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ABUSIVE MINDS THINK ALIKE

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Agenda

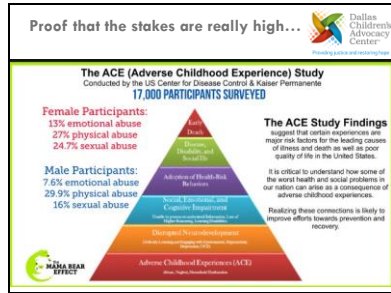
- **The Impact of ACEs**
- **Characteristics of Child Abuse vs. Domestic Violence**
 - The Crime
 - The Victim's Experience
 - Offender Typology
 - The Process of Disclosure
 - The Grooming Process
 - Compliant Victim
- **Call to Action**
 - Where do we need to be and how do we get there

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The Impact of ACEs

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40% had a college degree
75% were white

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Summary of ACES Findings

- ACES are very common
- They are strong predictors of later health risks and disease: they determine the ten most common causes of death in the US
- This combination makes them the leading determinant of health and social well-being of our nation.


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What made up those ACE categories?

- Childhood abuse and neglect
 - Childhood sexual abuse (often associated with some of the worst outcomes of any of these categories).
- Growing up with domestic violence, substance abuse, or mental illness in the home
- Parental loss
- Crime

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ACE update:



Still:


- 3 out of 5 adults had at least one ACE = 62%
- 25% of adults have at least 3 ACEs

Also:

- Disparities around socioeconomic groups; people of color; and people who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual
 - Black and Latino with less than a high school education = more likely to have an ACE
 - Multiracial = average of 2.5 ACEs
 - Bisexual = average of 3.1 ACEs

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CDC Continues to Track ACEs



- Greater number of ACEs = risk of heart disease, cancer, bone fractures, chronic lung or liver diseases, diabetes, stroke
- ACEs of 4-6 + = higher rates of mental illness
- When ACEs happen, high levels of cortisol and adrenaline increase blood sugar and blood pressure. High levels of this over time = disease
- Then add unhealthy coping (drugs, alcohol, overeating, sex), leading to worse outcomes over time.


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Let's stop making it be:




Child Abuse
vs.
Domestic Violence

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Instead, let's take the best of both worlds

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Domestic violence is a pediatric issue
~American Academy of Pediatrics

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The correlation...

- Children are 1500% more likely to be abused in homes where domestic violence occurs
- 70% of men who batter their wives, also batter their children
- The number one predictor of child abuse is woman abuse

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What we see at DCAC




□ In FY 17-18 we conducted 2487 forensic interviews

- 2204 of those interviews included a screen for DV in the home
- 257 did not receive a DV screen
- 440 of those kids screened disclosed DV in their home at some point in time
- 221 out of 440 the AP in the child abuse case is also the AP in DV
- 272 out of 440 the current caregiver was/is the victim of DV

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What we see at DCAC




In looking at a total of 248 families so far (with clients age 11-19), we have found the following:

- 15% of non-offending caregivers reported that they had experienced past-month intimate partner violence (IPV) when their partner is NOT the AP.
- When non-offending caregivers are reporting on IPV in the last month when their partner is the AP, 23-26%
- 45% of non-offending caregivers are reporting that they are experiencing IPV at some point

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A Pediatric Issue



- Co-occurrence of child abuse and DV: 30-60% of families where one is occurring, the other will be found
- DV often precedes child maltreatment—so intervention at the time DV is identified may prevent future child abuse
- Less than 1/3 of CACs are asking about DV—and they are the MOST likely of most health care providers to ask

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DCAC Research 2018




57 families were asked

- 7 (12%) of those had experienced DV in the last month
- 23 (40%) of those had experienced DV at some point of their relationship



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The good news is that you already know how to do this!

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Characteristics of the Crime




<ul style="list-style-type: none">Child Sexual AbuseCrime of isolationExtensive amount of manipulationExtremely premeditatedVulnerable victim poolRarely is there physical evidenceRarely is there a witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Domestic ViolenceCrime of isolationExtensive amount of manipulationVulnerable victim poolSometimes there is physical evidenceSometimes there is a witness
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What are the four types of violence?

- Verbal abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse




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Spectrum of Violence




- Verbal
- Using profanity
- Put down/Name calling
- Abuse/insult
- Controlling behavior
- Following partner
- Threats of suicide
- Threats to take children away
- Threats of murder
- Threatening to make objects
- Holding down against will
- Pushing/shove
- Shoving
- Slapping
- Striking
- Pushing
- Bringing partner's head on floor/wall
- Kick
- Strangulation
- Use of weapon
- Murder



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The Victim's Experience



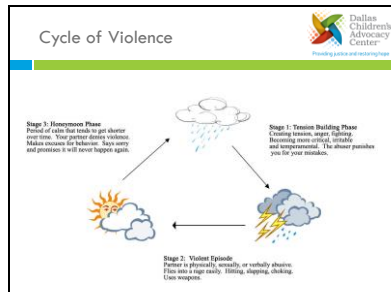
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- Child Sexual Abuse
 - Secrecy
 - Helplessness
 - Entrapment
 - Delayed, conflicted and sometimes unconvincing disclosure
 - Retraction
- Domestic Violence
 - Secrecy
 - Helplessness
 - Entrapment
 - Delayed, conflicted and sometimes unconvincing disclosure
 - Retraction

(The Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome by Roland Summitt, 1983)

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Offender Typology

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Characteristics of the Crime



Child Sexual Abuse


- Extremely manipulative
- Have mastered the art of grooming their victims AND the people who grant them access to victims
- Lack of empathy
- Sense of entitlement
- Minimizing behaviors

Domestic Violence

- Extremely manipulative
- Have mastered the art of grooming their victims AND the people who grant them access to victims
- Lack of empathy
- Sense of entitlement
- Minimizing behaviors

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The systematic diminishment of a woman...



