

Violence

Violence refers to the use of physical force or aggression to harm, damage, or intimidate someone or something. It can take various forms, including physical violence (such as hitting, punching, or stabbing), verbal violence (such as threats, insults, or hate speech), and psychological violence (such as manipulation, coercion, or emotional abuse). Violence can occur in personal relationships, communities, or on a larger societal scale, and it can have severe physical and psychological consequences for both the victims and perpetrators.

Efforts to combat violence typically involve a combination of legal, social, and educational measures. These may include laws and regulations to deter and punish violent behavior, support services for victims, community programs aimed at preventing violence, and educational initiatives to promote non-violent conflict resolution and empathy.

Addressing violence is an important aspect of creating safer and more peaceful societies, as it can have far-reaching negative effects on individuals and communities. Efforts to reduce violence often involve collaboration among government agencies, law enforcement, community organizations, and individuals to create a safer and more harmonious environment for everyone.

Violence-Related Traumatic Brain Injury

Domestic violence

Child abuse

The term “obstetric violence” has been used in the legislative language of several countries with the intention of protecting mothers from abuse during pregnancy. Subsequently, it has been expanded to include a spectrum of obstetric procedures such as induction of labor, episiotomy, and cesarean delivery and has surfaced in the peer-reviewed literature. The term “obstetric violence” can be seen as quite strong and emotionally charged, which may lead to misunderstandings or misconceptions. It might be interpreted as implying a deliberate act of violence by healthcare providers when mistreatment can sometimes result from systemic issues, lack of training, or misunderstandings rather than intentional violence. “Obstetric mistreatment” is a more comprehensive term that can encompass a broader range of behaviors and actions. “Violence” generally refers to the intentional physical force used to cause harm, injury, or damage to another person (eg physical assault, domestic violence, street fights, or acts of terrorism), whereas “mistreatment” is a more general term and refers to the abuse, harm, or control exerted over another person (such as non-consensual medical procedures, verbal abuse, disrespect, discrimination, and stigmatization, or neglect, to name a few examples). There may be cases where unprofessional personnel may commit mistreatment and violence against pregnant patients, but since obstetrics is dedicated to the health and well-being of pregnant and fetal patients, mistreatment of obstetric patients should never be an intended component of professional obstetric care. It is necessary to move beyond the term “obstetric violence” in discourse and acknowledge and address the structural dimensions of abusive reproductive practices. Similarly, we do not use “psychiatric violence” for appropriately used professional procedures in psychiatry such as electroshock therapy or using “neurosurgical violence” when drilling a Burr hole. There is an ongoing need to raise awareness about the potential

mistreatment of obstetric patients within the context of abuse against women in general. Using a term such as “mistreatment in healthcare”, instead of the more limited “obstetric violence”, is more appropriate and applies to all specialties when there is unprofessional abuse and mistreatment such as biased care, neglect, emotional (verbal), or physical abuse including performing procedures that are unnecessary, unindicated, or without informed patient consent. We must promote unbiased, respectful, and patient-centered professional care, provide an ethical framework for all healthcare personnel, and work toward systemic change to prevent any mistreatment or abuse ¹⁾.

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Chervenak FA, McLeod-Sordjan R, Pollet SL, DE Four Jones M, Gordon MR, Combs A, Bornstein E, Lewis D, Katz A, Warman A, Grünebaum A. Obstetric Violence is a Misnomer. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2023 Oct 6:S0002-9378(23)00732-9. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2023.10.003. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37806611.

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