

HOPE of East Central Illinois: Literature Review

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HOPE of East Central Illinois is an organized confidential shelter that provides a safe home for women who are victims of domestic violence. The shelter has its own toll free 24-hour hotline for women who are seeking support, intervention, information, and referrals. HOPE offers other services aside from the hotline including shelter, transitional housing, legal advocacy, counseling and therapy sessions, children services, and education on domestic violence (“Domestic Violence Service”, n.d.). The location of the shelter is kept completely confidential strictly for safety purposes. Our volunteer hours at this shelter are dedicated to cleaning various things and organizing any donations that the organization has received. Although the shelter is not necessarily a place that is seen as intriguing, we are excited to play a part in creating the best place possible for these women and children to feel at home. (“Domestic Violence Service”, n.d.).

Student 1: Cassie Sanders

Intimate Partner Violence: A Loop of Abuse, Depression and Victimization.

Intimate partner violence has been recognized as a serious public health issue (Mazza et al., 2021). Exposure to violence contributes to the genesis of, and exacerbates, mental health conditions, and existing mental health problems increase vulnerability to partner violence, a loop that imprisons victims and perpetuates the abuse (Mazza et al., 2021). Intervention programs with a multicomponent approach involving many health care settings and research have a pivotal role in developing added strategies for addressing violence and to provide tailored interventions to victims (Mazza et al., 2021). Prevention policy with a particular attention on healthy child and

adolescent development is mandatory in the struggle against all forms of violence (Mazza et al., 2021).

**Domestic Violence Survivors' Housing Stability, Safety and Well-being Over Time:
Examining the Role of Domestic Violence Housing First, Social Support and Material
Hardship**

Intimate partner violence is still a significant public health issue, and survivors often need various forms of support to achieve safety (Goodman-Williams et al., 2023). The increased likelihood of experiencing housing instability and homelessness among survivors has led to an uptake in domestic violence agencies implementing housing-based interventions to address survivors' needs (Goodman-Williams et al., 2023). Survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) who seek services from domestic violence (DV) victim service agencies come from all walks of life and circumstances (Goodman-Williams et al., 2023). Some survivors may be seeking minimal supports while others require extensive and long-term help (Goodman-Williams et al., 2023). The goal of these agencies is to provide the individualized services needed to ensure that all survivors are safer, more stable, and experiencing greater well-being after receipt of services (Goodman-Williams et al., 2023).

Student 2: Kayla Cox Schrubb

Counseling Interventions for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence: A Systematic Review

Research has been conducted on counseling interventions for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) to inform counselors and highlight areas for future research. To figure out the correct type of counseling for these patients, studies take participant demographics, treatment

process, interventions and study outcomes, and study limitations (Craven et al., 2023). It shows the need for counselors to select interventions based on the type of IPV. Different events could be situational violence or power and control-related violence (Craven et al., 2023). There are also IPV victims that are associated with mental health issues like PTSD, depression, and anxiety (Craven et al., 2023). These counselors and counselor educators working with IPV victims must take steps to reduce the likelihood of dropout in counseling (Craven et al., 2023). The worry about work and children, hectic lives, fear of the abusers finding out, or the abusers not allowing them to attend sessions are only a few of the many difficulties IPV victims face in the beginning and maintaining treatment (Craven et al., 2023). The goal for these agencies is to figure out the need for correct counseling and support to continue bettering these victims' lives.

Short-Term Outcomes for Users of the National Domestic Violence Hotline and loveisrespect

Domestic violence (DV) hotlines play a crucial role in providing immediate support, resources, and referrals for individuals experiencing intimate partner violence. Having agencies that have a 24/7-hour hotline can show their support in the safety and wellness of their users. Having confidential hotlines is a crucial resource for individuals seeking information about available DV services and are not ready to speak out (McDonnell et al., 2020). This resource has shown findings contributing to the improvement of hotline services and helping guide future violence (McDonnell et al., 2020). In conclusion, domestic violence is a major issue that affects victims negatively in both direct and indirect ways (McDonnell et al., 2020). These hotlines allow an outlet for these domestic violence victims that are affected. There is hope that the high correlation between experiencing one form of violence and the increased risk for further victimization will lower with access to these hot lines (McDonnell et al., 2020).

Conclusion

During our time helping HOPE, we learned a lot about how the system works in terms of getting clients into the housing facilities, responding to the hotline, providing household items and needs for the clients, and how much help that this organization truly needs. We did not go to the actual location of the office where clients are seen, as that location is kept confidential for safety reasons. We did our volunteer hours at their donation and clothing office where they receive clothing, household items, new toys/gifts for birthdays and holidays, and other miscellaneous items that could be useful to clients. Our hours were split up into three different days. For the first day that we were there, we were tasked with sorting through new donation bags of clothes and separating them into other boxes based on size. Our second visit we sorted through boxes of new donated toys that were going to be used to make Easter baskets for all the children under the care of the HOPE organization. Our last day at the facility we put together the Easter baskets that were going to be given to a total of 60 children. Overall, this experience was highly informative to us because we got to discover what all goes on behind the scenes of the actual shelter and we gathered a true understanding of all the ways that the HOPE organization takes care of domestic violence survivors.

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