

Journalism and adolescent dating violence

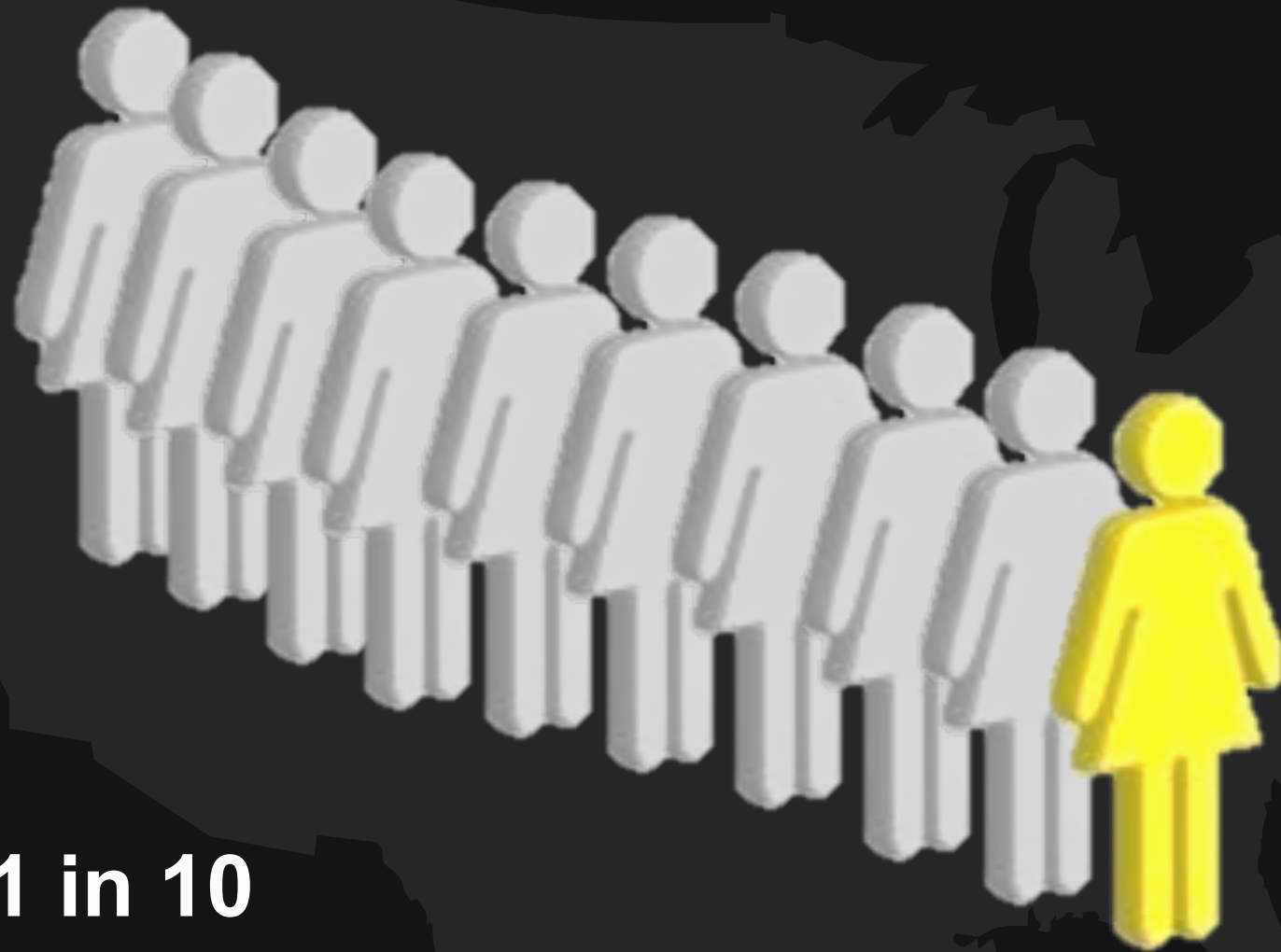
Emily F. Rothman, ScD

October 2011

Agenda

