it matter?

Among primary care patients currently prescribed opioids, those reporting more severe psychiatric symptoms (i.e., depression, anxiety, hallucinations, violent behavior, suicidal ideation) were 5 times more likely to report abuse occurring during the past 30 days.

Balousek S, Plane MB, Fleming M. Prevalence of interpersonal abuse in primary care patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain. Journal of General Internal Medicine, 2007; 22(9): 1268-73.

Among people receiving outpatient treatment for opioid dependence, victims of sexual violence were more likely to suffer from severe to extreme psychological distress.

- This effect was stronger among women

Scafer I, Gromus L, Atabaki A, Pawils S, Verthein U, Reimer J, et al. Are Experiences of sexual violence related to special needs in patients with substance use disorders? A study in opioid-dependent patients. Addictive Behavior (2014); 39(12): 1691-4.

Exposure to chronic stress, common particularly in dating/domestic violence, stalking, and childhood sexual abuse can result in long-term elevation of the HPA axis.

The hypervigilance common among those who experience IPV is linked to this elevation and is linked to numerous chronic pain conditions.

Opioid medications may help people cope with stressors by inhibiting stress-related symptoms.

Stress has also been shown to influence cravings in those receiving treatment for opioid dependence, leading to subsequent misuse.

Stress and experiences of intimate partner violence are both linked to opioid dependence, with severity of the IPV more strongly predicting dependence than stress.

STRESS & IPV



Moran LM, Kowalczyk WJ, Phillips KA, Vahabzadeh M, Lin JL, Mezghanni M, et al. Sex differences in daily life stress and craving in opioid-dependent patients. American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse (2018); 44(5):512-23.

Garami J, Valikhani A, Parkes D, Haber P, Mahlberg J, Misiak B, et al. Examining Perceived Stress, Childhood Trauma and Interpersonal Trauma in Individuals with Drug Addiction, Psychological Reports (2019); 122(2): 433-50.

Among women with a history of intimate partner violence, those who also reported experiences of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) were much more likely to be prescribed an opioid in adulthood.

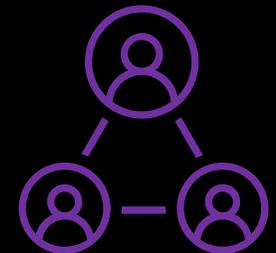
Cumulative trauma and exposure to IPV earlier in life both increase the risk of opioid misuse, particularly among women.

Walsh K, Keyes KM, Koenen KC, Hasin D. Lifetime prevalence of gender-based violence in US women: Associations with mood/anxiety and substance use disorders. Journal of Psychiatric Research (2015); 62:7-13.

Quinn K, Boone L, Scheidell JD, Mateu-Gelabert P, McGorray SP, Beharie N, et al. The relationships of childhood trauma and adulthood prescription pain reliever misuse and injection drug use. Drug and Alcohol Dependency (2016); 169: 190-8.

Wuest J, Meritt-Gray M, Lent B, Varcoe C, Connors AJ, Ford-Bilboe M. Patterns of medication use among women survivors of intimate partner violence. Canadian Journal of Public Health (2007), 98(6): 460-4.

IPV, ACE, & OPIOID USE



Individuals with a history of childhood trauma often show greater sensitivity to pain and lower pain thresholds. This alteration in their pain processing may lead people to seek prescription pain relievers when OTC medications no longer alleviate their pain.

ACE CONSIDERATIONS



Teasarz J, Eich W, Treede RD, Gerhardt A. Altered pressure pain thresholds and increased wind-up in adult patients with chronic back pain with a history of childhood maltreatment Pain, (2016) 157 (8); 1799-809.

IPV, COERCION & OPIOID USE

Research demonstrates that people in abusive romantic or sexual relationships are more likely to be coerced or forced into using substances by their abusive partner than those who experience sexual violence outside of an ongoing relationship or those who experience neither sexual violence nor dating/domestic violence. The introduction and subsequent availability of opioids in an ongoing abusive relationship contribute to opioid use as “self-medication” as a coping mechanism which can lead to dependency.

Washaw C, Lyon E, Bland PJ, Phillips H, Hopper M. Mental health and substance use coercion surveys. Report from the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health (2014).

