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# Intimate Partner Violence: Understanding research on risk & protective factors

Dr Pauline Gulliver & Dr Janet Fanslow          27 June 2016
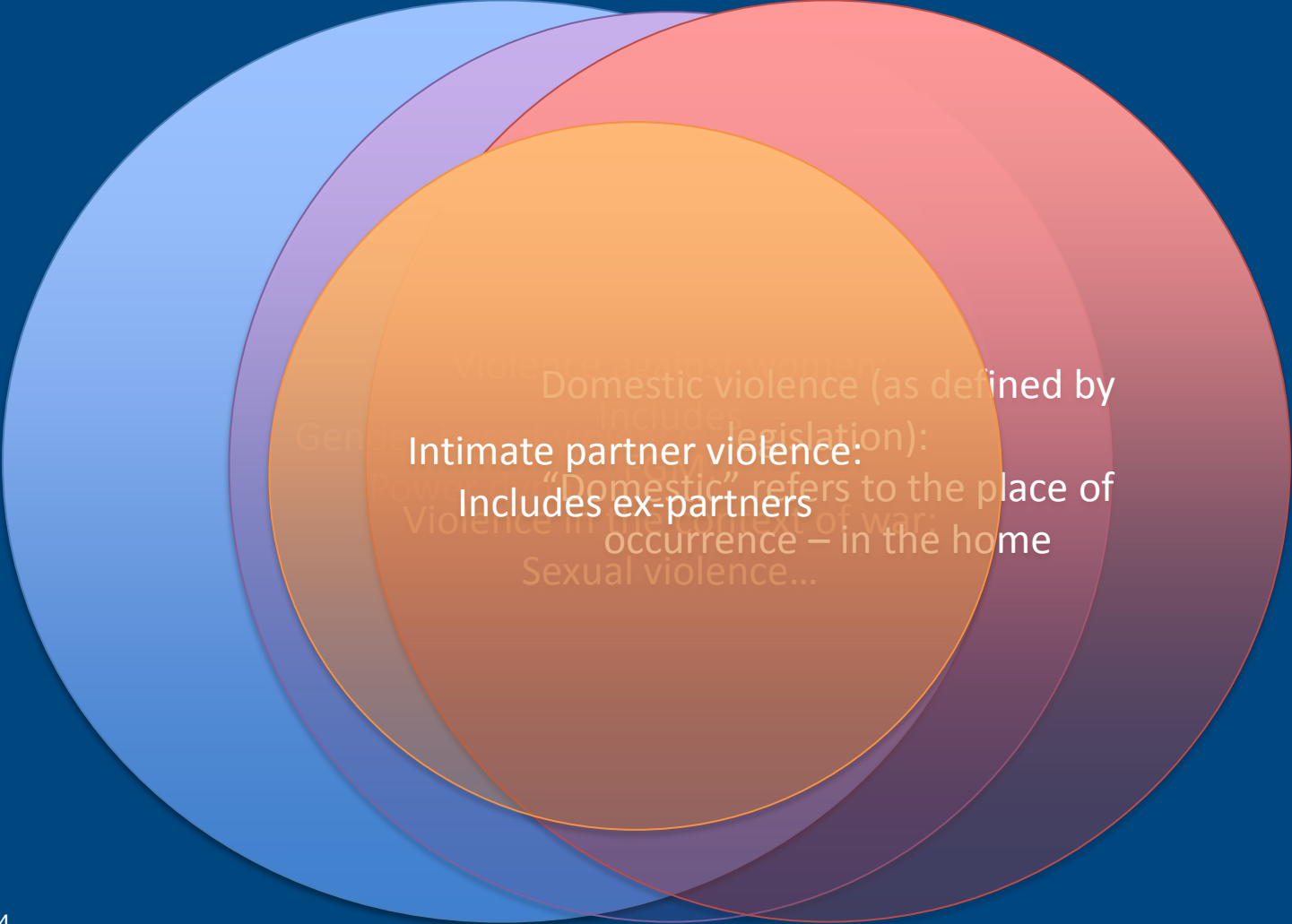
NZ Family Violence Clearinghouse

# Outline of presentation

1. Definitions

2. The prevalence and impact of IPV

3. Conceptual models

4. Measuring risk and protective factors

5. Take home messages

# Definitions

# Getting on the same page: defining IPV

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Intimate partner violence:
Includes ex-partners

Domestic violence (as defined by legislation):
"Domestic" refers to the place of occurrence – in the home

