

PREGNANCY: PREVALENCE, RISK FACTORS, OUTCOMES AND PREVENTIONS

- **AUTHORS**

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Violence against women is a global concern and it is estimated that one in every five women will face some form of violence their lifetime (World Health Organization, 2005)

Definition of Domestic Violence:

“a pattern of coercive behavior designed to exert power and control over a person in an intimate relationship through the use of intimidating, threatening, harmful, or harassing behavior”

Types of Domestic Violence:

- 1- physical abuse
- 2- sexual abuse
- 3- verbal threats(emotional abuse)
isolation, and economic abuse



Pregnancy and Violence

- Biopsychosocial stresses leads to frustration leads to violence
- Jealousy of fetus or diverted attention
- increase in their physical, social, emotional, and economic needs
- Anger at woman or fetus
- Attempt to end pregnancy-conscious or not
- Business as usual



Prevalence of violence during pregnancy

Prevalence of violence during pregnancy							
Less Developed Countries				Developed Countries			
	physical	emotional	sexual		physical	emotional	sexual
Rwanda,	38/3%			Lindow (UK) (2003)	3.4%		
South-east Nigeria	17.6%			British Columbia, Canada(2003)	1/9%		
Jordan (2009)	15%						
Nicaragua (2005)	13%	32%	7%				
Kuwait, (1999)	8.2%						
Tehran(2004)	8/1%,56/	56/2%	23/4%				
China (2005, 2007)	0/9%	1/3%					

RISK FACTORS

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graph TD; A([RISK FACTORS]) --> B[A: victim-related characteristics]; A --> C[B: unhealthy lifestyle]; A --> D[C: physical health problems]; B --> B1[1- Age]; B --> B2[2- Marital Status]; B --> B3[3- Race/Ethnicity]; B --> B4[4- Employment]; B --> B5[5- Social Support]; C --> C1[1- Poor Diet]; C --> C2[2- substance Abuse]; C --> C3[3- Emotional Problems(Anxiety, Depression)]; D --> D1[1- Late Prenatal Care];
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A: victim-related characteristics

- 1- Age
- 2- Marital Status
- 3- Race/Ethnicity
- 4- Employment
- 5- Social Support

B: unhealthy lifestyle

- 1- Poor Diet
- 2- substance Abuse
- 3- Emotional Problems(Anxiety, Depression)

C: physical health problems

- 1- Late Prenatal Care

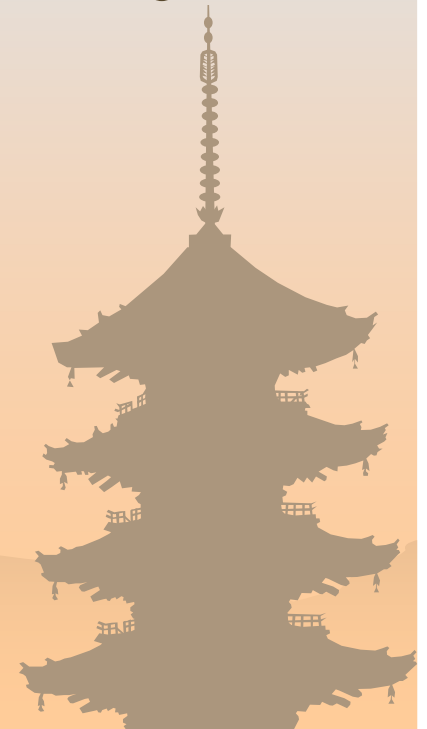
OUTCOMS

Direct outcomes

- low birth weight
- abdominal trauma
- abruptio placentae
- fetal fractures
- uterine rupture
- antepartum hemorrhage

Indirect Outcomes


- physical and psychological stress of the mother
- poor access to prenatal care
- poor maternal nutrition
- behavioral risks such as smoking cigarettes



Women experiencing abuse in the year prior to and/or during a recent pregnancy were **40% to 60%** more likely than non-abused women to report **high-blood pressure, vaginal bleeding, severe nausea, kidney or urinary tract infections and hospitalization** during this pregnancy.

Abused women were **37%** more likely to **deliver preterm**, and children of abused women were **17%** more likely to be born **underweight**. Both of these conditions pose grave health risks to newborns, and children born to abused mothers were over **30%** more likely than other children to require **intensive care upon birth**.

higher incidence of **miscarriage, termination of pregnancy** and **neonatal death** in abused women in addition to medical problems such as **asthma and epilepsy**.