OPIOID DEPENDENCY & RISK OF IPV

Jessell L, Mateu-Gelabert P, Guarino H, Vakharia SP, et al. Sexual violence in the context of drug use among young adult opioid users in New York City. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, (2017) 32, 2929-2954.

Young adults (18-32) who report using heroin or engaging in non-medical use of prescription opioids face heightened risk of experiencing sexual violence, witnessing sexual violence, or being propositioned for sex in drug use settings.

Women were more likely than men to report:

- being touched in a sexual manner (57% W; 22%M)
- Being digitally penetrated (30% W; 7% M)
- Being raped (41% W; 11% M)
- Being propositioned for sex (82% W; 44% M)
- Feeling sexually violated during an event they cannot clearly remember (38% W; 13% M)

Transactional sex was not uncommon, with 39% of women and 22% of men admitting to receiving drugs or money in exchange for sex at least once.

Sexual assault increases risk of suicide attempts over the past year five-fold.

Tomasula, JL, Anderson LM, Littleton, HL, Riley-Tillman, TC. The association between sexual assault and suicidal activity in a national sample. School Psychology Quarterly (2012) 27(2): 109-119.

Prescription opioid use is also associated with increased risk for suicide.

Marchand K, Palis H, Fikowski J, Harrison S, Spittal P, Schechter MT, Oviedo-Joekes E. The role of gender in suicidal ideation among long-term opioid users. Canadian Journal of Psychiatry (2017) 0706743717711173.

The majority of drug overdoses involve prescription opioids.

Rudd MD, Fluid vulnerability theory; A cognitive approach to understanding the process of acute and chronic suicide risk. In T.E. Ellis (Ed.) Cognition and suicide: Theory, research and therapy (pp. 355-368) Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

Sexual violence is associated with higher risk of prescription opioid use and increased suicidal ideation.

Walsh K, Keyes KM, Koenen KC, & Hasin D. Lifetime prevalence of gender-based violence in US women: Associations with mood/anxiety and substance use disorders. Journal of Psychiatric Research (2015) 62, 7-13.

IPV, OPIOID USE, & SUICIDAL IDEATION

LBGTQ IMPACT

Balsam KF, Lehavot K, & Beadnell B (2011). Sexual revictimization and mental health: A comparison of lesbians, gay men, and heterosexual women. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 26, 1798-1814.

Feiner J, Wisdom J, Williams T, Katsuka L, Haley S, and Jun HJ. Stress, coping, and context: Examining substance use among LGBTQ young adults with probably substance use disorders. Psychiatric Services, (2020): 71(2): 112-120.

- Interventions should consider discrimination faced, family acceptance, and availability of drugs in person's social settings
- Bisexual women face significantly greater risk for substance use and misuse than lesbian/gay women
 - Potential contributing factors include invisibility of identity and/or stigma or biphobia, both inside and outside of the LGBTQ community
- Transgender, Genderqueer and Gender Non-Conforming substance use impacted by lifetime stress, stigma, and discrimination
 - Transphobia and lack of affirmative care in medical and substance use care settings lead to delayed care
 - Institutional barriers can reduce the likelihood that a TGNC person would approach a care system
 - Increased likelihood, especially among older TGQGN adults, of chronic pain, sometimes connected to gender affirming surgeries and body modifications in their medical history

- In transgender men and women, a history of intimate partner violence is associated with alcohol misuse
- Transgender women who have experienced sexual violence are more likely to report illicit drug use

Testa RJ, Sciacca LM, Wang F, Hendricks ML, Goldblum P, Gradford J. Effects of violence on transgender people. Professional Psychology: Research & Practice (2012); 43(5): 452-9.

- Experiences of identity-related violence (transphobia, transphobia) is associated with increased odds of alcohol, marijuana, or cocaine use, as well as an 8x higher odds of any drug use among trans women
- Seeking Safety is an evidence-based intervention focusing on concurrently treating substance use and post-traumatic stress disorder that has demonstrated success in reducing symptoms of PTSD and drug use among trans women

