
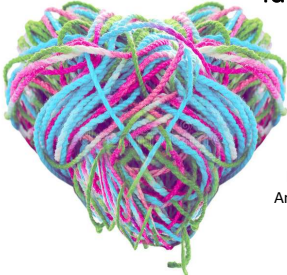


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Intimate Partner Violence: Identifying and Monitoring Coercive Controlling Behaviours

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We honour and respect
the history, languages,
ceremonies and culture
of the First Nations,
Métis and Inuit who call
this territory home.

Treaty Six Territory
Amiskwaciwāskahikan

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- ☐ What is coercive control
- ☐ Why it is problematic
- ☐ What does it look like
- ☐ How can it be monitored

Financial Interest Disclosure: Speaker has a book published related to the workshop topic, for which the speaker receives royalties.

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What is Coercive Control?

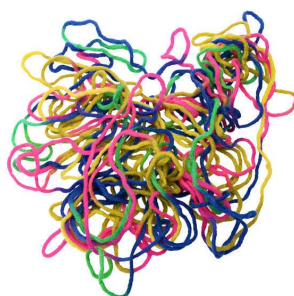


| | |
|---------------------|---|
| domestic violence | • physical and psychological abuse of intimate partner |
| psychological abuse | • persistent attempts to control, frighten, or isolate intimate partner |
| coercive control | • controls partner's actions, relationships, and activities |

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... the Problem of

Coercive Control




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Invisible or intangible

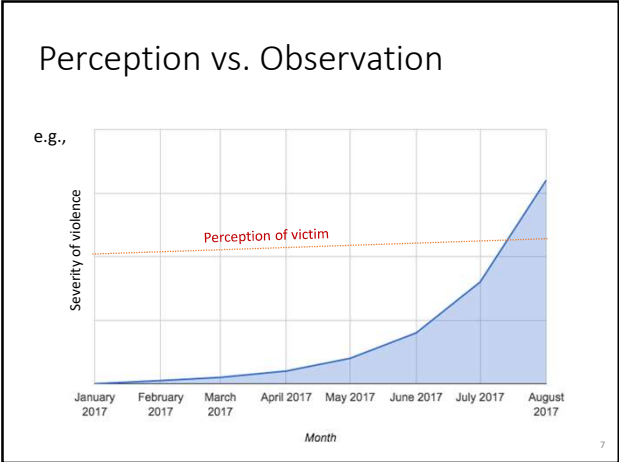
... “he seemed like such a good guy”



The worst is yet to come




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Impact of Coercive Control

partner ◊ children ◊ friends ◊ family ◊ work





Targeting vulnerability

'social entrapment' (*no way out*)

- undocumented
- women of colour
- ESL

Perceived criminality

- 2015 in the UK
- N. America - *criminal harassment, trespass, etc*



Common in domestic violence

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So, what does

Coercive Control


look like?

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... Finances 

- Limit partner's access to money
- Keep partner from going to work
- Cause to lose job
- Threaten to hurt partner financially
- Cause partner legal trouble

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... Finances 


- Limit partner's access to money
- Keep partner from going to work
- Cause to lose job
- Threaten to hurt partner financially
- Cause partner legal trouble

- Cause her to be late
- Missed days at work
- Difficult to keep up
- Lack of sleep, tiredness

- Control bank accounts
- Direct deposit pay in abuser's account
- Cheque handed over to abuser
- Limited allowance

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... Relationships



- Isolate from support system
 - e.g., family, friends, co-workers
- Make jealous accusations
- Turn kids against partner
- Limit access to transportation
- Keep from leaving the house
- Share private info about partner
 - Websites
 - To co-workers
 - With family

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... Manipulating well-being



- Monitor partner's activity
- Gaslighting
- Reinforce traditional gender roles
- Regulate sexual relationship
- Not let partner take medication
- Question mental health

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... Manipulating well-being




- Monitor partner's activity
- Gaslighting
- Reinforce traditional gender roles
 - Check/open mail, journals, personal papers
- Regulate sexual relationship
 - Constant calling, tracking calls or phone use
 - Check receipts, charges, clothing
- Not let partner
 - Adds GPS to car

Makes victim question their sanity, perception of reality, or memories

Victim feels confused, anxious, unable to trust self

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... Power and threats



– Deny partner’s freedom and autonomy

– Control aspects of partner's health and body

– Name-call and put partner down

– Threats

– Attempts to harm or kill oneself

– Physically hurt friend, family, child, or pet

to harm partner, children, pets

to have partner deported

to damage property

to commit suicide

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How Do I Monitor Coercive Control Behaviours?


What questions do I ask

How to obtain this information

What should I observe

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As clinicians and interventionists, we can do something



• Dispel preconceived notions

• Recognize obstacles for victims

• Know actions impact outcomes


• Ask relevant, pointed questions

• Assess risk

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We can
unravel the
complexity of

Coerciv
e
Control



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Website
sites.google.com/a/macewan.ca/psychology-crime-lab-macewan-university/
(search "psychology crime lab")

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