

Intimate Partner Violence Amidst COVID-19

*Brigham and Women's Hospital's
6th Annual Event Honoring*

V DAY
UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS



Event Overview



Introductory Remarks and Event Overview

- **Jeffrey Katz, MD, MSc:** Professor of Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery, HMS; Director, Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research, BWH
- **Emma Williams, BA:** Research Assistant, Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research, BWH

V-Day and IPV During COVID

- **Kaetlyn Arant, BA:** Research Assistant, Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research, BWH

Presentations

- **Nisha Cirino, MSW, LCSW:** Passageway Advocate, Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center
- **Bharti Khurana, MD:** Director, Trauma Imaging Research and Innovation Center; Emergency Radiologist, BWH; Assistant Professor of Radiology, HMS
- **Andrea MacDonald, DNP, MSN/MBA, CEN, SANE-A, RN**
- **Eve Rittenberg, MD:** Primary Care Physician, BWH; Assistant Professor, HMS

Panel Discussion

- Moderated by **Leena Mittal, MD, FACLP:** Director, Division of Women's Mental Health; Department of Psychiatry, BWH; Instructor of Psychiatry, HMS
- Featuring our presenters

*Please submit questions publicly in the Zoom chat or via private message to **Mardi Chadwick Balcom!***

Visit <https://www.brighamandwomens.org/about-bwh/community-health-equity/passageway-domestic-abuse-intervention-and-prevention> to view curated resources for clinicians!

What is V-Day?

“A global activist movement to end violence against women and girls”

- Nonprofit organization started by Eve Ensler, playwright of *The Vagina Monologues*, in 1998
- Mission: raise awareness, funds, and motivation to continue to combat violence against women
- Includes annual stagings of *The Vagina Monologues* and *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer*, benefits, films (*Until the Violence Stops*), educational events, campaigns for “One Billion Rising”, global outreach



Call For Submissions! by February 14th, 2021 @Visforvoices.com

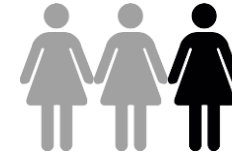
Key Terminology

- **Trauma:** an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as **physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening** and has **lasting adverse effects** on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.
- **Interpersonal Violence:** violence **between individuals**, which includes **family and intimate partner violence and community violence**.
 - **Intimate partner violence (IPV)** can include acts of **physical violence, sexual violence, emotional (psychological) abuse, and controlling behaviors**.

Burden of IPV



A WHO study in 10 countries found that
up to 60% of women
reported experiencing violence by a
partner



Over 1 in 3 women
in the US experience intimate
partner violence during their
lifetimes

“Pandemic within a Pandemic”

- Survivors restricted to home environment
- Limited access to support services
- Limited access to medical care



Increases in IPV during COVID-19

Country	% Increase in Abuse during COVID-19
United States	21-35%
France	32-35%
Brazil	40-50%
Argentina	25%
Australia	5%
Singapore	33%
China	200%

Contributing Factors



IPV was likely exacerbated by:

- **Financial strain** of individuals being laid off, told to stay home, etc.
- **Increased stress** as a result of closures of schools and childcare facilities
- **Fewer interactions with mandated reporters** (teachers, clinicians)
- **Court closures** that created new obstacles to filing restraining orders
- **Reporting IPV** that occasionally must be done in person
- **Lack of privacy** in telehealth encounters that do not offer the same guaranteed confidentiality to screen for IPV

Roesch, *BMJ*, 2020

Mazza, *Psychiatry Research*, 2020

Boserup, *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 2020

Evans, *N Engl J Med*, 2020

What Does This Mean?



- How do we **screen** for IPV when survivors are reticent to come to medical facilities or have virtual visits (where confidentiality may be compromised)?
- How do we **care** for IPV survivors in the face of COVID-19 where survivors are trapped at home with abusers, unable to report violence and under exceptional financial and emotional stress?
- What **adaptations** have emerged to address these challenges over the course of the pandemic?