

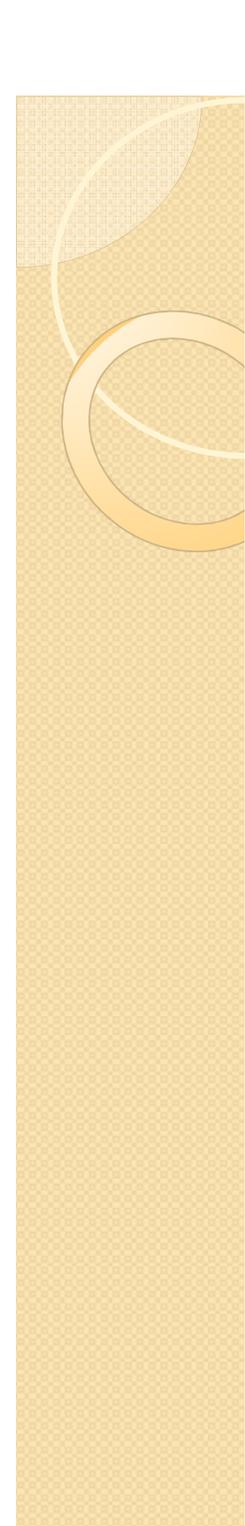


**Georgia
Commission on
Family
Violence**

Who is the Batterer?

Presenters: Jennifer Thomas

La Donna R. Varner



Georgia Commission on Violence

Family

- Produce Annual Domestic Violence Fatality Report
- Provide Technical Assistance to Family Violence Task Forces in Georgia
- Certify and Monitor Family Violence Intervention Programs in Georgia
- Annual Domestic Violence Conference (Macon Sept. 24th and 25th)
- Legislative and Policy Advocacy
- Developing a plan to address domestic violence in Georgia



Domestic Violence in Georgia

- Georgia ranks 6th in the nation for the rate at which women are killed by men (Violence Policy Center)
- From 2003 through 2011, at least 1071 Georgia citizens lost their lives due to domestic violence
- In 41% of the cases studied through Georgia's Fatality review Project, children were present during the domestic violence killing
- Women are more likely to be killed by their partner with a firearm than all other means combined

Domestic Violence in Georgia

Domestic violence
Oct. 2010 to Sept. 2011

Statewide Domestic
Violence Hotline
1-800-33 HAVEN
1-800-334-2836



9,548 Adult and
Child Victims Sheltered

68,622 Crisis Calls Answered

Provided 279,472
bednights of shelters



National Domestic Violence Statistics

- More than 1 in 3 women and more than 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced rape physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime
- Nearly 1 in 10 women in the United States has been raped by an intimate partner in her lifetime
- About 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner



National Domestic Violence Statistics

- The medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity (e.g., the time away from work cost of IPV was estimated to be more than \$8.3 billion in 2003
- These numbers underestimate the problem, many victims do not report IPV to police, friends or family.



National Domestic Violence Statistics

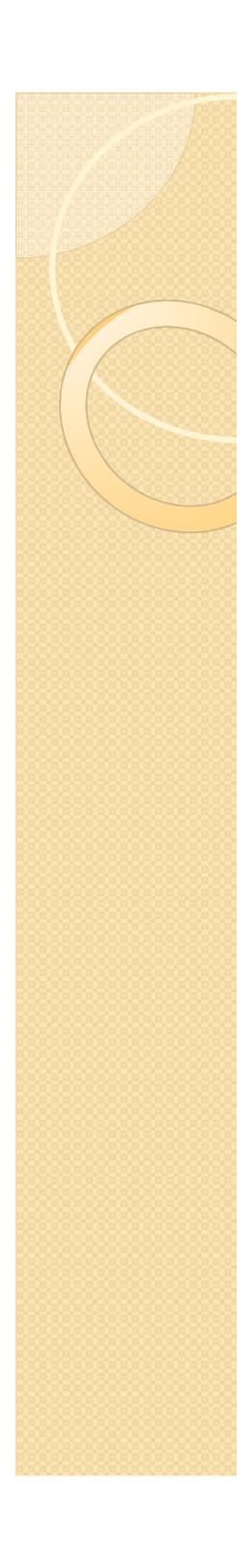
- Domestic Violence affects individuals from all socioeconomic, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation
- Individuals in same-gender relationships experience domestic violence at the same rate as heterosexual individuals