Violence... Includes...
Gender... power...
Violence in... of war:
Sexual violence...
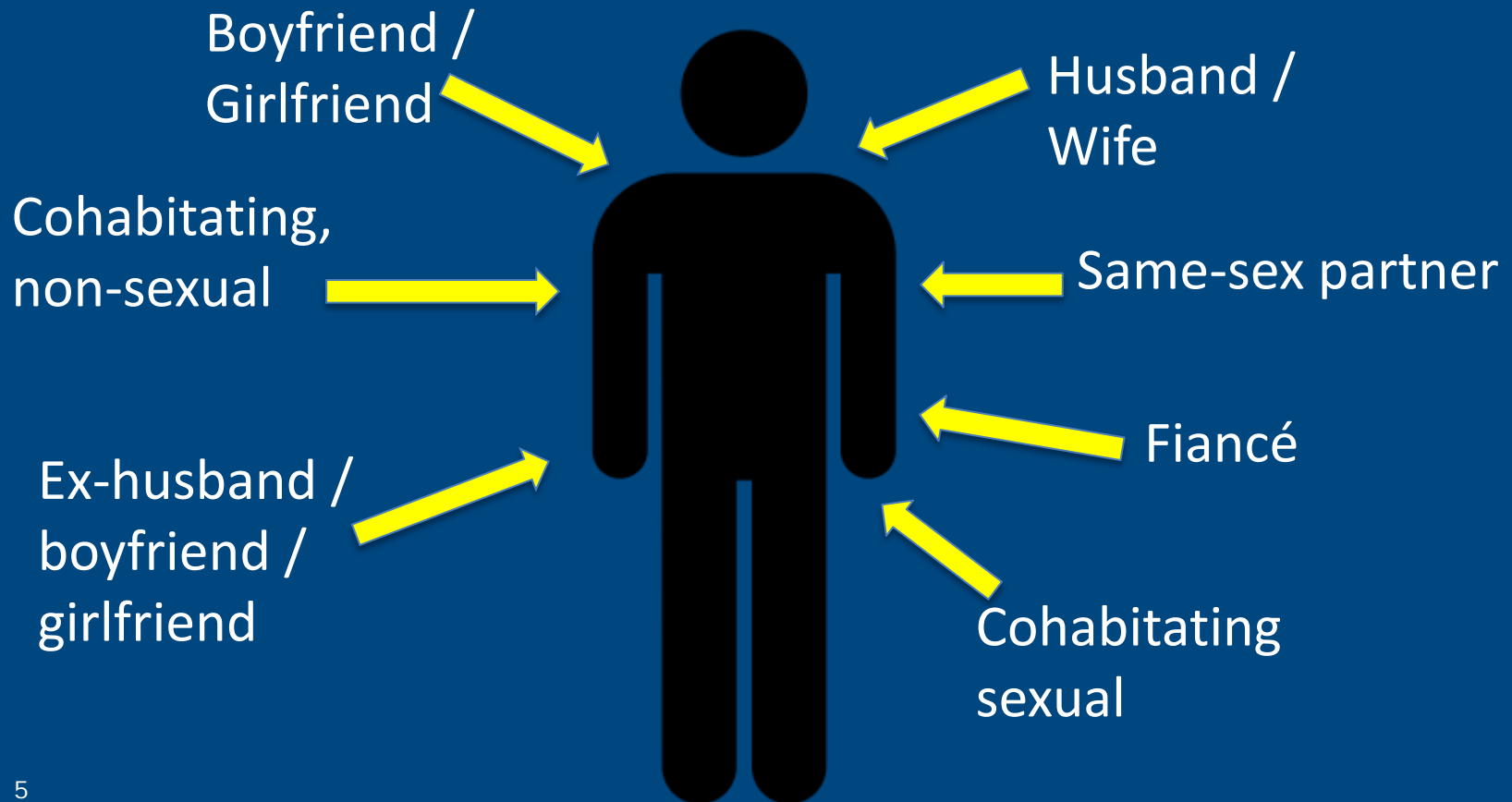
# Getting on the same page: defining violence

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**Physical violence:**
- Slapping
- Shaking
- Beating with fist or object
- Strangulation
- Burning
- Kicking
- Threats with knife or gun

**Sexual violence:**
- Coerced sex through threats or intimidation
- Coerced sex through physical force
- Forcing unwanted sexual acts
- Forcing sex in front of others
- Forcing sex with others

**Emotional abuse:**
- Constant belittling, humiliating
- Deliberately scaring or intimidating
- Threats of violence

**Controlling behaviours:**
- Isolation from others
- Excessive jealousy
- Monitoring whereabouts and social interactions
- Control her activities, access to health care, work…

