

The Violence Matrix (by Beth E. Richie, PhD)

	Physical Assault	Sexual Assault	Social Disenfranchisement
Intimate Households	Direct physical assaults by intimate partners or household members, victim retaliation	Sexual aggression by intimate partners or household members	Emotional abuse and manipulation by intimate partners or household members, forced use of drug and alcohol, isolation and economic abuse
Community	Assaults by neighbors, lack of bystander intervention, availability of weapons	Sexual harassment, acquaintance rape, gang rape, trafficking into sex industry, stalking	Degrading comments, hostile neighborhood conditions, hostile or unresponsive school and work environments, residential segregation, lack of social capital, threat of violence
Social Sphere	Stranger assault, state violence (e.g. police), gun control policies	Stranger rape, coerced sterilization, unwanted exposure to pornography	Negative media images, denial of significance of victimization, degrading encounters with public agencies, victim blaming, lack of affordable housing, lack of employment and health care, mistrust of public agencies, poverty

Surrounding the Violence Matrix is the tangled web of structural disadvantages, institutionalized racism, gender domination, class exploitation, heteropatriarchy and other forms of oppression that locks the systematic abuse of Black women in place. Responses need to be developed that take all of the forms of abuse and all of the spheres within which injustice occurs into account.

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