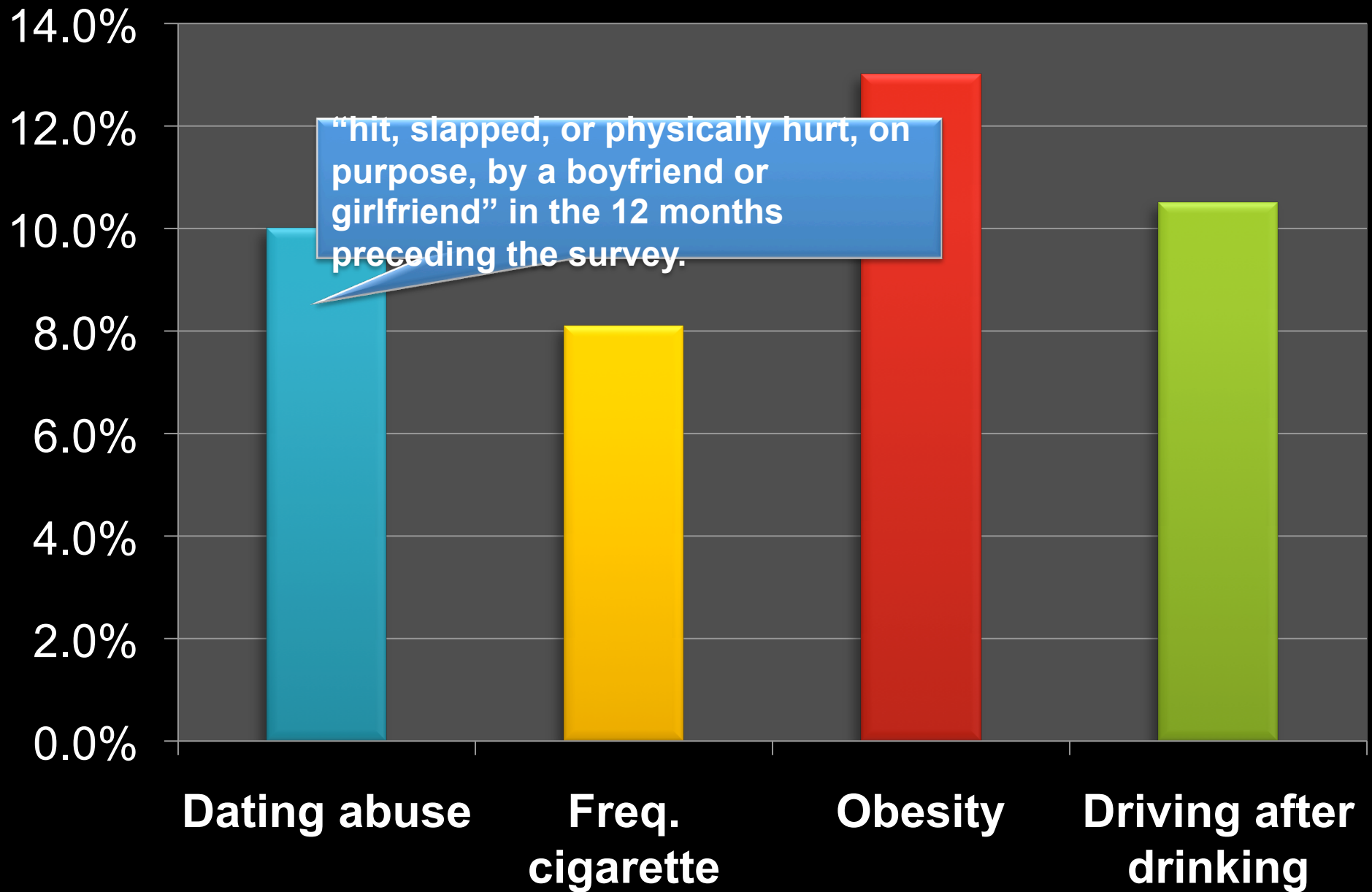
- 1) How common is ADV?
- 2) Why does it happen?
- 3) Media coverage of the “Rihanna & CB incident”
- 4) Tips for journalists