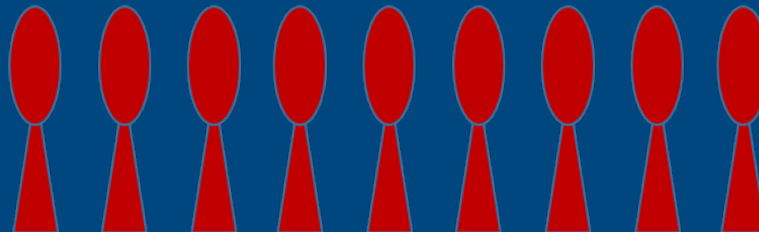# The prevalence and impact of violence

# Intimate partner violence fatalities

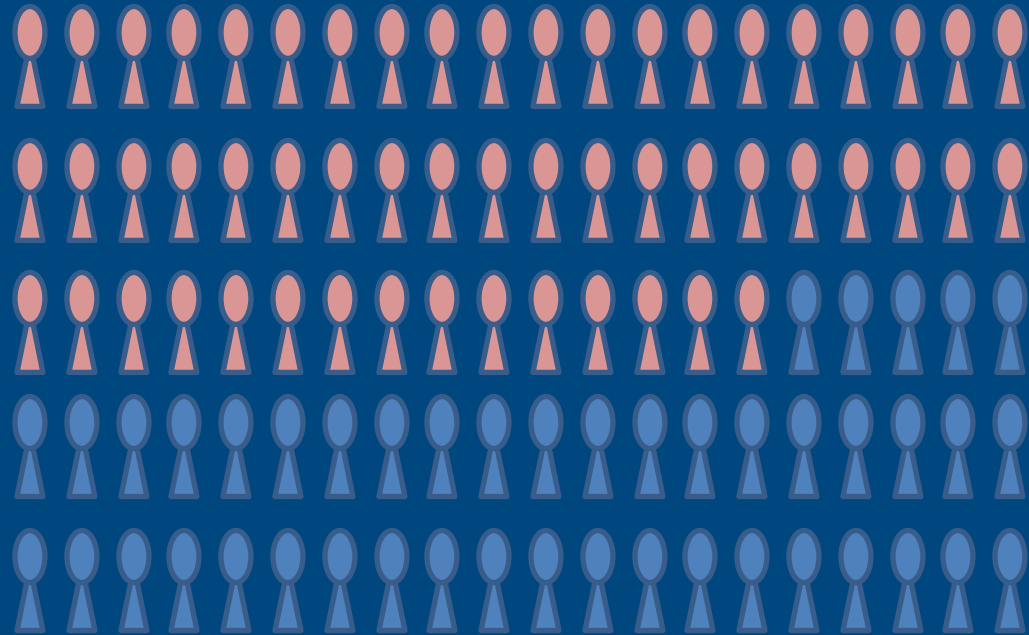On average, nine women every year are killed by an intimate partner

# If NZ was a country with 100 women…

33 would have experienced **physical** or **sexual** intimate partner violence in her lifetime.

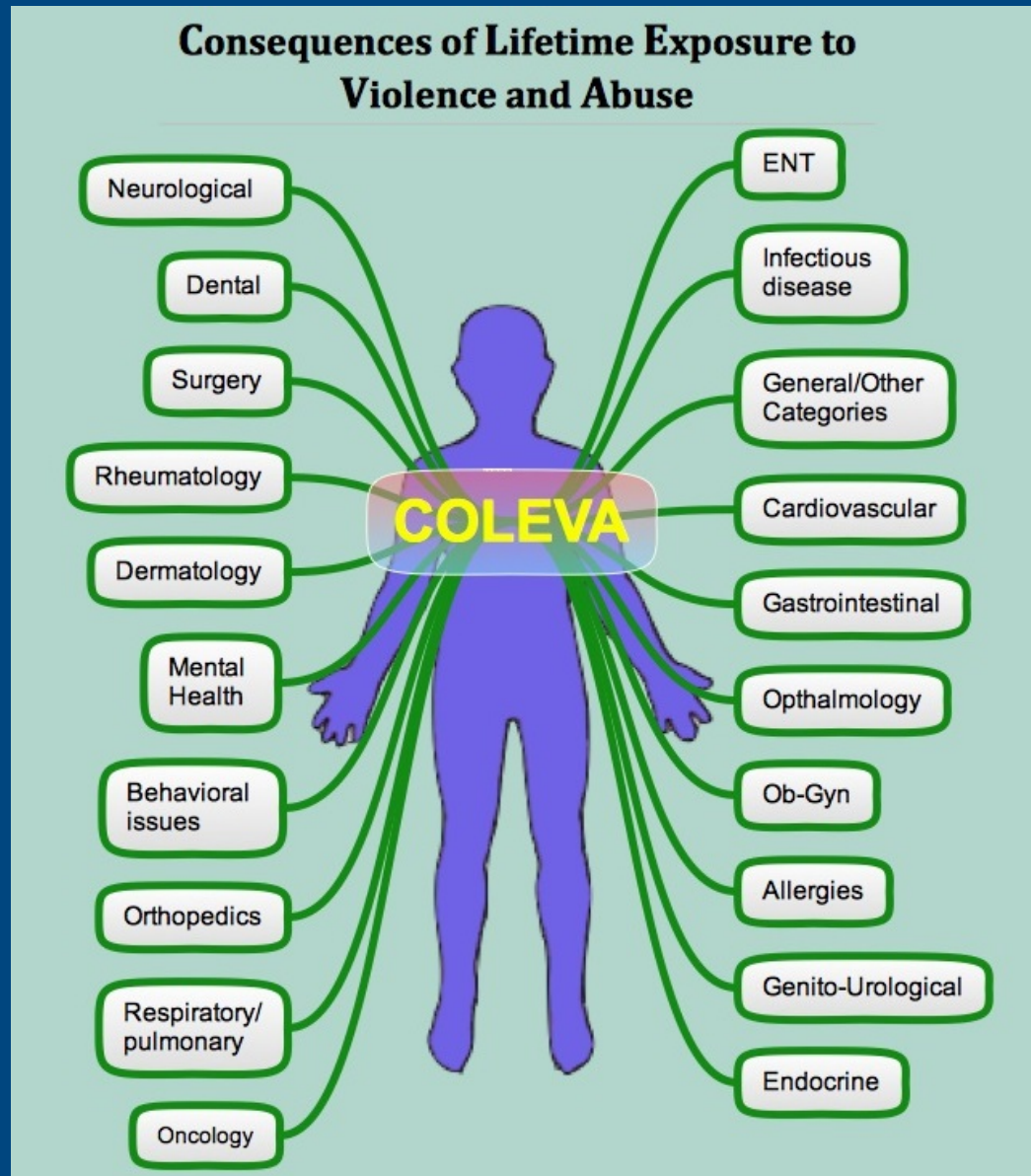THE UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
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# If NZ was a country with 100 women…

55 would have experienced at least one form of intimate partner violence in her lifetime.

