Dynamics of Interpersonal Violence
Local Statistics

- In FY 01-02, 1352 individuals sought services from domestic/relationship violence at the CCWRC.
- 92 women and 87 children stayed in shelter.
- In FY 01-02, 396 women sought services for SA at the CCWRC.
- Of 1569 respondents, 12% had been stalked and 9% had encountered relationship violence. (PSU Pulse Survey – 2000)
Statistics: Local and National

- 2 to 4 million women of all races are battered each year.
- Every day 4 women die as a result of domestic violence.
- Every 3 days in PA someone dies as a result of domestic violence.
- 90% of college women rape victims knew their attacker prior to the assault (Fisher)

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually assaulted before the age of 18 (Finkelhor)
- Girls who are raped are 3 times more likely to suffer from psychiatric disorders and over 4 times more likely to suffer from drug and alcohol abuse.
Definitions Revisited

Sexual Assault:

Sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse without the victim’s consent. Sexual assault can be committed by strangers, acquaintances, and spouses, as well as casual and long-term dating partners.

@Penn State Protocol to assist victims of relationship, domestic, and sexual violence (2001)
Definitions Revisited

**Domestic/Relationship Violence:**

The use (or attempted use) of physical force, or the threatened use of a deadly weapon by a current or former spouse, parent, guardian, or a person who is currently or has cohabited with the victim.

©Penn State Protocol to assist victims of relationship, domestic, and sexual violence (2001)
Definitions Revisited

**Stalking:**

Repeatedly committing acts with an intent to place the person in reasonable fear of bodily injury or with an intent to cause substantial emotional distress.

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Dynamics of Interpersonal Violence
Reasons Why Victims May Avoid the Judicial Affairs Process

- Fear of the Judicial Affairs process and/or of perceived myths about the process
- Victim fear that potential breeches of confidentiality may further amplify the situation
- Victim misconceptions of the role of Judicial Affairs or lacking awareness that such services are available
Motivations Underlying Violence Against Women

- Power
- Control
Abusive Relationships

- Abusive relationships begin like all relationships begin—with mutual attraction and interest.

- In abusive relationships, however, one person begins to take subtle control of the relationship and their partner.
What are some examples of someone taking subtle control at the beginning of a relationship?
The abusive partner:

1. Uses jealousy as a sign of love.
2. Does not encourage their partner to spend time with family or friends.
3. Begins to criticize their partner about their looks, job, interests, etc.
As the relationship progresses, the person seeking to gain control uses more and more controlling tactics.
The Power and Control Wheel

Developed by Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, Minnesota
Why Victims Stay

- Leaving does not guarantee safety
- Hope for the relationship
- Inadequate support systems
- Lack of support from friends, family, community
- Isolation
- Fear of physical injury and other forms of retaliation
- LOVE
How can the University and the Community Help?
Create a collaboration between university and community services for victims of violence.

Offer appropriate referral, advocacy, and accompaniment to victims of violence.

Believe the victim and hold the perpetrators accountable for their crimes.
Discussion:

- How could various myths about the Judicial Affairs process be dispelled?
- What are the various tactics abusers use to assert power and control over victims?
- Why do victims often tend to stay in abusive relationships?
- What are some ideas for ways to help victims from the university/community standpoint?