Prevalence of ADV

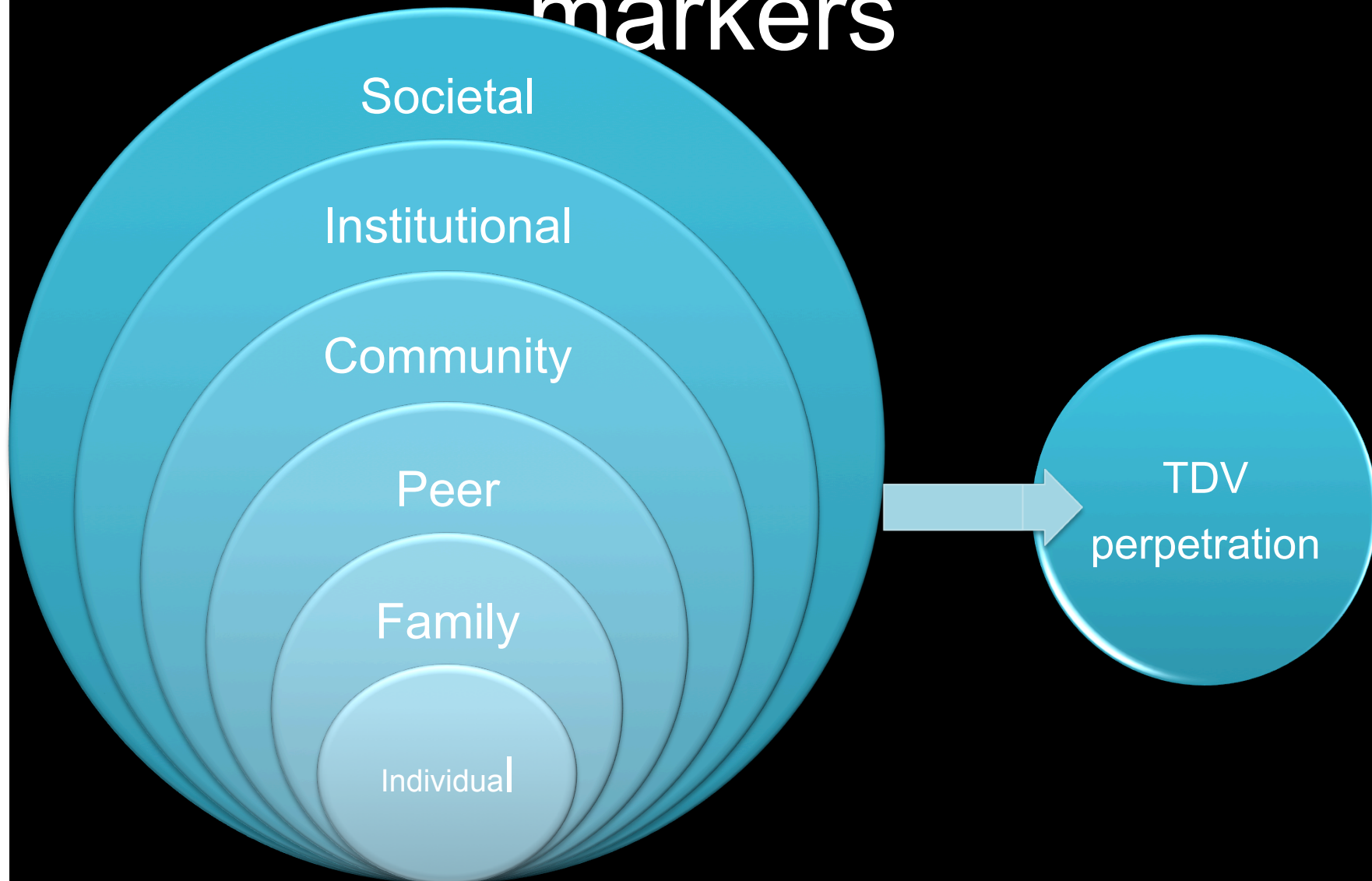


**1 in 10
high school students**

Prevalence of dating abuse and 3 other adolescent health risk behaviors or conditions