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# The health impact



**Consequences of Lifetime Exposure to Violence and Abuse**

COLEVA

- Neurological
- Dental
- Surgery
- Rheumatology
- Dermatology
- Mental Health
- Behavioral issues
- Orthopedics
- Respiratory/pulmonary
- Oncology
- ENT
- Infectious disease
- General/Other Categories
- Cardiovascular
- Gastrointestinal
- Opthalmology
- Ob-Gyn
- Allergies
- Genito-Urological
- Endocrine

# The co-occurrence of IPV and child maltreatment

- In 30-60% of American families living with IPV, CA/N also existed (Edleson, 1999)

- 50-66% of Australian child protection cases involve IPV (Humphreys, 2007)

- 75% of children where serious child maltreatment was recorded were living with IPV, parental mental health or drug abuse issues (UK Serious Child Maltreatment Reviews)

- More than 1/3 of youth who witnessed IPV had also been maltreated in the past year, compared with 8.6% of non-witnesses (US National Survey of Children's exposure to violence (NatSCEV), 2010)

Intimate partner violence and child maltreatment are community problems

ember 2011. Created in wordle.net based on community member comments during CARE project assessment process.
act: Robb Luckow 612.348.9344

# Conceptual models
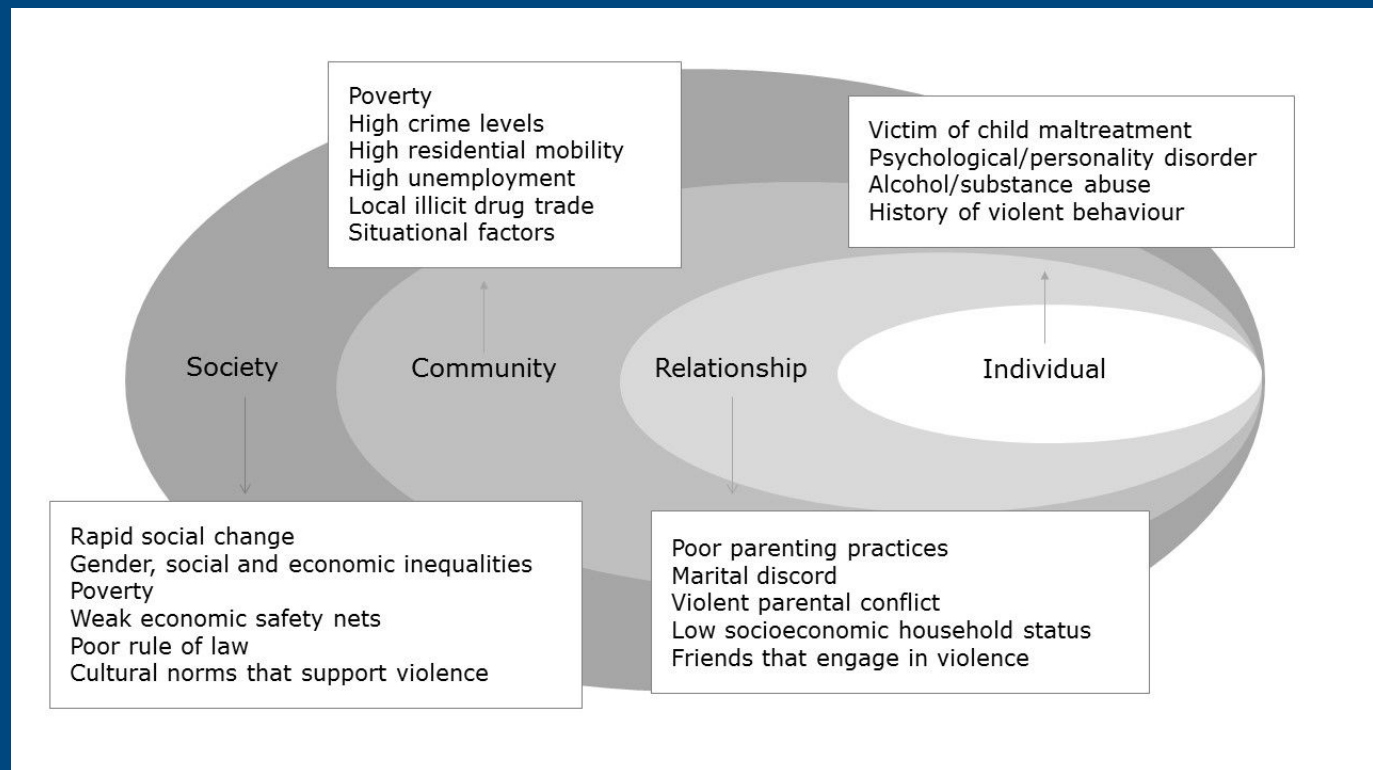
# Conceptualising "risk" and "protection"

How we understand the factors that influence violence experience is determined by the width of our field of vision.