Domestic Violence

Types of Behaviors

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Economic abuse
- Psychological abuse



Activity



Characteristics of Men Who Batter

Bancroft, L. (Winter 2002). The batterer as a parent

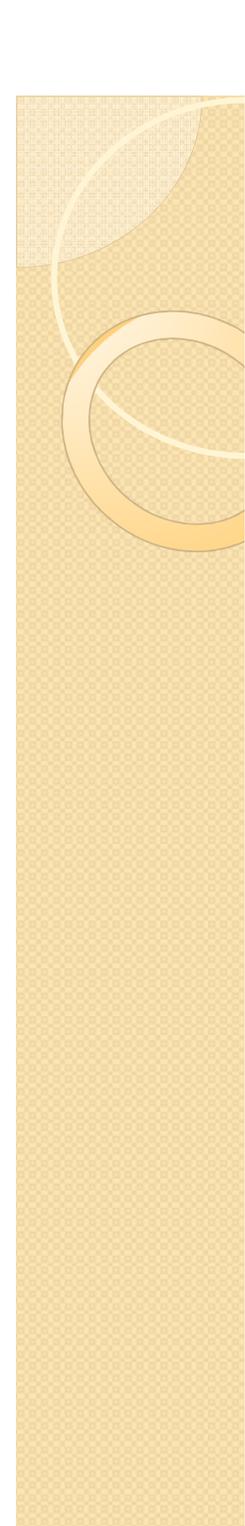
- **Manipulativeness**
- **Denial and minimization of the abuse**
- **Battering in multiple relationships**
- **Resistance to change**



Characteristics of Men Who Batter

Bancroft, L. (Winter 2002). The batterer as a parent

- **Control:** Coerciveness is widely recognized as a central quality of battering men, and one of the areas of life heavily controlled by many men who batterer is the mother's parenting.
 - A man who batters may cause or forbid his partner to terminate a pregnancy, overrule her parenting decisions, or assault her when he is angry over the children's behavior.
 - Battered women are far more likely than other mothers to feel that they have to alter their parenting styles when their partners are present.



Characteristics of Men Who Batter

Bancroft, L. (Winter 2002). The batterer as a parent

- **Entitlement:** A man who batters considers himself entitled to a special status within the family, with the right to use violence when he deems it necessary.
- This outlook of entitlement can lead to selfish and self-centered behavior on his part.
- For example, he may become irate or violent when he feels that his partner is paying more attention to the children than to him. It is difficult for children to have their needs met in such an atmosphere and they are vulnerable to role-reversal, where they are made to feel responsible to take care of the battering parent.



Characteristics of Men Who Batter

Bancroft, L. (Winter 2002). The batterer as a parent

- **Possessiveness:** Men who batter often have been observed to perceive their partners as owned objects.
- This possessive outlook can sometimes extend to their children, partly accounting for the dramatically elevated rates of physical abuse and sexual abuse of children perpetrated by batterers, and for the fact that these men seek custody of their children more often than non-battering fathers do



The Cycle of Violence

Psychological explanation for domestic violence

- Tension-building
- Explosion
- Honeymoon

Maintaining a system of dominance is the batterer's way of controlling the victim financially, emotional, physically and sexually



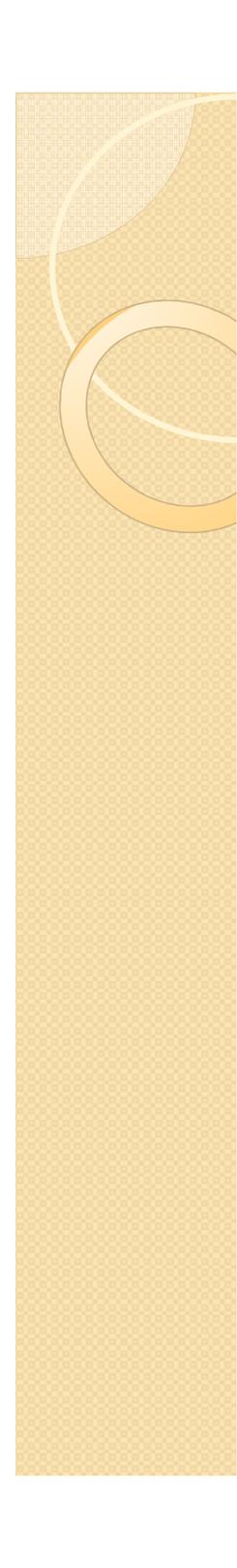
Categories of Violence

- **Battering**
- **Situational Violence**
- **Anti-social Violence**
- **Pathological Violence**