Risk and protective markers



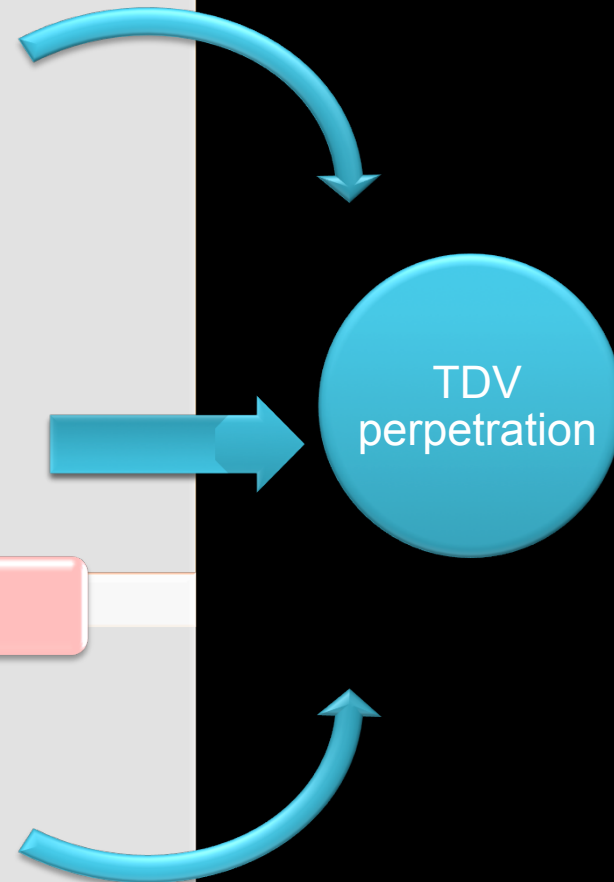
Model of selected risk and protective markers for TDV perpetration

Individual (risk)

- Low self-esteem
- Drug and alcohol use
- Depression/suicidal thoughts & attempts*
- Trauma symptoms
- Antisociality
- Life satisfaction
- Conduct disorder / generalized violence
- Jealousy, anger, need for control (aggression)*
- Conflict and problem solving skills (weak evidence)
- Early sexual activity
- History of forced sex or TDV victimization
- History of behavior control
- Older adolescent age
- Sex before love-telling* (males only)
- Greater number of dating/sexual partners*

Individual (protective)

- Awareness of community services for TDV
- Use of conflict management skills
- Attending religious services
- Grade point average
- Employment
- Verbal IQ* (males only)



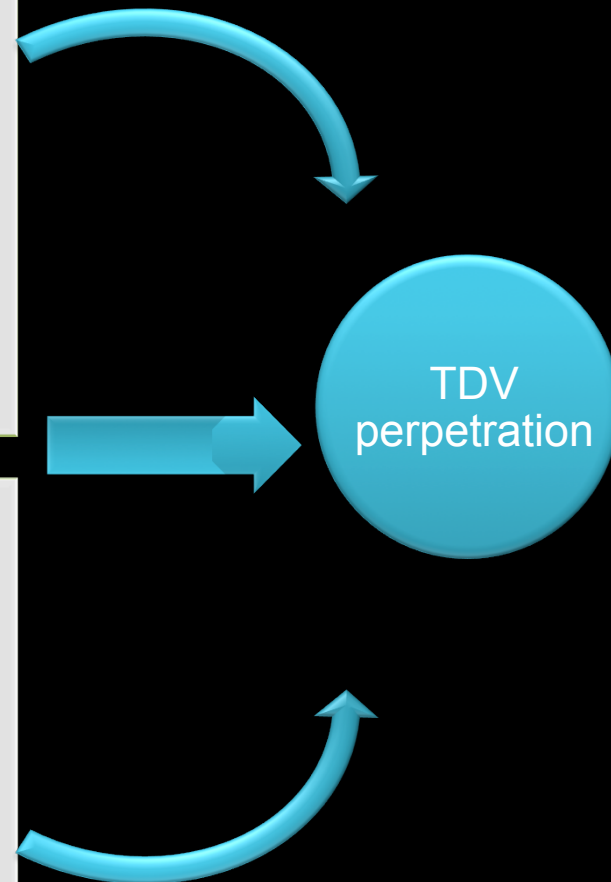
Model of selected risk and protective markers for TDV perpetration

