



**April 13, 2017**

## Domestic Violence and the Midwife



Midwives know it is important to recognize clients who are experiencing domestic violence in their families in order to provide good care and guidance during and after pregnancy. However, **recognizing the indicators** and **knowing how to support families** isn't always easy.

Typical domestic violence training in midwifery educational programs focuses on battering, which is primarily perpetrated by males on females. However, this type of domestic violence **constitutes less than 10%** of domestic violence. Other types can include controlling behaviors, harassment, and isolation from friends and family. Male victims are not as easily identified, and are often mistaken as the perpetrators; indeed, there are those who don't believe men can be victims of domestic violence. Regardless of who is the perpetrator, or whether it is bi-directional, domestic violence takes its toll on a family and pre-disposes the children to repeat the cycle in the next generation.

As midwives we need to be able to identify indicators of domestic violence in all its manifestations. Midwives are uniquely positioned to be able to pick up cues - we typically spend more time with clients at each prenatal visit, our focus is on holistic health including the psychosocial aspects of family wellbeing, we provide continuity of care, and conduct home visits. The nature of the midwife-client relationship builds trust and promotes

disclosure. It is not unusual for a client to say, "I've never told anyone this before..." and share some intimate information that helps us better understand and safeguard the health of the mother, baby and family.

This week's NACPM webinar features Cynthia Flynn, CNM, PhD, FACNM, and Justine Clegg, LM, CPM, LMHC, who will examine various aspects of intimate partner abuse and how midwives can best respond. Both presenters are midwives with personal and professional experience in domestic violence and in out-of-hospital practice. Scheduled for April 13, 2017 at 2:00 pm Eastern time, this will be a special 2 hour webinar designed to meet continuing education requirements for state licensing and NARM's Midwifery Bridge Certificate requirements.

In addition to discussing the types of abuse and cycles of violence our pregnant clients may experience, this webinar covers the other types of domestic violence, which are perpetrated equally by men and women, explains how to screen for these types of domestic violence relationships, how they are handled by the justice system, the effects of these types of domestic violence on the children and therefore the next generation, when to refer, and tips for choosing good treatment programs. It includes video of unrehearsed responses to open-ended questions by a pregnant couple that chose to get treatment voluntarily. Using taped interviews of a couple responding to open-ended questions, a case study with a quiz, original research and published research, participants will learn how to identify the other 90% of domestic violence, the differential effects of mandatory arrest programs by race and class, and the characteristics of treatment programs that can actually heal both perpetrators and victims.

Resources of interest to midwives include:

- [PASK: The Partner Abuse State of Knowledge Project](#)
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233](#)
- [National Center on Sexual and Domestic Violence](#)
- [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)
- [American Institute on Domestic Violence](#)
- [Domestic Violence Resource Center](#)
- [US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Violence Prevention](#)
- [Office on Women's Health, US Department of Health and Human Services: Resources by state on violence against women](#)

## Upcoming Webinars:

**Domestic Violence: How Midwives Can Respond**  
**Thursday, April 13, 2017 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm Eastern time.**

While intimate terrorism makes the headlines, it constitutes less than 10% of domestic abuse and violence. This webinar will look at **various aspects**

**of intimate partner abuse and how midwives can best respond to support and assist families.**

In addition to discussing the types of abuse and cycles of violence our pregnant clients may experience, this session will cover the **other types of domestic violence**, which are perpetrated equally by men and women, **how to screen** for these types of domestic violence relationships, **when to refer**, and **tips for choosing good treatment programs**. Using taped interviews of a couple responding to open-ended questions, a case study with a quiz, original research and published research, participants will **learn how to identify** the other 90% of domestic violence, **the differential effects** of mandatory arrest programs by race and class, and the characteristics of treatment **programs that can actually heal** both perpetrators and victims.



Cynthia Flynn, PhD, FACNM

Justine Clegg  
MS, LM, CPM, L

**Register here for this free webinar**

**This webinar qualifies for NARM Category 3 Bridge Certificate CEUs**

**Steps For CPMs To Be Part Of The Solution To Inequities In Maternity Care**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm Eastern time.**



**Jennie Joseph**, a British-trained midwife and women's health advocate, moved to the United States in 1989 and began a journey which has culminated in the formation of an innovative maternal child healthcare system, The JJWay®.

This training will help CPMs understand the ways to negotiate and navigate the often complicated systems that provide perinatal health care for women and babies who are at particular risk for poor outcomes. Topics covered will include each level of the perinatal hierarchy; from the grass roots right through to the specialist regional perinatology teams, as well as methods of access and approaches to increase linkages.

**Register here for this free webinar**

**Are You A NACPM Member?**

Midwifery Matters, a professional journal designed specifically for CPMs, is an excellent source of information that includes peer-reviewed articles, research updates and professional news published biannually by Birthwise Midwifery School. **We are pleased to announce that NACPM will now provide this journal free-of-charge to all CPM members!**

**Join NACPM today** to receive this fantastic new benefit.



**NACPM**

*The future begins with  
the way we are born*

***Register For 4/13  
Domestic Violence  
Webinar Now!***

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