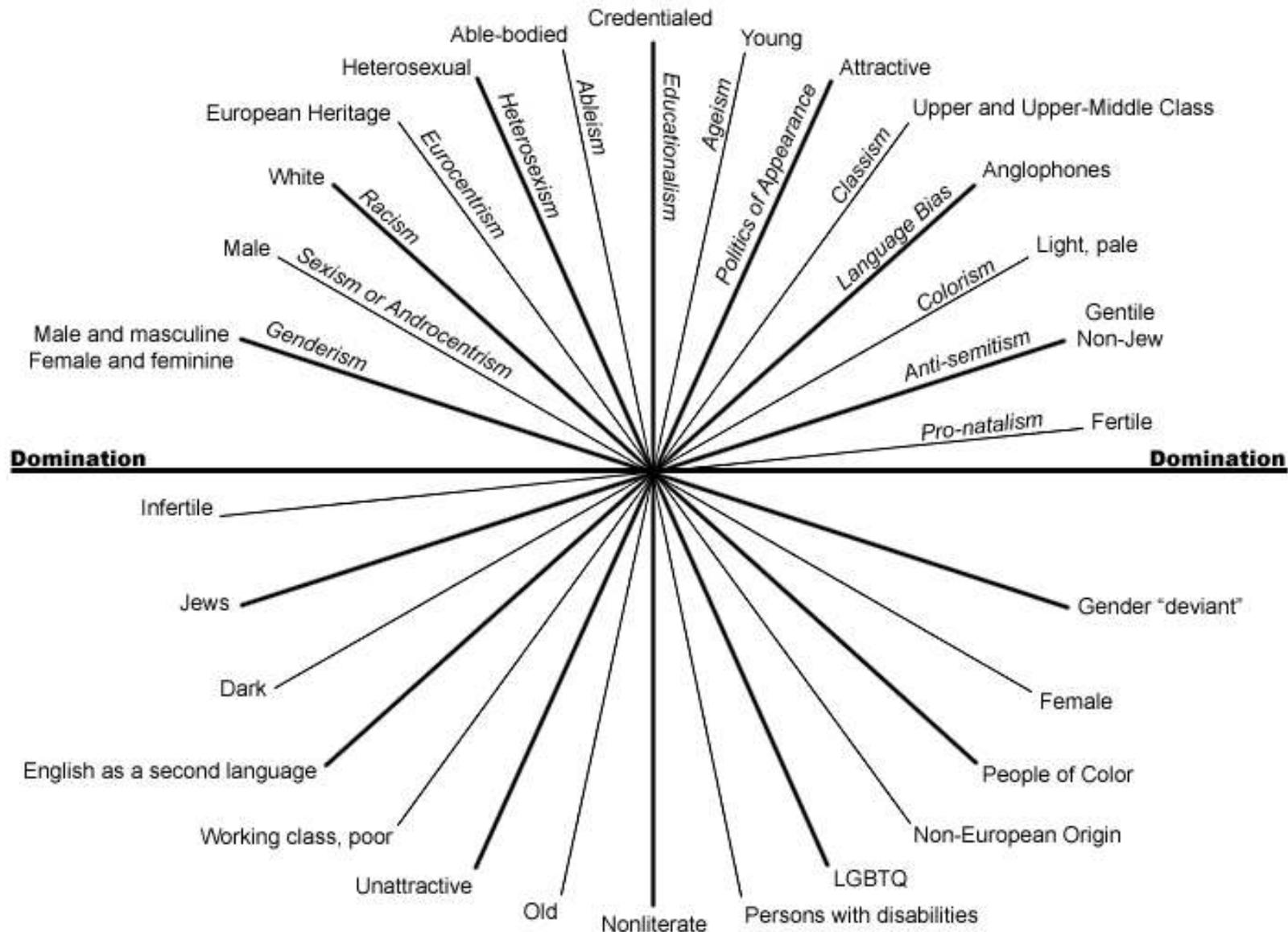
Empson S, Cuca YP, Cochoboa J, Dawson-Rose C, Davis K, Mactinger EL. Seeking safety group therapy for co-occurring substance use disorder and PTSD among transgender women living with HIV. Journal of Psychoactive Drugs (2017) 49(4): 344-51.