Family

- History of child abuse
- Corporal punishment (males only)
- Witness to intrafamilial violence
- Parental divorce
- Low parental monitoring/supervision
- Born to teen mother
- Single parent household (mixed)
- Low parental support
- Low parental closeness and warmth
- Low parental educational level

Peer

- Witness to peer violence
- Acceptance of peer dating violence
- Street violence perpetration
- Bullying perpetration
- 8th grade aggression* (females only)
- Association with delinquent peers
- Partner's aggression*



Model of selected risk and protective markers for TDV perpetration

Societal

- Norms that support traditional gender views
- Norms that support violence in order to resolve conflict
- Norms that support acceptance of rape myths

Institutional (hypothesized)

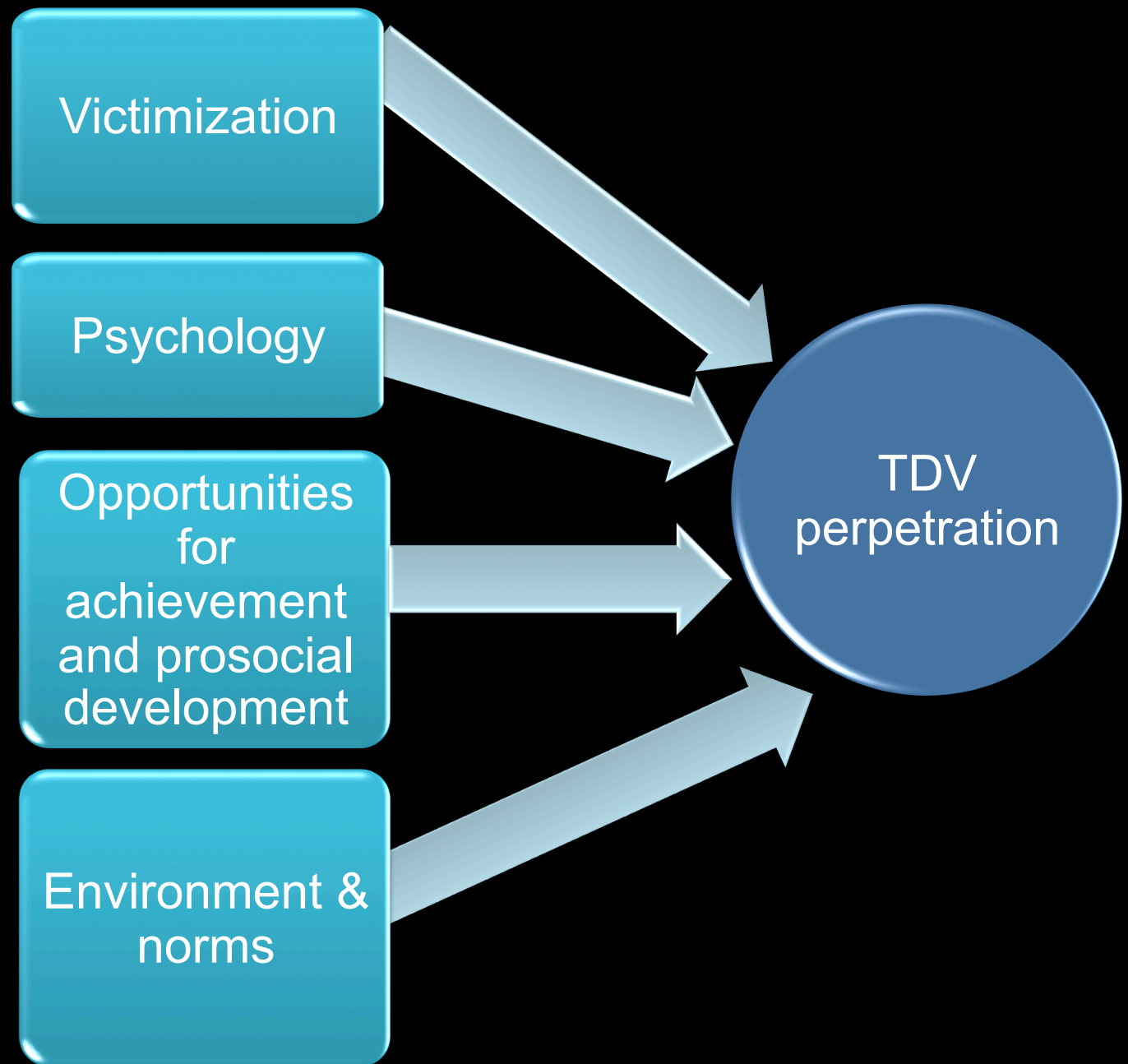
- Low school attachment
- Lack of resources to educate on healthy relationships

