

Domestic Violence & Disabilities

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A Few Starting Points

- **Violence against people with disabilities is not essentially different from other violence**
- **There is a lot that we don't know about violence against people with disabilities.**
- **Intimate Partner Violence against people with disabilities is one of the areas that we know the least about.**

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A Few Starting Points

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- **Some things I say today may be unpopular or “politically incorrect”**
- **Don’t hesitate to challenge me on my data or my positions.**
- **If I feel that I need to ask people to hold questions until the end, I will let you know. Otherwise, don’t hesitate to ask questions or comment.**

The relationship between violence and disability is a complex one

An Association between A and B does not necessarily mean that A causes B.

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- **Violence is a major cause of disability**
- **Disability may increase risk for violence as a result of various mechanisms**
- **Third factors may increase the risk for both violence and for disability.**

Violence to Disability

- Child battering was identified as a causal factor in 1.7% of cases of cerebral palsy and 0.6% of cases of intellectual disabilities. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1996).
- 26% of serious non-fatal brain injury was the result of intentional injury (Hanks, 2003)
- Violence has become the leading cause of SCI among African American and Hispanic teenage males (DeVivo, 2004)

Violence

Disability

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Mutual Risk Factors

Violence

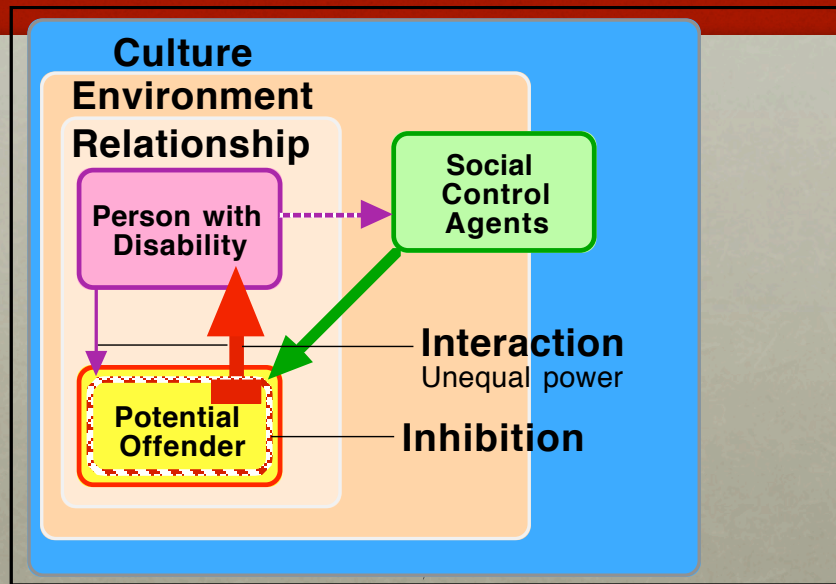
Risk Factor

Disability

- Economic Disadvantage
- Substance abuse problems
- Possibly others

- Possibly others
- Substance abuse problems

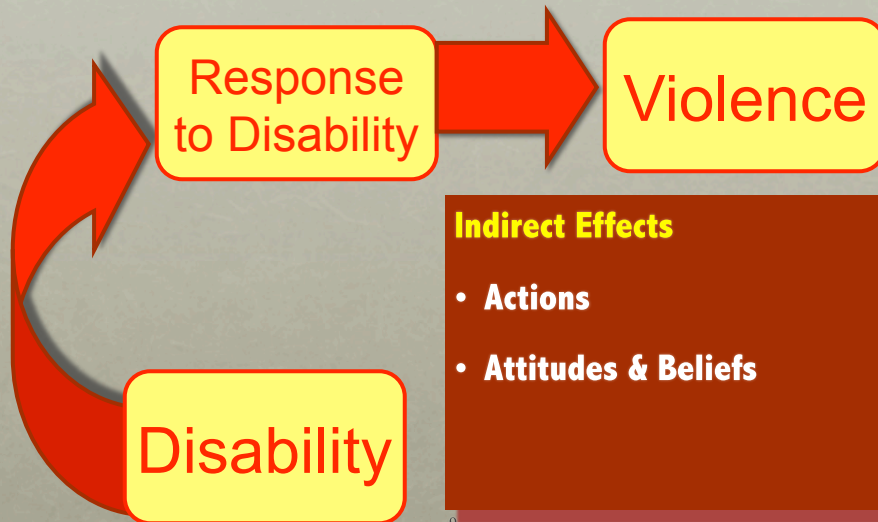
A MULTIFACTORIAL MODEL



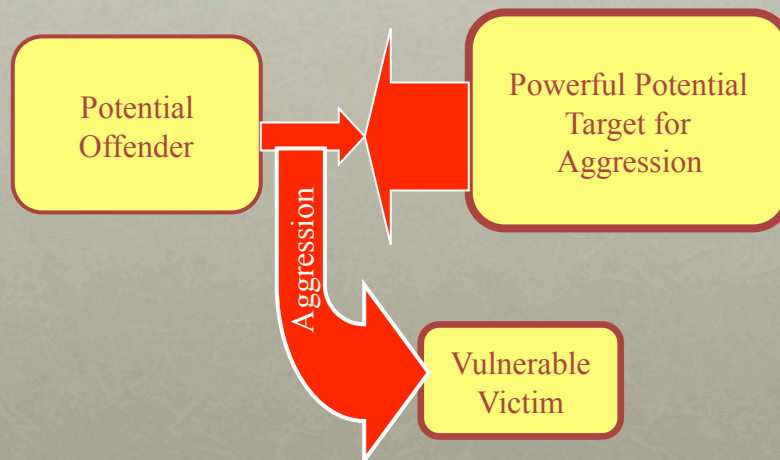
Disability to Violence



Disability to Violence



Displacement “look what you made me do”



Studies

Our
World Health Organization
Systematic Review

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- **Child abuse**
 - Many studies
 - Few good ones
- **Adult Violence**
 - US
 - Canada
- **Intimate Partner Violence**
 - Very Little but one great Canadian Study
- **Caregiver Personal Assistant Violence**
 - Little available

Odds Ratios

a quick note

- Odds ratios are a measure of effect size
- It is a measure of the chance of an event occurring in one group compared to the risk of the same event occurring in another group.
- So if the odds against of being abuse are 10:1 in one group and 5:1 in another group, we can say the Odds ratio is 2.0 suggesting that the chances are twice as high in the second group.

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Child Abuse Studies

(odds ratios)

Disability	Omaha, 2000 ¹	West Sussex, 2005 ²
Conduct Disorder		7.6
Behaviour Disorder	7.0	
Intellectual Disability	3.8	4.7
NonConduct Emotional		4.4
Speech Language	4.1	3.0
Hearing	2.3	
Learning Disability	2.0	