Conceptual models expand our understanding of the community and societal factors that influence violence experience
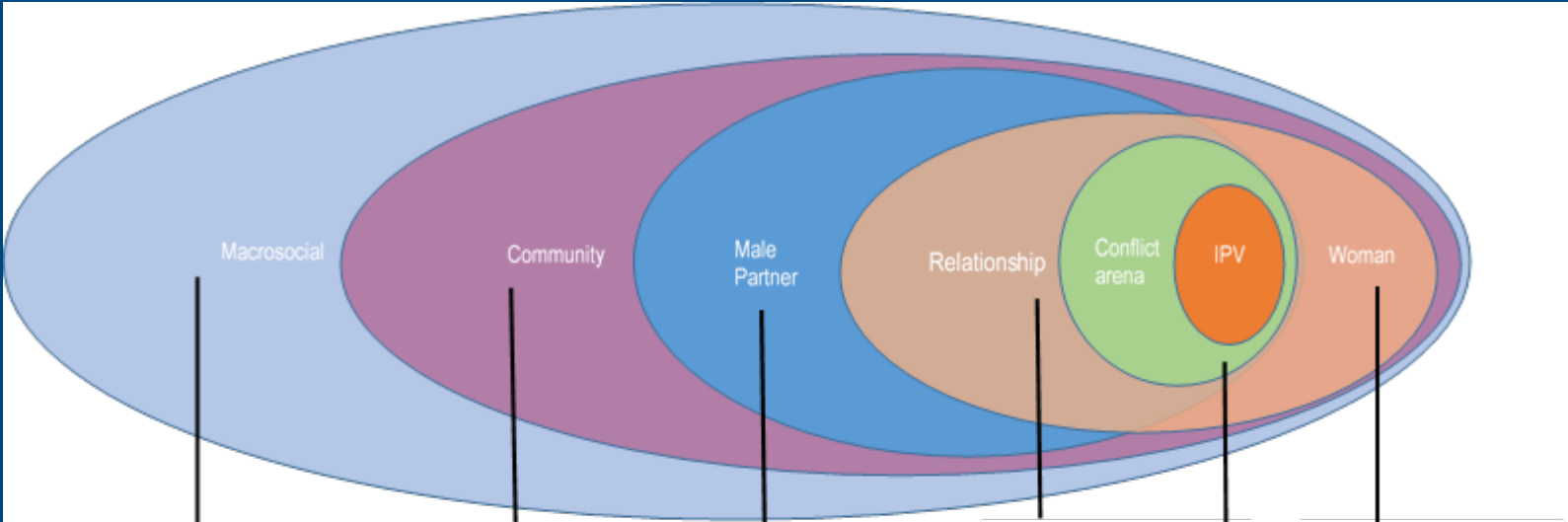


The cat? No. I haven't seen her...

# Conceptual models

## World Health Organisation: Violence Prevention Alliance



Poverty
High crime levels
High residential mobility
High unemployment
Local illicit drug trade
Situational factors

Victim of child maltreatment
Psychological/personality disorder
Alcohol/substance abuse
History of violent behaviour

Society    Community    Relationship    Individual

Rapid social change
Gender, social and economic inequalities
Poverty
Weak economic safety nets
Poor rule of law
Cultural norms that support violence

Poor parenting practices
Marital discord
Violent parental conflict
Low socioeconomic household status
Friends that engage in violence

# Expanded ecological model

Heise, Lori L. (2011) *What works to prevent partner violence: An evidence overview.*



**Gender order**
- Lack of economic rights & entitlements for women
- Discriminatory family law
- Ease of divorce for women
- Composite measures of gender inequality

**Cultural factors**
- Collectivist vs individual cultural orientation
- Emphasis on women's purity and family honour

**Economic factors**
- Level of development
- Women's access to formal wage employment

**Norms**
- Acceptance of wife beating
- Male right to discipline / control female behaviour
- Tolerance of harsh physical punishment of children
- Stigma for divorced or single women
- Norms linking male honour to female purity
- Family privacy

**Lack of sanctions**
- Lack of legal / moral sanctions for violence
- Others do not intervene

**Neighbourhood**
- Community violence
- High unemployment
- Low social capital
- Poverty

**Violence in childhood**
- Harsh physical punishment
- Witnessing parental violence
- Other childhood traumas
- Psychological dysfunction
- Antisocial behaviour
- Adult attachment issues

**Attitudes**
- Accepting of violence as a means to resolve conflict
- Acceptance of partner violence
- Gender hierarchical attitudes

**Alcohol abuse**
**Gender role conflict**
**Delinquent peers**
**Socio-demographic**
- Young
- Low educational level

**Interaction**
- Non-equalitarian decision making
- Poor communication
- High relationship conflict

**Conflict arenas**
*Situational triggers*
- Sex / infidelity
- Money / resources
- Children or in-laws
- Division of labour
- Male drinking
  *triggers*
- Female challenge male authority
- Failure to meet gender role expectations
- Assertions of female autonomy

**Childhood violence**
- Child sexual abuse
- Other childhood traumas
- Witnessing mother being

**Attitudes**
- Tolerance of wife beating
- Socio-demographic
- Young age
- High educational attainment (protective)

**Low social support**

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# Colonisation & violence experience

Smith, Family Violence Death Review Committee. Restorative Justice Conference: Family violence, the law and restorative justice; 2015; Wellington, New Zealand

## Cumulative patterns of harm

Individual

Interpersonal

Institutional

Community

Society

**Historical trauma and structural violence**

*1st Generation:* Conquered males were killed, imprisoned, enslaved

*2nd Generation:* Many men overused alcohol and/or drugs to cope with their resultant loss of cultural identity and diminished sense of self-worth.