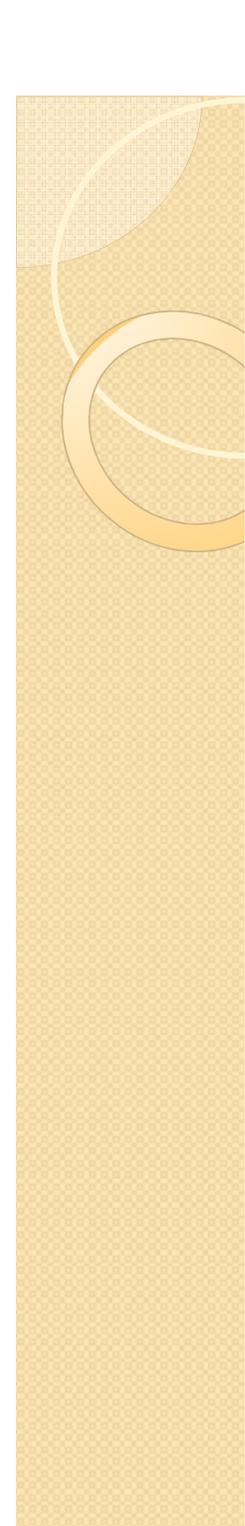
Substance Abuse and the Batterer

- 50-70% court-involved batterers are substance abusers
- 54-84% substance abusers in treatment are batterers
- Research by Kantor and Straus suggest that approximately 40% of male batterers were heavy binge drinkers.



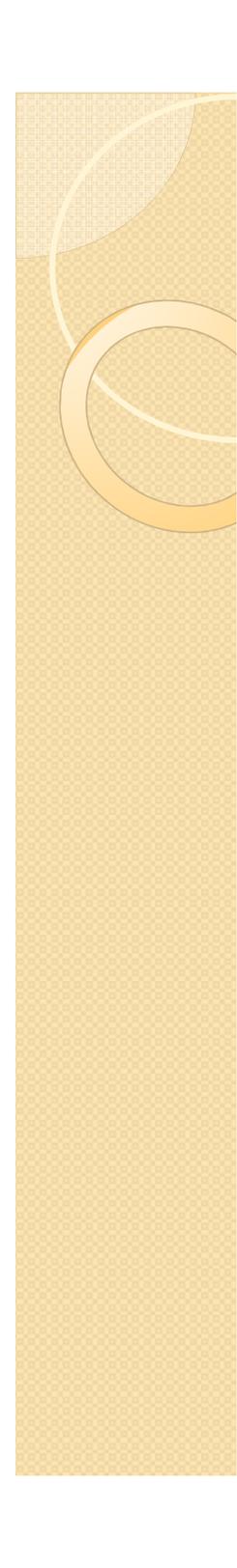
Men who batter and fatherhood

- Most men who batter are fathers
- Most of the men have developed belief systems similar to their own fathers
- Very little time has been spent on men as fathers and co-parents/parallel-parents



Why Should We Focus on Fathers?

- Most men who batter have some level of contact with their children.
- Many battered mothers reports that their abusers purposefully involve children in violent events (Edelson, 2006).
- Men who batter systematically undermine and interfere with battered mothers' parenting in multiple ways (Bancroft, 2002).



Why Should We Focus on Fathers?

- The violence perpetrated in the home is used to control the behavior of the other members in the family.
- Most men who batter do not believe that if they have harmed the mother that they have harmed the children.

Why Should We Focus on Fathers?