Preventions

Primary Intervention

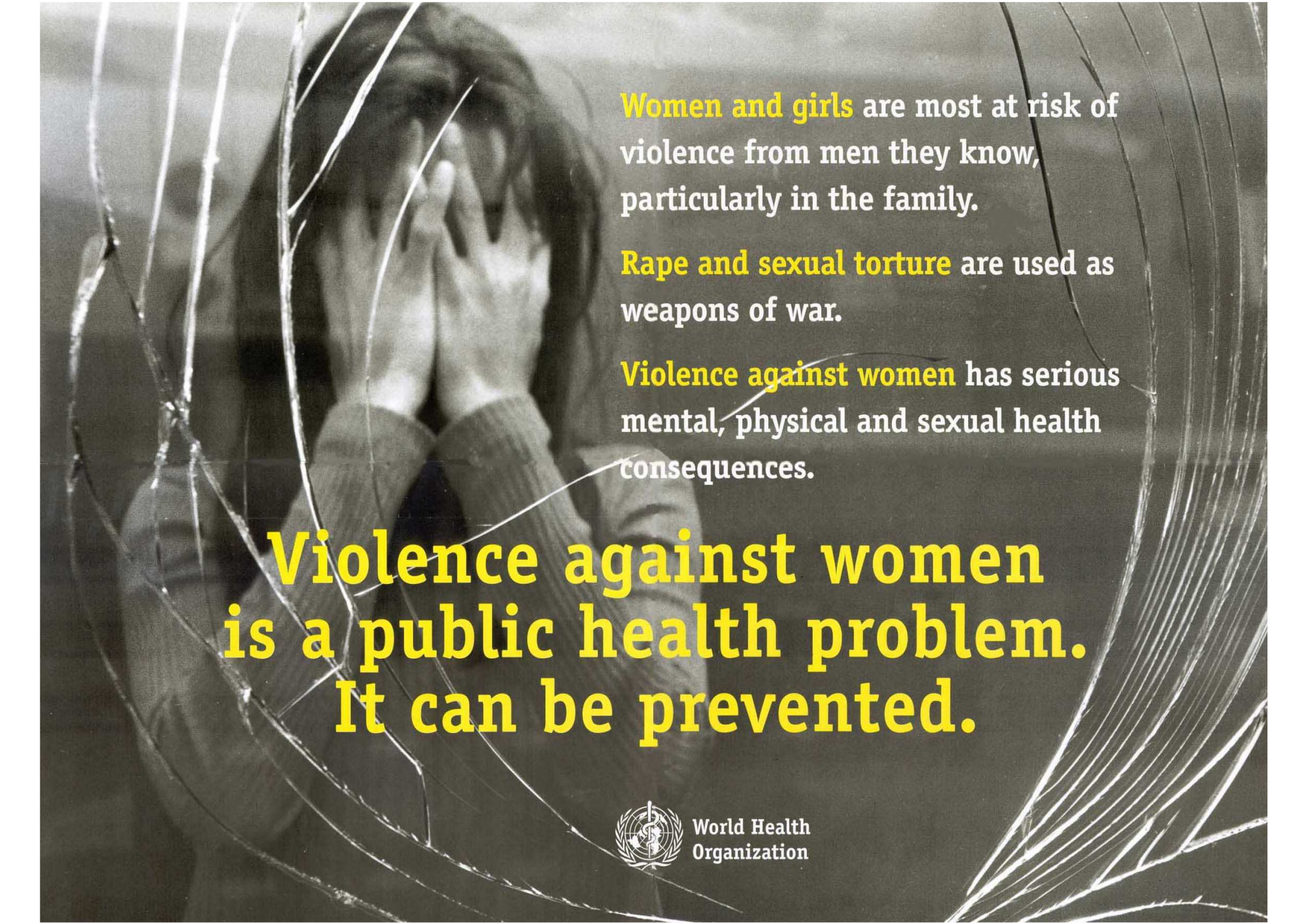
- 1- changing cultural and societal circumstances
- 2- political activism & efforts
- 3- decrease pornography and violence
- 5- promotion of healthy images of women in the media
- 6- increased penalization of abusers
- 7- Advocation of birth control options for women
- 8- informed women about available support services to them
- 9- clinicians participation in primary prevention

Secondary Intervention

- 1- identification of domestic violence and referrals for safe havens and/or treatment
- 2- providing nonjudgmental support to women once situations of domestic violence have been identified
- 3- discussing issues of domestic violence with men
- 4- encouraging intervention programs for abusive men
- 5- volunteering for services that serve families affected by domestic violence

Tertiary Intervention





Women and girls are most at risk of violence from men they know, particularly in the family.

Rape and sexual torture are used as weapons of war.

Violence against women has serious mental, physical and sexual health consequences.

**Violence against women
is a public health problem.
It can be prevented.**



World Health
Organization



A surreal painting featuring a woman's face in profile, looking down. Her skin is a warm, reddish-pink hue. A dark, almost black silhouette of a man's head is positioned to the right, facing her. The woman's hair is dark and voluminous. Delicate, white, vine-like floral motifs with small flowers are scattered around the faces. The background is a soft, warm tone. The overall mood is intimate and melancholic.

Thank You for Your Attention.