*3rd Generation:* The intergenerational effects of violence manifest in the increased prevalence of spousal abuse and other forms of domestic violence. The breakdown in the family unit that accompanied this violence 'required' caring governments of the day to remove 'at risk' children from their mothers and place them in the care of suitable, in many cases non-Indigenous, families.

*4th Generation:* Trauma begins to be re-enacted and directed at the spouse and the child; signifying a serious challenge to family unit and societal norms of accepted behaviour.

*5th Generation:* In this generation, the cycle of violence is repeated and compounded, as trauma begets violence, with trauma enacted through increasingly severe violence and increasing societal distress.

Judy Atkinson. 2002. Trauma Trails – *Recreating Songlines: The transgenerational effects of Trauma in Indigenous Australia.* Spinifex Press, North Melbourne.
Hosking,J.,Ameratunga, S., Morton,S., and Danilo Blank. A life course approach to injury prevention: a "lens and telescope" conceptual model *BMC Public Health* 2011, **11**:695.

# The Eco-social Model
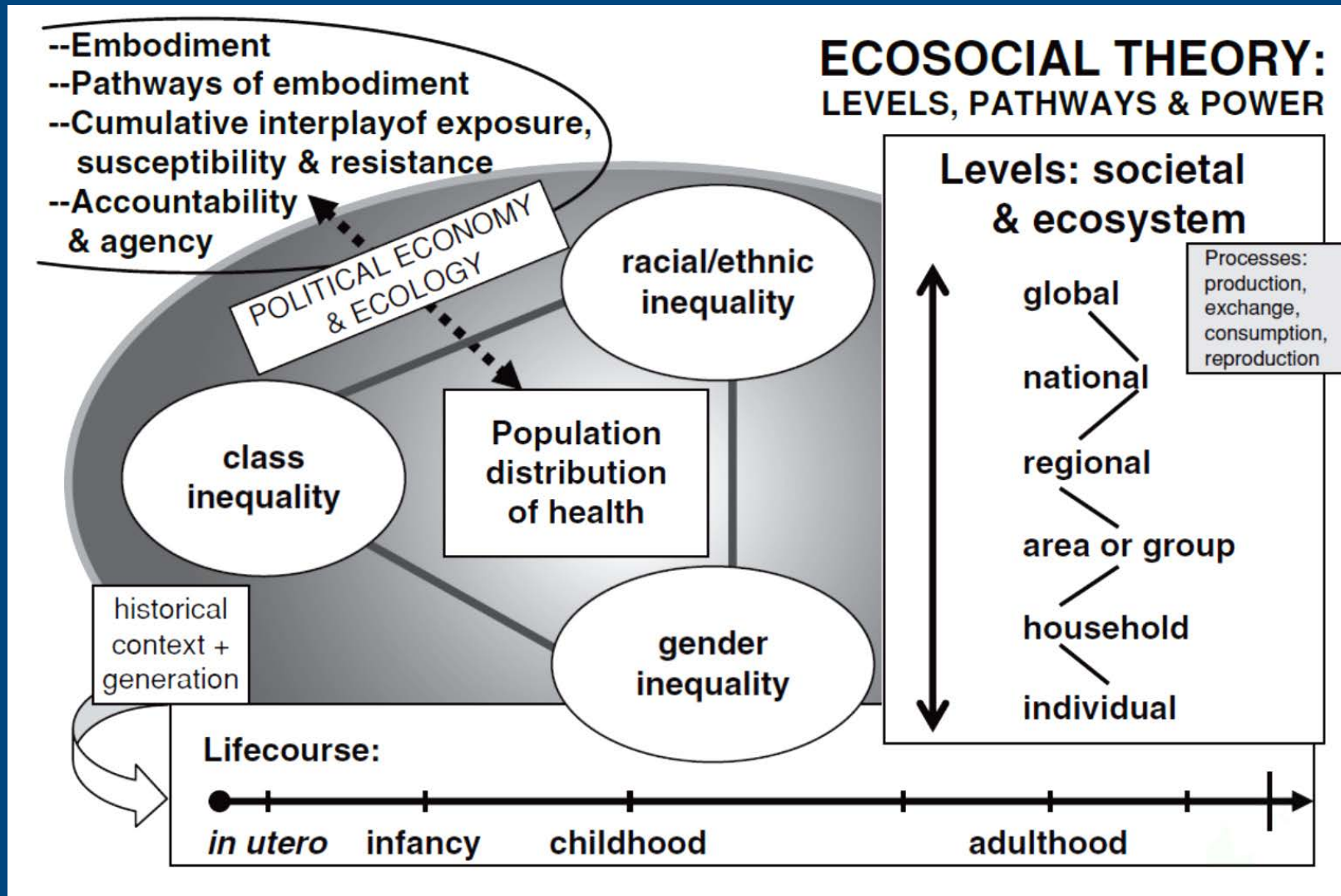
Nancy Krieger, PhD (2008) Proximal, Distal, and the Politics of Causation: What's Level Got to Do With It? American Journal of Public Health, 221-230