Community

- Low community monitoring
- Low neighborhood support/neighborhood organization*
- Low socio-economic status
- Exposure to weapons in community (males only)
- Low sense of social responsibility

TDV
perpetration

```
graph LR; Societal[Societal] --> TDV((TDV perpetration)); Institutional[Institutional hypothesized] --> TDV; Community[Community] --> TDV;
```



Newspaper/magazine reports of intimate partner violence

(see Wozniak & McCloskey, 2010)

Media can do better

- 3-28% of articles mention “IPV” when there is an IPV homicide

- Why is this a problem?

- Gives impression this is not widespread phenomenon (“family tragedy”)

- (see Wozniak & McCloskey, 2010)

Media can do better

48% of the articles suggested an excuse for the perpetrator (e.g., wife was cheating)

Last Updated: October 20, 2011

Jealous husband kills wife, eight others in China

NewsCore | September 28, 2011 4:22PM

   Be the first of your friends to recommend this.   Share

A FRUIT vendor in northern China murdered his wife and eight others in a jealous rage because he feared she was cheating on him.

Qin Changcheng, 32, has been arrested and confessed to killing his wife, her boss, his aunt and uncle, and six neighbors, Xinhua news agency reported, citing a statement from police in Hebei province.

(see Wozniak & McCloskey, 2010)

Media can do better

17% included victim-blaming language

- (see Wozniak & McCloskey, 2010)

Media can do better

20% of articles use positive descriptors for perpetrators: “normal,” “upbeat,” “well-liked,”

52% describe IPV homicides as “a shock”

- (see Wozniak & McCloskey, 2010)

Media can do better:

Wozniak & McCloskey, 2010

98 out of 100 articles do not offer any expert opinions

99 out of 100 articles failed to include IPV statistics

100 out of 100 articles failed to discuss community prevention and intervention initiatives

Gender of perpetrator matters

When it's a male perpetrator, headlines more often provide excuse or blame victim

“Man kills cheating wife”

(Carrll, 1999)



February 2009

Table 1. Top 20 Single copy-sale U.S. magazines, by circulation details and Rihanna-Chris Brown coverage

Publication Name	Subscriptions and single copy sales, total (FH 2008)
Good housekeeping	4,668,818
Family circle	3,896,088
Woman's Day	3,876,483
People	3,803,217
Cosmopolitan	2,937,861
O, The Oprah Mag.	2,394,303
Glamour	2,354,973
US Weekly	1,905,014
Men's Health	1,868,500
In Style	1,827,644
Woman's World	1,387,414
First for Women	1,377,895
Star Magazine	1,320,963
Weight Watchers	1,309,931
National Enquirer	956,095
In Touch Weekly	955,719
OK! Weekly	905,015
Figure	724,433
People Stylewatch	686,417
Life & Style Weekly	528,294