"I'm done" "Oh, you are wearing that!"

"Date 10" - We are talking about moving in together.

"Date 20" - We live together and have combined finances. He talked me into quitting my job because I am pregnant.

"Date 30" - baby "Go change your clothes, bitch," is born. He is the only source of income. I am pregnant with a 9 month old.

Physical Assault

"Date 300" - We have multiple kids and I have no income or skills.

"Who are you trying to get to notice you?"

"Date 100" - baby "Go change your clothes, bitch," is born. He is the only source of income. I am pregnant with a 9 month old.

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The Process of Disclosure

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Child Sexual Abuse

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Disclosure is a **process**
not an event

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Domestic Violence

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Leaving an abusive
relationship is a **process**
not an event

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Why doesn't she just leave?!?!?!?

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- Pre-contemplation
- Contemplation
- Preparation
- Action
- Maintenance

The Stages of Behavior Change

Precontemplation: I don't think I have a problem.

Contemplation: I think I have a problem, but I'm not sure if I want to change.

Preparation: I've decided to change, and I'm starting to make plans.

Action: I've made significant changes to my behavior.

Maintenance: I've successfully changed my behavior and I'm working to prevent relapse.

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Types of Disclosure

There are two ways child sexual abuse and DV is discovered:


- **Purposeful** Disclosures
- **Accidental** Discovery Disclosures

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The Process of Disclosure

□ Child Sexual Abuse	□ Domestic Violence
■ Denial	■ Denial
■ Tentative Disclosure	■ Tentative Disclosure
■ Active Disclosure	■ Active Disclosure
■ Recantation	■ Recantation
■ Reaffirmation	■ Reaffirmation

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The Grooming Process

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"Exploring Sex Offender Grooming"

Jim Tanner, Ph.D. KBSolutions, Inc. www.kbsolutions.com	Stephen Brake, Ph.D. Stephen Brake Associates www.stephenbrakeassociates.com
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What is Grooming?

*Patterned behavior designed to increase opportunity,
minimize victim resistance or withdrawal, reduce
disclosure or belief*

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Types of Grooming



□ The Grooming Process for both Child Abusers and those that commit Domestic Violence is essentially the same:

- Environmental Grooming
- Victim Grooming

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B.R.A.T. / Bond



Child Abuse	DV
□ They form special bonds by:	□ They form special bonds by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Treating them like adults□ Keeping secrets□ Lures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Treating them like a princess – Rescuing them□ Intoxicating, romanticizing behavior□ Random intermittent positive reinforcement

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B.R.A.T. / Reliance



- Push and Pull
- Becoming primary emotional support
- Begins to emotionally isolate child/victim from others
 - Example: "No one understands you like I do..."
 - Example: "I love you so much I want you all to myself..."

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B.R.A.T. / Attenuates Resistances



□ Step by step progression of


- Isolation
- Sexual Activity / Violence (DV relationships have far more sexual assault than most people realize)

□ Explanations

- Justification
- Rationalization
- Normalization

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B.R.A.T. / Trap




□ Prevents escape or disclosure by

- Special friendship / treatment
- Rewards
- Threats
 - Direct
 - Implied

*Compliance teaches and reinforces further compliance, perpetuating a cycle of compliance and capitulation
(Example: Getting robbed at the ATM / getting robbed daily)*


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Compliant Victim

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The Effects on Disclosures



Protecting children and restoring families

- Victims may **"fabricate"** elements to make their disclosure more accepting to society
- Victims may **maximize** offender's role while **minimizing** their role
- Victims may **protect the offender** so as to protect themselves
- Victims may have **"real"** feelings for the offender

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Call to Action




Protecting children and restoring families

We need a
Team Approach
to
Protecting Children
AND
Families

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The crimes are not in Silos



Protecting children and restoring families

They happen in the same family by the same perpetrator. And the family is coached in guarding the Family Secret.

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In child sexual abuse.....




□ We are all in it together

- We are all saying it's not okay (*lots of voices*)
- We are moving forward aligned (*saying same thing*)
- Awareness is raised faster about the problem, about the severity of the problem, and about our decision to not tolerate it

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Going Forward




□ We recommend:

- Screening for DV in ALL FIs
- Reciprocal screening processes between DV and Child Abuse
- Look at past DV history and assess the pressures this might create when a child has been victimized

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Going Forward



□ We recommend:

- Screening for DV in ALL FIs
- Direct questions about what is provable/factual/in evidence are ok
 - How do mom and dad get along?
 - Do they ever argue or fight?
 - What does that look like/sound like when they argue?
 - What do they argue about?
 - Does anyone get hurt when they argue?
 - Marks/bruises/injuries/hospitalization?
 - Are the police ever called when they argue?

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Going Forward



We recommend:

- Immediate support services

- Consider having children who witness DV forensically interviewed
 - Strangulation
 - Weapons
 - Multiple allegations
 - Severe or chronic incident

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Family Advocates as Your Partner




□ Family advocates should be in orientations, pre- and post-interview meetings, CPS Family Meetings to ensure immediate intensive services begin

□ Recognize Stages of Change

- Precontemplation
- Contemplation
- Preparation
- Action
- Maintenance


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Don't misunderstand....



Understanding your **STARTING** point is **NOT** to be confused with lowering your expectations

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QUESTIONS???

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