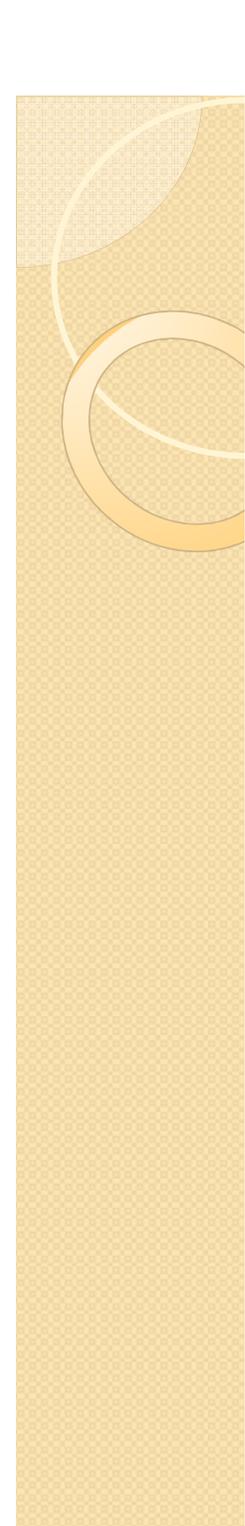


- On average, children exposed to adult domestic violence exhibit more difficulties than those not exposed. The difficulties can vary in range and extremity in behavioral and emotional functioning and cognitive functioning and attitudes (Edleson, 2006).



Effects of children exposed to violence

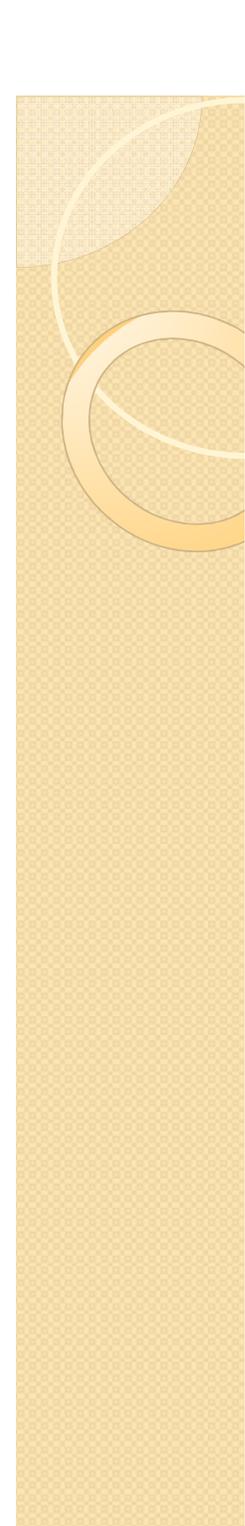
- Sleep disturbances
- Feelings of helplessness and passivity
- Generalized fearfulness
- Inhibited play and exploration
- Loss of recently acquired development skills (e.g., walking or talking)
- Easily Startled
- Scanning for danger/expecting danger
- Aggressiveness



HOW ABUSIVE MEN PARENT

- **Authoritarianism**

- If an abusive man involves himself in child discipline, he has rigid expectations, low empathy and an angry style of "power-assertive" (i.e. verbal and physical force) punishment.
- Discipline is a quick fix to an immediate problem, not a thoughtful strategy based upon reasonable and age-appropriate expectations.
- He may see himself as a superior parent and not listen to input from his partner. He may swing between authoritarian and permissive, even neglectful, parenting.



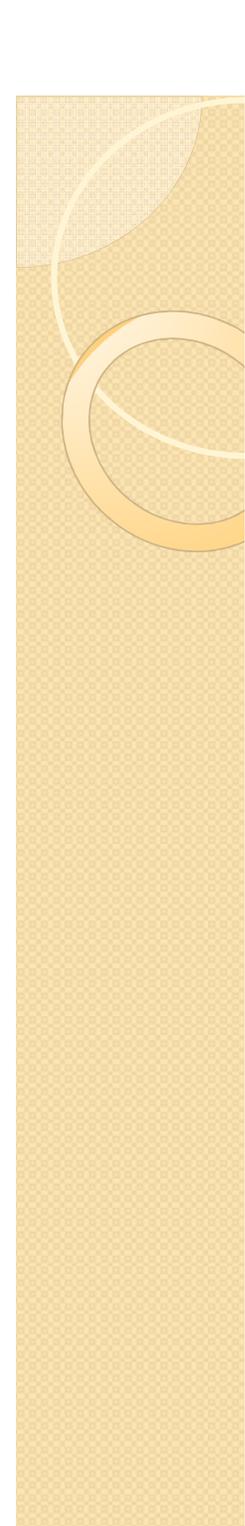
HOW ABUSIVE MEN PARENT

- **Low Involvement, Neglect & Irresponsibility**
 - While children must respect his authority, their daily care is the mother's responsibility, especially routine or less pleasant duties such as diapers and homework.
 - He may be unaffectionate with children and find excuses to avoid coming home.
 - He is unlikely to sacrifice his needs to meet family responsibilities.
 - His praise and attention, so rarely bestowed, may be highly valued by children. Neglect can alternate with periods of authoritarian control.