Table 2. Sources of magazine articles about the incident (N=35)

Magazine title	No. of eligible issues	No. of issues reviewed	No. of relevant articles identified	No. of cover stories
<u>TOTAL</u>	72	44	35	12
People	10	10	7	2
In Touch Weekly	10	4	4	2
US weekly	10	8	6	3
Star magazine	10	3	4	2
Life and Style weekly	10	3	3	0
National Enquirer	10	5	1	1
OK! Weekly	10	10	8	2
J-14	2	1	1	1

**Table 2. Frames used to define the Rihanna-
Chris Brown incident in magazine coverage,
February –April 2009**

Frames	Number of articles in which frame appeared	Percentage of articles in which frame appeared
Abuse romanticized or sexualized	10	29%
Abuse is normalized	9	26%
Abuse is wrong	10	29%
Myths about abuse perpetration	2	6%
Victim-blaming	8	23%
Factual/helpful information about abuse	11	31%

Abuse is romanticized

“She really loves Chris,” says an insider close to her. “She’s committed to seeing it through, to getting through this terrible time with him.”

–*Life & Style*, April 6, 2009

Abuse is normalized

“It’s no problem,” the Barbados fish-market operator tells *Us*. “I have had boyfriends who beat me and then I took them back. I stayed with them because I was in love.”

–*US Weekly*, March 16

Victim-blaming

“It’s not just because she’s hopelessly in love with him; it’s also because she may have provoked the attack.”

—*Star*, March 16, 2009

On the positive side...

“...One rumor has it that Chris hit Rihanna, 21, because she had cheated on him with artist The Dream. Another blog wildly claimed she gave Chris herpes. Whatever the truth turns out to be, it could never justify physical abuse.”

—*In Touch*, February 23, 2009

7 points to consider

Points to remember: #1

TDV is a violent crime, not a crime of “passion,” a “love triangle” or romance-gone-


Bloomberg Anywhere | Professional | Solutions | About

QUICK NEWS VIEW MARKETS PERSONAL FINANCE TV RADIO MORE

Want to save this for later? [Add it to your Queue!](#)

Stern Was Killed in Crime of Passion, Lawyer Says (Update1)

By Heather Smith - June 16, 2009 13:18 EDT



June 16 (Bloomberg) -- Edouard Stern was killed in a crime of passion after he described the killing as a game, not out of greed, a lawyer told jurors in a court case.

Cecile Brossard's motivation for the killing was a crime of passion, her lawyer said. The killing was a crime of passion, her lawyer said. The killing was a crime of passion, her lawyer said.

Edouard Stern's former apartment building in Geneva

THE MORNING CALL

SPORTS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE HEALTH

FITNESS HEART DISEASE WOMEN'S HEALTH FAMILY S

Tattoo Removal

Free Consult - Call

Acid Attacks: A Brutal Crime of Passion

By Leela Jacinto
Sept. 3, 2003

On a scorching summer afternoon in Bangladesh, a 9-year-old was summoned to fetch a bucket of water from a well.

Tearing herself away from her friend, she was subjected to a viciously sadistic attack. The nightmare of pain and despair, robbery, and death left its ugly imprint on her body and

Recommend 2

+ Share

Comment

Jury picked for love triangle murder trial

October 06, 2011 | By Riley Yates, Of The Morning Call

A jury was seated Thursday for the capital murder trial of Barry L. Soldridge Jr., who is accused of killing two people in Lehigh Township in a love triangle slaying.

Opening statements and testimony will begin Monday at the Northampton County Courthouse. Prosecutors and Soldridge's defense finished jury selection that began this week.

Points to remember: #2

Stories are often episodic, focus on the incident at hand – these are not isolated incidents!