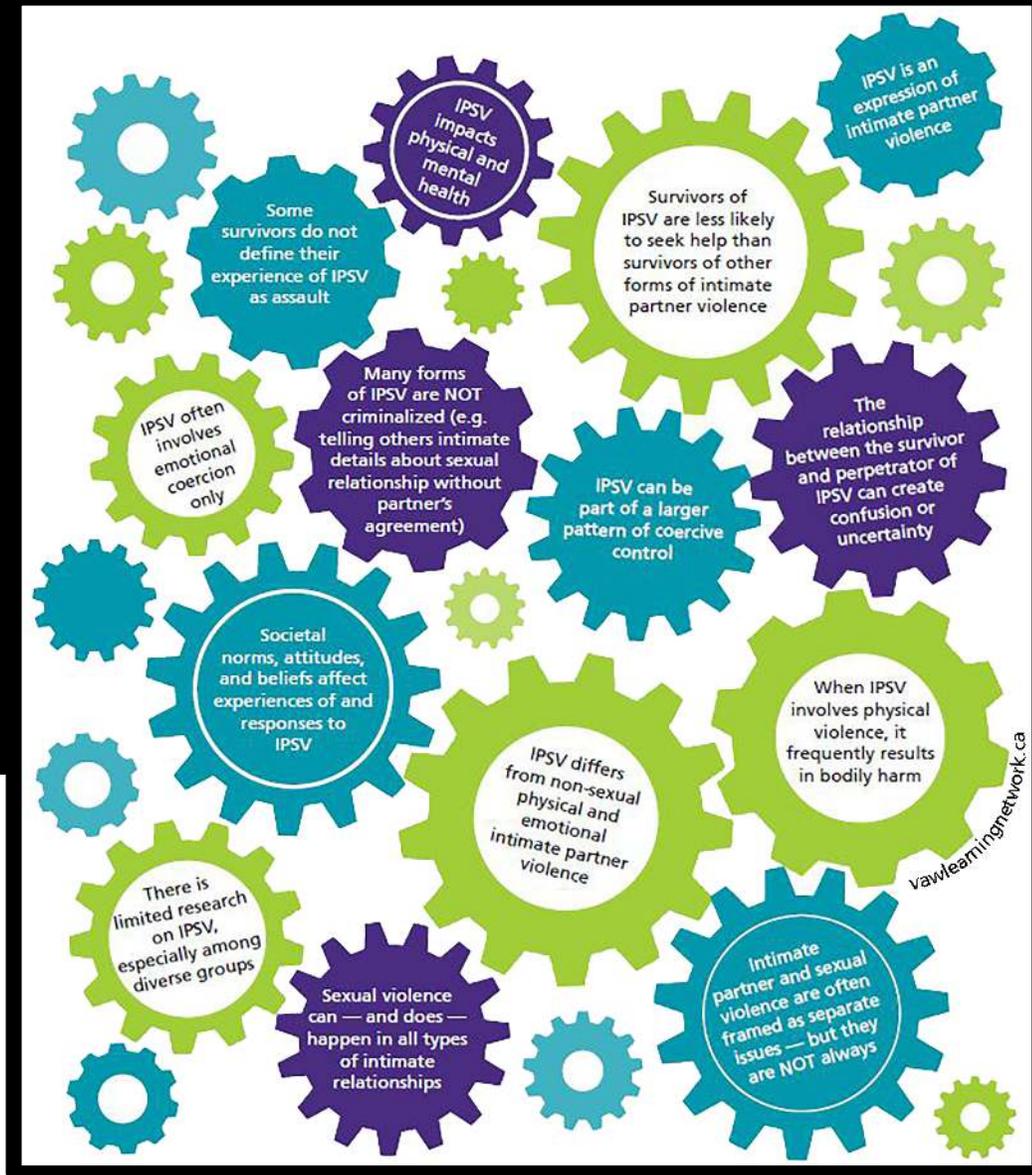
TGQGN IPV IMPACT



Intersecting Axes of Privilege, Domination, and Oppression

Adapted from Kathryn Pauly Morgan, "Describing the Emperor's New Clothes: Three Myths of Educational (In)Equality."
The Gender Question in Education: Theory, Pedagogy & Politics, Ann Diller et al., Boulder, CO: Westview, 1996.





KEY FINDINGS

Interventions should consider trauma-histories and possibility for ongoing risk of intimate partner violence

Adverse childhood experiences and adult experiences of IPV increase risk of misuse

Bisexual women and transgender, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming people face significantly increased risk of addiction and misuse

Where there is IPV and opioid use or misuse, there is increased suicidal ideation

THANK YOU

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