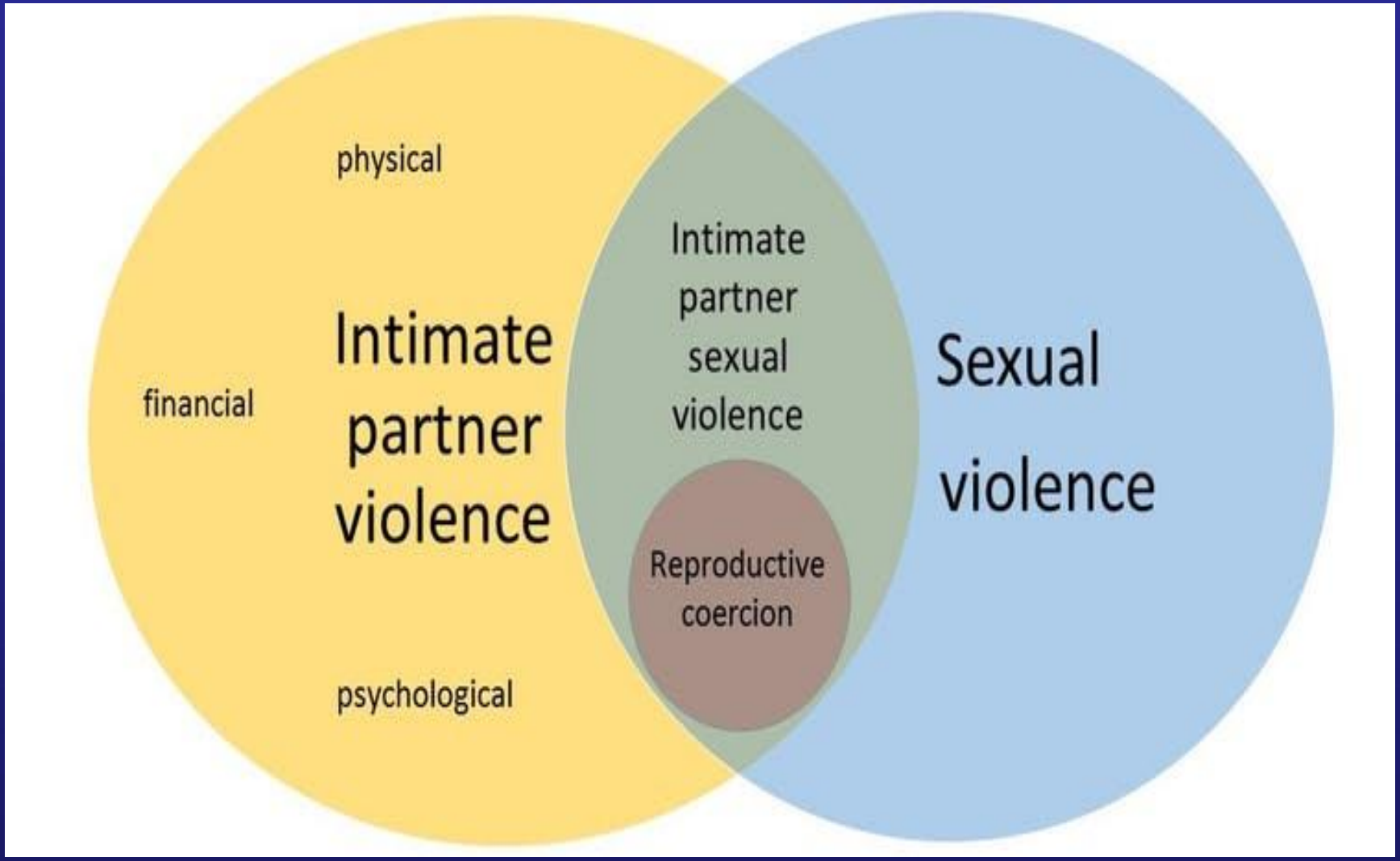
Intimate Partner Violence and Reproductive Coercion:

If we don't ask we don't know

DR RICHELLE DOUGLAS
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
SHQ

Acknowledgment of Country


physical
financial
Intimate partner violence
psychological
Intimate partner sexual violence
Reproductive coercion
Sexual violence

WHY?

- 1 in 3 women experienced physical violence since age 15
- 1 in 5 women sexual violence
- ATSI women 32 x more likely
- Victoria: IPV 7.9 % disease burden
- Australia: 2 women murdered per week by an intimate partner

Should we screen?

- Intimate partner violence causes more illness, disability and deaths than any other risk factor for people identifying as female aged 25–44
- Yet we don’t routinely screen
- If we don’t ask we don’t know

Development of screening tool at SHQ

- Clinician review (77)
- Consumer review (51)
- Input into questions
- Input into where they were asked
- Input into whether they should be asked


CLIENT INTAKE AREA
CLIENTS ONLY
No partners or family members please
Once you have completed your forms, please return to the reception desk.

Study Aim

- To explore whether there is a link between exposure to intimate partner violence and having a negative sexual health outcome among people identifying as female who present to SHQ

Methods

- Cross-Sectional
- Inclusion criteria: SHQ clients who consent to the study who are aged 16 and over who identify as female
- Ethics Approval through UWA HREC

Preliminary results

- 647 clients met inclusion criteria, 68% (440) consented to study
- NO major differences between all participants and those screening positive with respect to age, socioeconomic status or sexuality

Preliminary results

Those having acknowledged they were exposed

? Link to adverse sexual health outcomes

Feedback from Clinicians

- 100% felt they would not be able to do it
- 100% reported increased confidence at 3 months
- Reception staff, 100% anticipated a moderate to severe effect on patient flow
- 100% felt the effect on patient flow was minimal at 3 months

Feedback from Patients

- “ No one has ever asked me if I felt safe before”
- “Thank you just for telling me what happened to me was wrong”
- “ Thank you for supporting me”

Conclusions

- High Prevalence
- Significant demand for emergency counselling
- Preliminary results suggest a link between IPC/RC and negative sexual health outcomes
- Routine screening for intimate partner violence can be considered in other Pcsettings