# Measuring risk and protective factors

# Cross-sectional studies

## Life-course

Childhood      Violence experience      Survey

Strengths:
Consistent methodology applied (WHO, DHS)
Cost effective
Self-report of experience and impact

Limitations:
Recall

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# Cohort studies

Life-course



Cohort
recruitment

Outcome
measurement

Strengths:
Measure risk and protective factors before the outcome
Less subject to recall

Limitations:
Cost
Key measures may not be incorporated at the start of the study

# Challenges involved with measurement

- Not all risk / protective factors, components of violence, or outcomes of violence exposure can be adequately measured. For example:
    - Controlling behaviours – context specific
    - Social norms – social acceptability of responses
- Direction of causality may be difficult to determine
    - Which came first?

- Have tended to focus on risk / protective factors born by the woman and/or her partner, not community or macrosocial

Prior to relationship
- Respondent and partner
  - Abused as a child ↑
  - Father hit mother ↑
- Respondent
  - Physically abused when over 15 years of age ↑
  - Sexually abused when over 15 years of age ↑

Current Situation
- Household income >$NZ75,000 ↓
- Both employed ↓
- Problem drinking Respondent and partner ↑
- Partner
  - Has concurrent relationships ↑
  - Is violent to others ↑

# So what does this mean for preventing violence?

*Take home message

# 1. Single factor solutions will never solve the problem of violence

- Violence is the outcome of the interaction of many different factors.

- Individual, relationship, community, social and cultural factors work together to enhance or reduce the likelihood of violence being perpetrated or experienced.

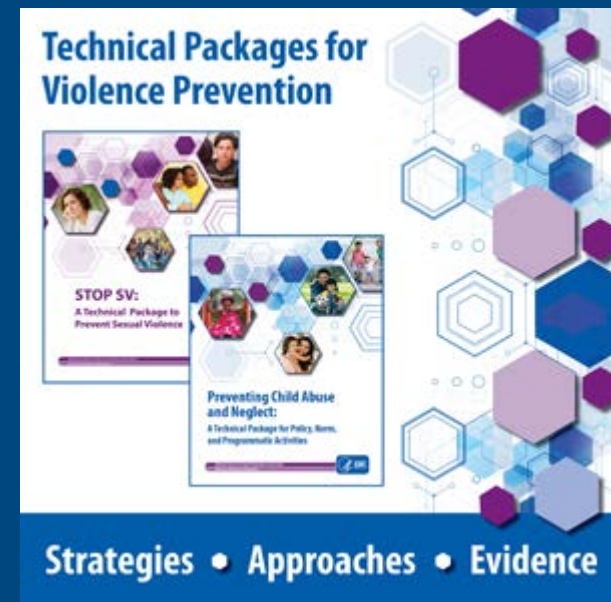- Violence is a behaviour which is governed by choice.

$$R_i = \alpha_i + \beta R_j + e_i$$
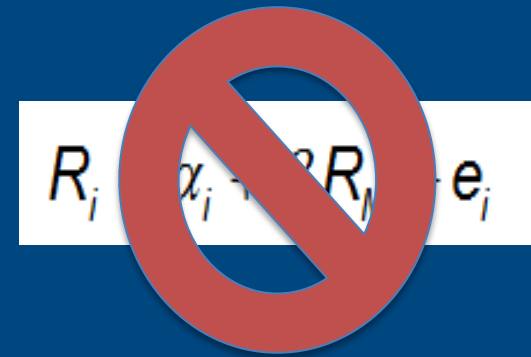
# 2. We know enough to act NOW

CDC Technical Packages for Violence Prevention:

A technical package has three parts.

These are living documents

- The strategy:  the direction or actions to achieve the goal of preventing violence.

- The approach:  specific ways to advance the strategy - programs, policies, and practices.

- The evidence: for each approach

**Technical Packages for Violence Prevention**

STOP SV:
A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence

Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect:
A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities

**Strategies • Approaches • Evidence**

# 3. A comprehensive approach is required

All levels of Heise's expanded ecological model need to be addressed

**Societal**
Strategic policy development
Address structural inequalities
Effective infrastructure
Long-term funding

**Community**
Social marketing campaigns
Community development
Enhanced Maori social capability
Improved judicial response
Enhance social capital

**Male / female partner**
Address violence experience in childhood
Develop pro-social behaviours
Effective role models
Reduce social acceptability of binge drinking
Improve social connectedness

**Relationship**
Acceptable and available relationship counselling
Relationship skill development in adolescence
Resilient whānau

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# 4. We can learn from other health / social problems