Physical Disability/ CP	1.5	1.8
Autism	0.9	0.8
Sensory		0.8

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Type of Maltreatment

(odds ratios, Omaha/West Sussex)

Disability	Neglect	Physical	Emotional	Sexual
Conduct Disorder	10.1	6.4	16.5	10.3
Behaviour Disorder	6.7	7.3	7.0	5.5
Intellectual Disability	3.7/5.9	3.8/3.9	3.8/4.0	4.0/8.0
NonConduct Emotional	3.4	3.8	9.5	2.3
Speech Language	4.7/4.2	4.7/4.9	6.6/4.5	2.9/1.4
Hearing	2.3	3.8	2.0	1.2
Learning Disability	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8
Physical Disability/ CP	1.8/5.1	1.2/5.1	2.5/X	2.0/X
Autism	1.3/X	X/1.2	X/X	X/X
Sensory	0.5	X	X	X

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U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009

- **Violent crime against persons with disabilities was 1.5 times higher than the rate for persons without disabilities.**
 - **Persons with a disability had an age-adjusted rate of rape or sexual assault that was more than double**
 - **Females with a disability had a higher victimization rate than males with a disability.**
 - **Persons with a cognitive disability had a higher risk of violent victimization than persons with any other type of disability.**
- **Nearly 1 in 5 violent crime victims with a disability believed that they became a victim because of their disability.**
 - **Violent crime victims with or without a disability were equally as likely to face an armed offender, report the crime to the police, or suffer an injury.**

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Criminal Victimization and Health Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics , 2009

- **In 2004, rate of violent victimization, including sexual assault, robbery and physical assault, was 2 times higher for persons with activity limitations than for persons without limitations.**
 - **The personal victimization rate, which is violent victimization or theft of personal property, for persons with mental or behavioural disorder, was 4 times higher than the rate for persons with no mental disorder.**
 - **Excluding spousal violence, almost two thirds (65%) of violent crimes against persons with activity limitations were committed by someone who was known to the victim compared to about 50% of other crime victims**
- **46% of persons with activity limitations who were victims of a violent crime were victims more than once during the 12 months preceding the survey, compared to 35% of persons without limitations.**
 - **In 2006, participating Canadian police departments reported only 2 violent hate motivated crimes against disabled persons**
 - **Result from the General Social Survey indicate that 12% of violent crimes against persons with disabilities (about 36,600 incidents) were considered by the victim has having been motivated by hate.**

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Partner Violence Against Women With Disabilities: Brownridge, 2006

- investigated male partner violence against women with and without disabilities
- the sample of the GSS used consisted of 7,027 heterosexual women living married or common law at the time of the survey.
- 15.7% of these women had disabilities.