HOW ABUSIVE MEN PARENT

- **Ability to Perform Under Observation**
 - During professional evaluations or in social situations, some abusive men can seem to be loving and attentive fathers.
 - The contrast between public and private behavior may be stark.
 - Children may feel most comfortable with him in public places.



Parenting Styles of Batterers

- According to the reports from battered mothers, their husbands were less likely to have been involved with their children or to have used positive child rearing practices when compared to their nonviolent counterparts.
- Violent fathers were also more often angry with their children than nonviolent fathers.
 - Holden and Ritchie (1991)



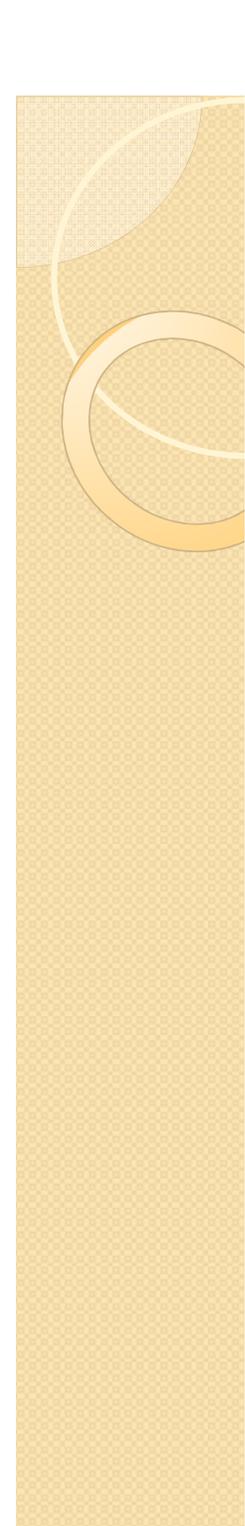
Parenting Styles of Batterers

- Parenting by batterers when compared to that of nonviolent fathers:
 - Is more controlling and authoritarian
 - Is often less consistent
 - Is more often intended to manipulate the children and undermine the mothers' parenting.



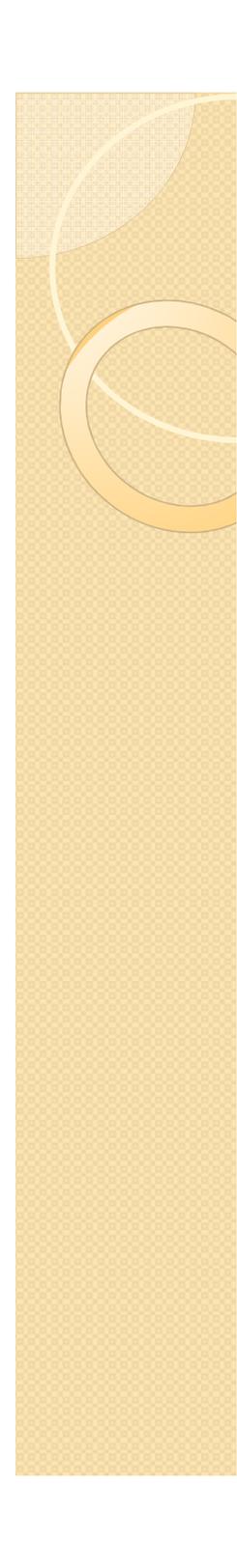
Parenting Styles of Batterers

- They suggest that perpetrators may more often pressure children to disclose confidential discussions with evaluators or to convey a specific message in favor of the perpetrator to evaluators and the court.



