

The Impact of Intimate Partner Abuse on Female Offending and Rehabilitation

Jessica Mueller, PsyD
Kiyana Dailey, LMFT
Aada Romero, EdD, LCSW

Level

Introductory/Intermediate

Room

Track

Clinical

CE

CPA/BBS/CJER

Bio

Jessica Mueller, PsyD is a licensed clinical psychologist in California and holds registration (not practicing) in New Zealand. She graduated with a Doctorate in Clinical Forensic Psychology in 2017 where she received the outstanding doctoral student award. She started as the Director of Forensic Training at the Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma (IVAT) in January 2025 and has worked in the publications and dissemination department at IVAT since 2014. She is the co-editor-in-chief for the *Journal of Family Trauma, Child Custody, and Child Development*. Jessica has experience working in California and New Zealand correctional settings from 2015 to 2025, in various roles including as a clinical psychologist and principal advisor on mental health and addictions. Jessica taught at San Diego State University (SDSU) in the Forensic Psychology Certificate program from 2018 until 2024. She maintains a research lab at SDSU, supporting and mentoring students in research methods. Jessica is also a current adjunct faculty at Alliant International University, San Diego, CA.

Kiyana Dailey, LMFT is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist hailing from Oakland, California. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Biology in 2021, followed by a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology with a focus on Marriage and Family Therapy in 2023. With 14 years of dedicated military service, Kiyana brings a wealth of experience and a profound commitment to providing culturally competent counseling, particularly emphasizing support for marginalized communities facing systemic oppression and disparities.

Over the past four years, Kiyana has worked extensively with children, individuals, and couples, addressing a variety of mental health challenges. Her areas of specialization include anxiety, depression, stress, self-esteem issues, trauma, personality disorders, mood disorders, PTSD, and domestic violence. She is passionate about serving clients who seek to overcome these challenges and is dedicated to supporting them in achieving their personal goals.

Kiyana's therapeutic approach is grounded in trauma-informed care, ensuring that her clients feel safe and understood throughout their healing journey. She employs a client-centered methodology, honoring each individual's unique experiences and perspectives. Incorporating principles from positive psychology, Kiyana focuses on fostering resilience and leveraging clients' inherent strengths to promote well-being. Her strength-based approach empowers clients to recognize and build upon their existing capabilities, facilitating meaningful and lasting change.

Amanda R. Romero, EdD, LCSW is the Interim Assistant Provost at Mount Saint Mary's University. She also serves as the Chair and Professor in the Department of Social Work. She is an alum of MSMU. She teaches courses in human behavior, qualitative research methods, family violence, case management, generalist practice, and professional development. Her research interests include identifying emotional and social support systems for first-generation Latina university students, and domestic violence and post-separation abuse.

Narrative

Women's pathways into the criminal justice system are often shaped by complex and overlapping experiences of intimate partner abuse, coercive control, and other forms of gender-based violence. Research demonstrates that such relationships can directly and indirectly influence offending behaviors—whether through economic dependence, survival crimes, or acting under duress—as well as hinder rehabilitation by reinforcing trauma, undermining autonomy, and limiting access to supportive networks. This session examines current evidence on the links between intimate partner violence and women's criminal justice involvement, integrating findings from criminology, psychology, and trauma-informed care. Participants will gain insight into how coercive relationships impact decision-making, legal outcomes, and reentry success. The presentation will also explore best practices for screening, intervention, and program design to address these dynamics, reduce recidivism, and support recovery. Through case examples and discussion, attendees will leave with actionable strategies to incorporate a gender-responsive, trauma-informed lens into their work with justice-involved women.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify three ways intimate partner abuse and coercive control contribute to women's pathways into the criminal justice system.
2. Describe how trauma from abusive relationships can impact rehabilitation, decision-making, and reentry outcomes.
3. Apply gender-responsive, trauma-informed strategies to screen for, address, and mitigate the effects of intimate partner abuse in justice-involved women.