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Partner Violence Against Women With Disabilities: Brownridge, 2006

Percent of women experiencing violence from intimate partner in the past 5 years

	Threat
Disabled	3.0
Non-Disabled	1.9
Statistical probability	≤ 0.05

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Partner Violence Against Women With Disabilities: Brownridge, 2006

Percent of women experiencing violence from intimate partner in the past 5 years

	Push	Slap	Choke	Throw	Hit	Kick	Beat
Disabled	3.5	1.9	0.6	1.5	0.6	1.2	0.8
Non-Disabled	2.5	1.0	0.3	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.4
Probability	≤0.10	ns	ns	ns	ns	≤0.05	≤0.10

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Partner Violence Against Women With Disabilities: Brownridge, 2006

Percent of women experiencing violence from intimate partner in the past 5 years

	Threaten or use Knife or Gun	Sexually Assault
Disabled	0.2	0.6
Non-Disabled	0.1	0.2
Probability	ns	≤0.05

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Partner Violence Against Women With Disabilities

Brownridge, 2006

- **Women with disabilities were significantly more likely to experience intimate partner violence within the last 5 years.**
- **4.9% of women with disabilities experienced some form of intimate partner violence in the last 5 years.**
- **Women with disabilities were 1.4 times as likely to experience intimate partner violence than other women.**
- **Women with disabilities were twice as likely to report being kicked, bitten, or hit with a fist.**
- **Women with disabilities were 3 times as likely to report sexual assault by an intimate partner.**

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Personal Assistance Providers Abuse of Disabled Adults

Oktaç & Tompkins, 2004

- **Convenience Sample... While limited other studies report similar findings.**
- **84 adults aged 19-78 who required personal care assistance (60 men / 24 women)**
- **More than half lived with family, about one-fourth lived alone, remainder in various settings (e.g., group home)**
- **2/3 paralyzed, others had neuromuscular disabilities.**

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Personal Assistance Providers Abuse of Disabled Adults

Oktay & Tompkins, 2004

- **30% reported some form of maltreatment by primary personal assistant.**
- **61% reported some form of maltreatment by at least one personal assistant other than the primary PA.**
- **10% reported physical abuse by primary PA and 9% reported physical abuse by another PA.**
- **3% reported sexual abuse by primary PA and 8% reported sexual abuse by another PA.**
- **8% reported extortion by primary PA and 15% reported extortion by another PA.**

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Domestic Violence Against People with Disabilities

- **Violence experienced by people with disabilities is similar to violence against other individuals**
- **It occurs with greater frequency and tends to be more severe.**
- **Frequencies and odds ratios are influenced by research methods.**
- **Less known about male victims.**
- **Approaches to prevention and support need to be generic and “special.”**

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Domestic Violence Against People with Disabilities

- **Prevention**
- **Investigation**
- **Victim Services**
- **Counseling**
- **Shelters**
- **Attitude change**
- **Social change**

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Studies

- Brownridge DA. Partner violence against women with disabilities: prevalence, risk, and explanations. *Violence Against Women* 2006;12(9):805-22.
- Oktay JS, Tompkins CJ. Personal assistance providers' mistreatment of disabled adults. *Health Soc Work* 2004;29(3):177-88.
- Spencer N, Devereux E, Wallace A, Sundrum R, Shenoy M, Bacchus C, et al. Disabling Conditions and Registration for Child Abuse and Neglect: A Population-Based Study *Pediatrics* 2005;116:609-613.
- Sullivan PM, Knutson JF. Maltreatment and disabilities: a population-based epidemiological study. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 2000;24(10):1257-73.

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Presentation available from

<http://www.ualberta.ca/BIOETHICS/> Look under
archives section on page

More information on violence against people with
disabilities can be found on the icad blog at
<http://icad.wordpress.com/>