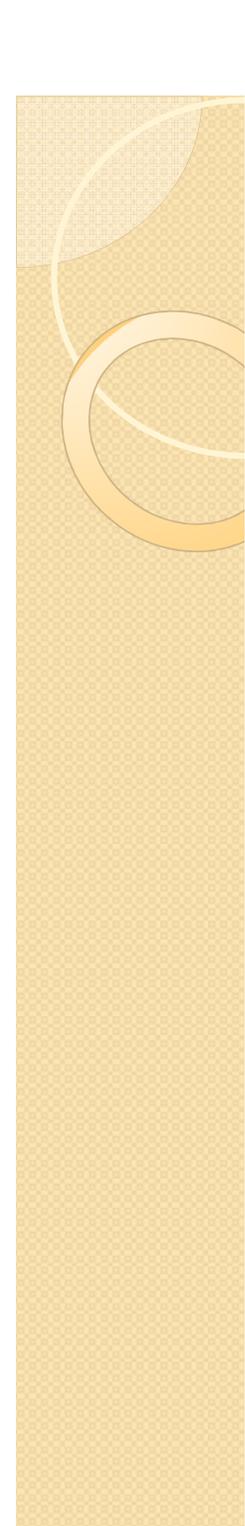
Interviewing Strategies

- Important to remember the context of what the batterer is telling you
- Important to remember that batterers are very good at manipulation and may even see themselves as the victim
- Focus on holding the batterer accountable for their actions. Don't allow them to minimize or shift blame



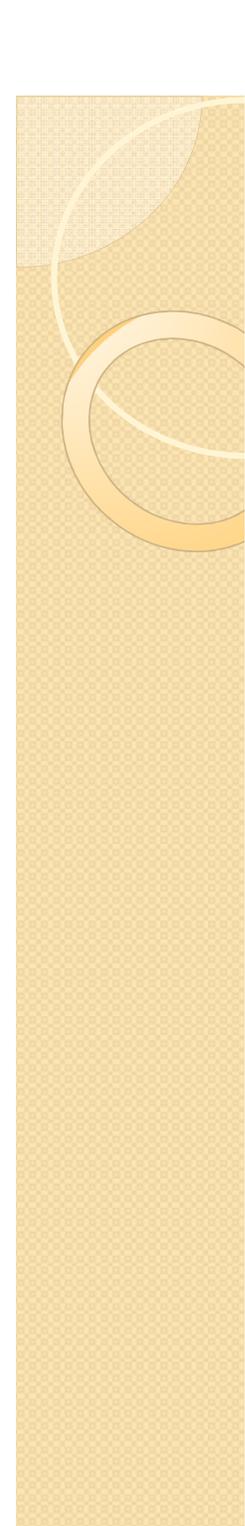
Intervention Strategies and Coordinated Community Response

Partnering with other individuals and organizations to enhance victim safety and offender accountability (Local Domestic Violence Task Forces, Family Violence Intervention Program Providers, DV Agencies, Victim Advocates, Legal Advocates)



Intervention Strategies and Coordinated Community Response

- Working closely with court and probation to monitor court-ordered referral for offenders to Family Violence Intervention Programs
- Creating a solid program infrastructure, which includes ongoing training and implementing policies that are consistent with “best practices.”



Intervention Strategies and Coordinated Community Response

Working with Judges, prosecutors, probation, and victim advocates to help educate them on the difference between ordering an offender to complete Anger Management classes and not Family Violence Intervention Program classes for Domestic Violence incidences

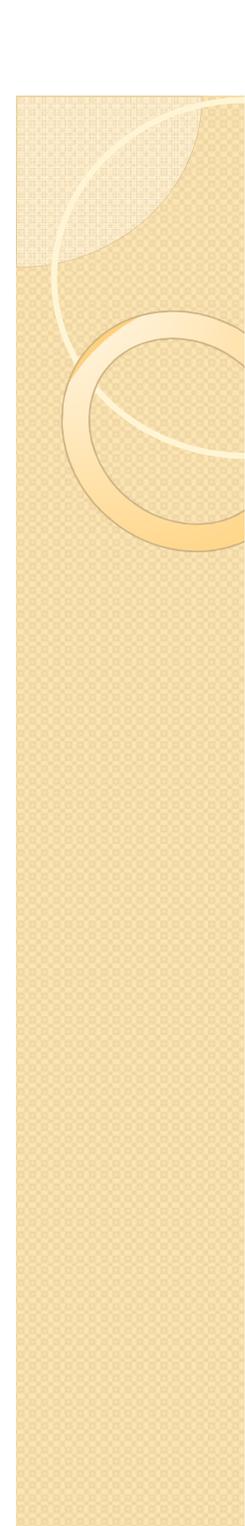
Anger Management

- Offenders of stranger or non-intimate violence
- Not certified and monitored by a state agency
- Programs do not contact victims
- Group facilitators may or may not be trained about domestic violence