Motor vehicle traffic crash hospitalisations and deaths
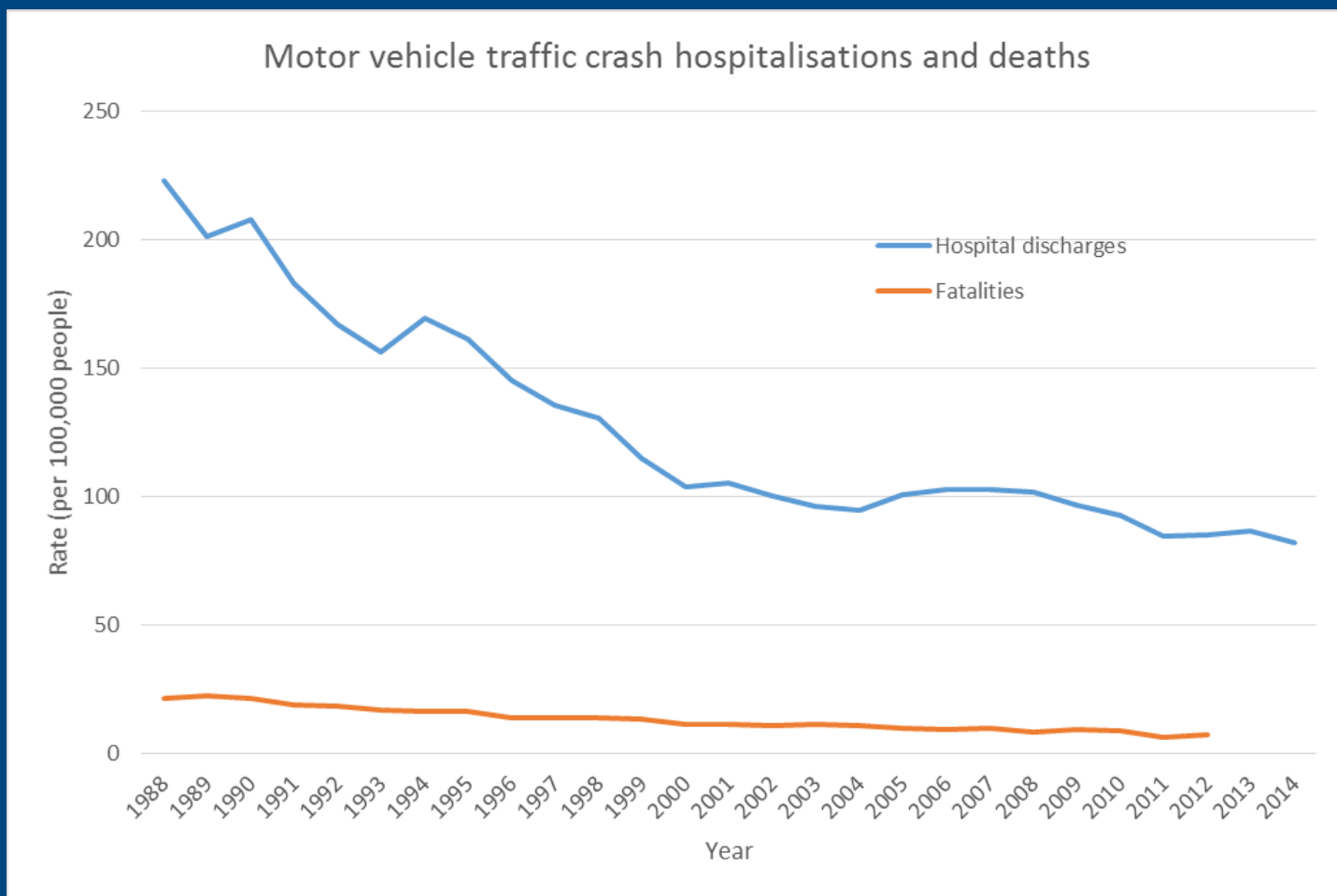
# What has it taken to bring the road toll down?

- Ministry of Transport
- Effective social marketing campaigns to change social norms
- Improved roading infrastructure
- Legislation to reduce risk – increasing the age of licensure and making drinking and driving illegal
- Swift and sure punishment where laws were broken (booze buses, demerit points, speed cameras)
- Increased activity at high risk times to enforce legislation.

On-going surveillance;
Continual learning;
Willingness to adapt and improve;
Long-term investment

# 5. We can learn from other communities

- Community mobilisation intervention to prevent violence against women.
- Randomised controlled trial, followed-up 4 years post intervention
- Past year physical IPV reduced by over half
- Results highlight the important role of community-level norm change
- Strong support for community level approaches for preventing violence

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# The last word

CDC:
"Everyone is benefited by a lifetime of healthy positive relationships"

Thank you

# Post-script

(A bit of advertising)

# New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

Your national centre for family and whānau violence research and information

- Website
- Newsletter | Pānui
- Data Summaries
- Issues Papers
- Selected Bibliographies
- Seminars/conferences
- Lending library
- Literature searches
- Timeline of family violence responses from 1867

- Information services
- Community engagement
- Information for:
  - Policy makers
  - Practitioners
  - Researchers
  - Students
  - Media
  - People affected by violence
  - The general public

# New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

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# What's coming up next...

- **22 July 2016**

  Families and Whānau Status Report Seminar

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