Try to focus on the broader context of IPV and include expert opinion

Particularly if homicide, try to frame as endpoint in pattern of abuse over time

Points to remember: #3

It is not novel or innovative to “discover” female perpetration

Obama's domestic violence initiative neglects male victims of abuse

Published: 2:34 PM 10/29/2010 | Updated: 3:53 PM 10/29/2010



By [Caroline May](#) - The Daily Caller
[Bio](#) | [Archive](#) | [Email Caroline May](#)



Follow Caroline May



Get Caroline May Feed

CANON CITY
DAILY RECORD

Home News Business Sports Features Opinion Milestones A & E Calendar

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize

Men are victims of domestic violence, too

By **BARB TOPLISS** *Victim/Witness Administrator*
Posted: 10/02/2011 05:50:29 PM MDT

Men are battered by their intimate partners just as women are. This is very difficult for mainstream society to accept as we have been socialized to believe that only men batter women.

The New York Times **Opinion**

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH

EDITORIALS COLUMNISTS CONTRIBUTORS

Seize Today's Top Bargains!

Samsung S24A450BW 24"
\$324.95*
1 seller

Price / availability subject to change

There are also battered men

Cathy Young
Published: Tuesday, January 10, 2006

BOSTON — Last month, in a little-noticed end-of-the-year action, the U.S. Congress reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act. The final version includes text that, for the first time, recognizes male victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This is a step in the right direction of a balanced approach to family violence - but only the first step.

Points to remember: #4

Seek information from practitioners and scientists alike

Know whether your subject is a scientist or advocate

How to interview scientists

- Big, broad questions to let us get our talking points out
- “What’s the most important thing for the public to know?”
- “Can you explain that in lay terms?”
- “Without ignoring the complexities of the issue, where does the bulk of the research fall out on that?”
- “What questions remain unanswered?”
- “What would you use additional research funding for?”

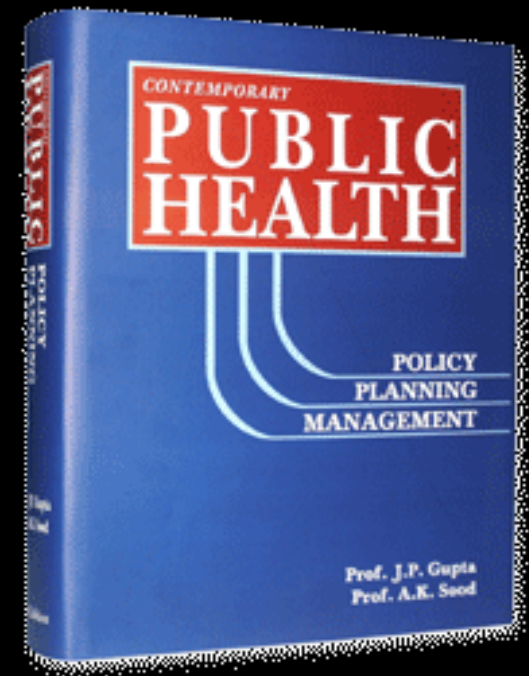
Media coverage can reinforce - isms

- Race, class, homophobia can play out in TDV cases; important to be conscious of how coverage of the crime can reinforce (or counter) bias



Public health approaches promising

- Need a hopeful conclusion?
- Public health is your go-to resource, because it focuses on prevention and on evidence



Dating violence research scientists

Name	Position	Contact email
Victoria Banyard, PhD	Professor of Psychology University of New Hampshire	Victoria.Banyard@unh.edu
Elizabeth Miller, MD	Chief, Division of Adolescent Medicine Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh/ University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Pittsburgh, PA	elizabeth.miller@chp.edu
Emily Rothman, ScD	Associate Professor Boston University School of Public Health	erothman@bu.edu
Jeff R. Temple, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor and Psychologist Director, Psychological Health and Research Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology University of Texas Medical Branch	jetemple@UTMB.EDU
Andra Tharp, PhD	Health Scientist CDC Injury Center (Atlanta, GA)	hci3@cdc.gov