VS

Family Violence Intervention Program

- Family Violence Offenders and Protective Order Respondents
- Certification is administered by GCFV and the GA Dept of Corrections
- FVIPs contract with DHR-certified or GCFV approved DV organizations to contact victims to provide referrals and safety planning
- Certification requires facilitators to have 80 hours of DV training and 84 hours experience facilitating or co-facilitating



Anger Management Classes

- Focus on anger as the impetus for violence (Gottlieb, 1999).
- Violence is primarily seen as a reactionary behavior and as a result of a triggering factor.



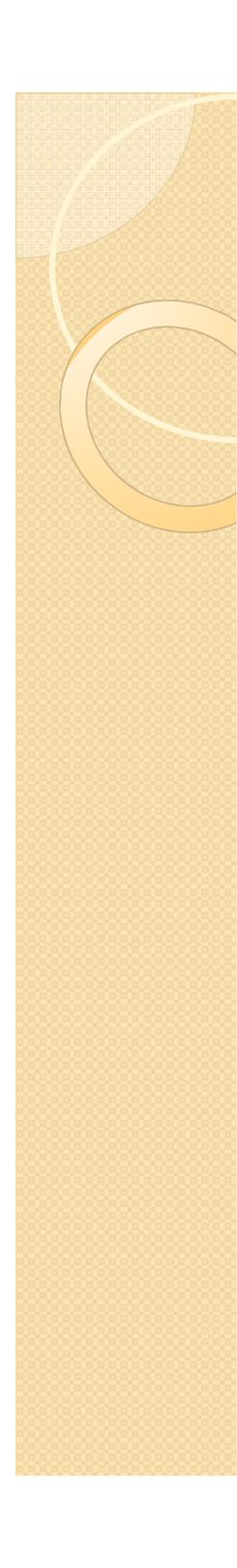
Family Violence Intervention Program

- FVIPs are specifically designed to intervene with perpetrators of intimate partner violence.
- FVIPs are designed to enhance victim safety and batterer accountability.

FVIPs in Georgia

Required Curriculum

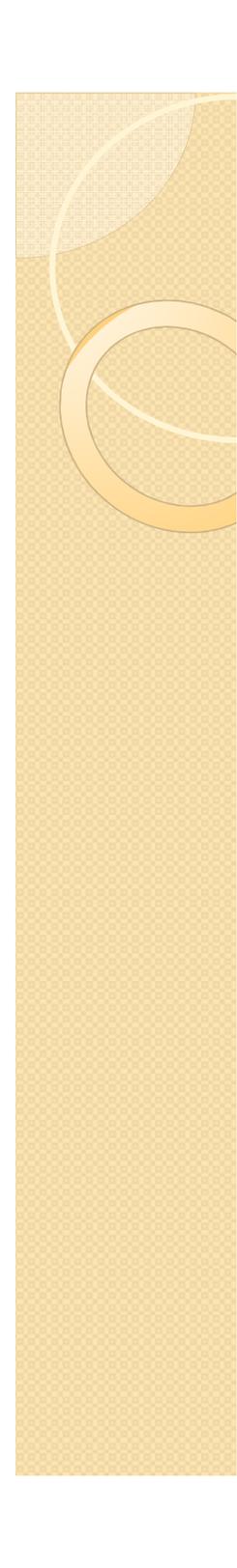
- Relevant statutes:
 - O.C.G.A. § 19-13-16(a)
 - O.C.G.A. § 19-13-10 et.al.
- Abuse as systematic use of power and control
- Identify and challenge personal beliefs and social contexts that support abuse
- Consistently identify effects of abuse on victims



FVIPs in Georgia

FVIP Required Components

- No blaming of victims
- 24 week program-
 - 4 absences result in termination
- Class participants must be of the same gender
- Not couples, marriage, or family therapy



Prevention Resources

- www.children.georgia.gov for educational and additional resource information
- www.gcfv.org for a complete listing of FVIP programs and domestic violence task forces
- www.gcadv.org for a complete listing of domestic violence agencies in Georgia, educational and additional resource information



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Violence
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ZingerBug.com

Questions?

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