Intimate Partner Violence, Children & Early Childhood Home Visitation (HV)

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Three Points to Remember

1. Childhood exposure to IPV is common
   - Over 15 million children exposed each year
   - Twice as common as asthma

2. IPV exposure is bad for kids’ health
   - Poor physical & mental health, and child abuse

3. HV can decrease IPV & childhood exposure
   - Training home visitors about IPV critical
   - Must include this if goal is to improve child health

Childhood IPV exposure is common

• 15 million children exposed
  – 7 million to severe IPV
• Rates disproportionately high in homes with children <5 years old
• Data from home visiting (HV) programs shows up to 50% of women abused
• IPV does not always happen at 2am in a different wing of the house
IPV exposure bad for kids’ health

- 40-60% co-occurrence with child abuse
- American Academy of Pediatrics states that intervening on behalf of a battered mother may be one of the “most effective means of preventing child abuse”

BOTTOM LINE: To decrease child abuse, HV programs must effectively address IPV
IPV exposure bad for kids’ health

• Social-emotional health:
  – Compared to peers, kids in homes with IPV:
    • Depression, anxiety, PTSD, ADHD
    • Bullying in school
    • School failure
    • Teenage substance use

IPV exposure bad for kids’ health

• Health care use:
  – Compared to peers, kids in homes with IPV
    • Half as likely to be immunized by two years of age
    • Less likely to receive expected well-child care
    • Twice as likely to end up in the ER
    • Cost health plans on average 16% more

IPV exposure bad for kids’ health

- Physical health:
  - Compared to peers, kids in homes with IPV
    - Have twice the risk of developing asthma
    - Increased risk of asthma GOES DOWN when Mom’s engaged with children
      - HV teaches parenting skills like this

Suglia Archives Ped Adol Med 2009
HV decreases IPV & childhood exposure

• HV programs seek to decrease child abuse and reduce associated risk factors

• Recent study: To estimate whether HV in Hawaii Healthy Start Program was associated with changes in rates of mothers’ IPV victimization and perpetration during the 3 years of program & long-term follow-up

HV may decrease IPV & childhood exposure

• During years of program implementation, rates of mother’s:
  – IPV victimization decreased by 14% [IRR 0.86 (95% CI, 0.73, 1.01)]
  – IPV perpetration decreased by 17% [IRR 0.83 (95% CI, 0.72, 0.96)]
HV may decrease IPV & childhood exposure

• Why may it have worked?
  – HV-Mom relationship
  – Encouragement of self-efficacy

• But, it could be better

• What is needed?
  – Standardized screening
  – HV training and support
HV may decrease IPV & childhood exposure

• Why is this important?
  – NFP research: presence of IPV limited HV program’s ability to reduce child maltreatment
    • HAVE TO ADDRESS IPV TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE
  – Reducing IPV INDEPENDENTLY benefits child health

Eckenrode J et al. JAMA 2000
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