

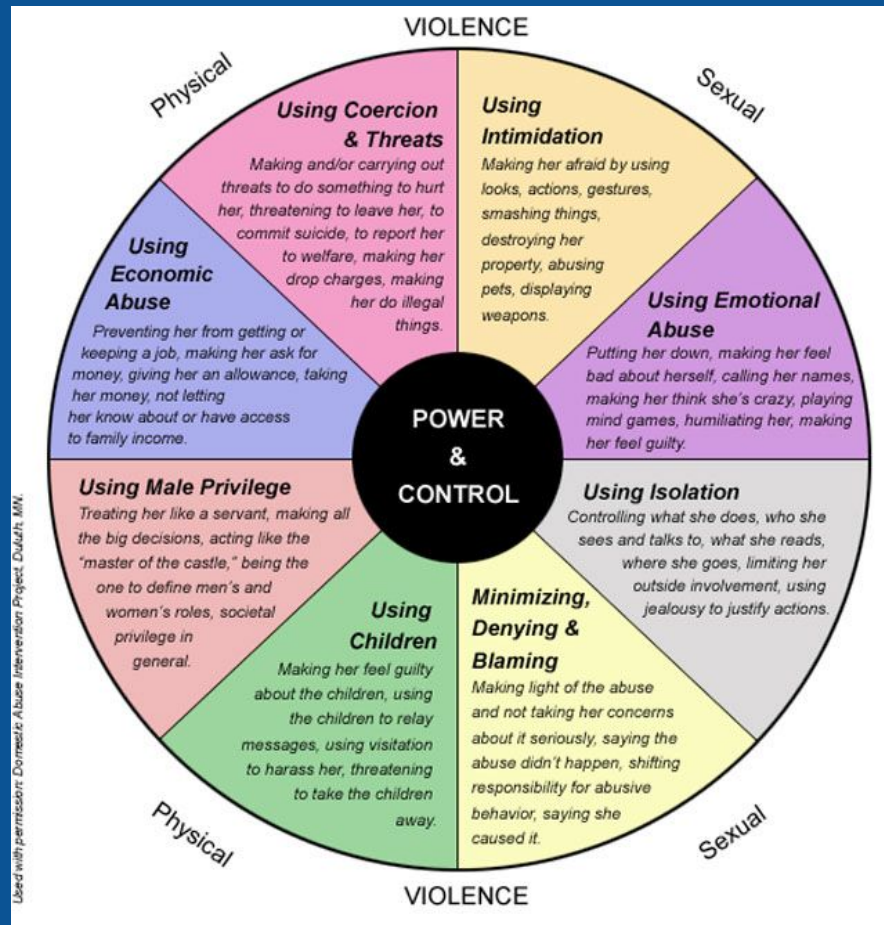
Serving Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors Who Are Homeless



Amanda Molé, MSW, Registered Clinical Social Worker Intern
Dawn Center Domestic & Sexual Violence Services

Context: Power and Control

- ❑ Wheels are available for other types of relationships and in other languages.
- ❑ See duluthmodel.org/wheels for more information.



Who is affected?

Women*

Immigrants*

Older adults*

Men

People with disabilities*

Any religion

Boys*

Any socioeconomic class

Girls*

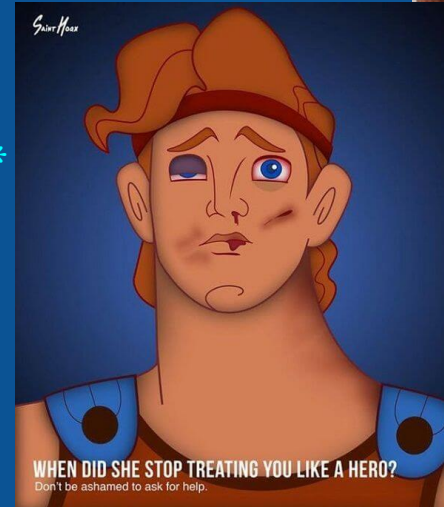
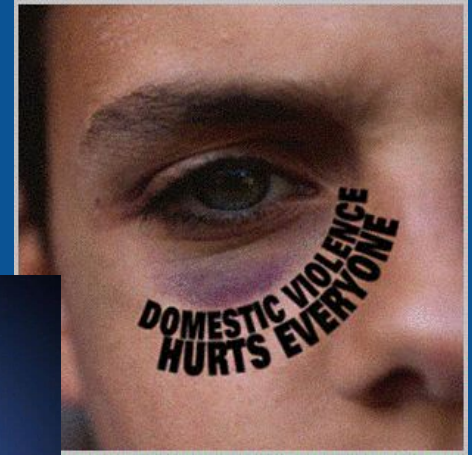
People with mental illness*

Pets

People who are homeless

LGBT people*

Transgender people*



*Statistically
greater chances of
being victimized

Trauma-Informed Care: Physical Effects

Unintended pregnancy

Miscarriage

Traumatic brain injury (TBI)

Vaginal and anal injury

Strangulation

Sexually transmitted infection
(STI)



Bruises, lacerations, welts

Broken bones

Burns

Missing hair or teeth

Facial injury (black eyes, split
lip, etc.)

Trauma-Informed Care: Emotional & Behavioral Effects

Hypervigilance	Sleep disturbance	Suicidal ideation
Intrusive memories	Reckless or risky behavior	Substance abuse
Flashbacks	Difficulty concentrating	ASD/PTSD
Depressive symptoms	Anger or irritability	Agoraphobia
Anxious symptoms	Distorted cognition	Fatigue
Dissociation	Abuse of children or pets	Weight loss or gain
Psychosomatic symptoms (headaches, stomach pain, muscle tension)		

Trauma-Informed Care: Functional



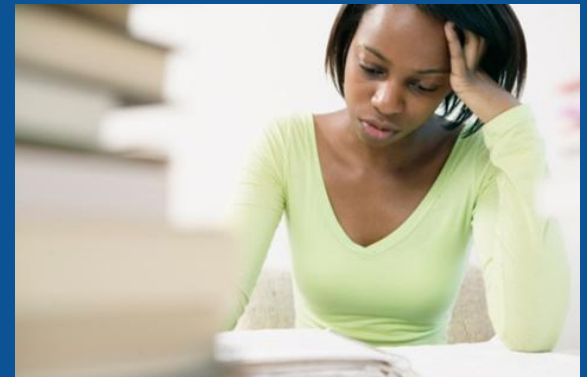
Diminished ADL's

Inability to get or keep a job

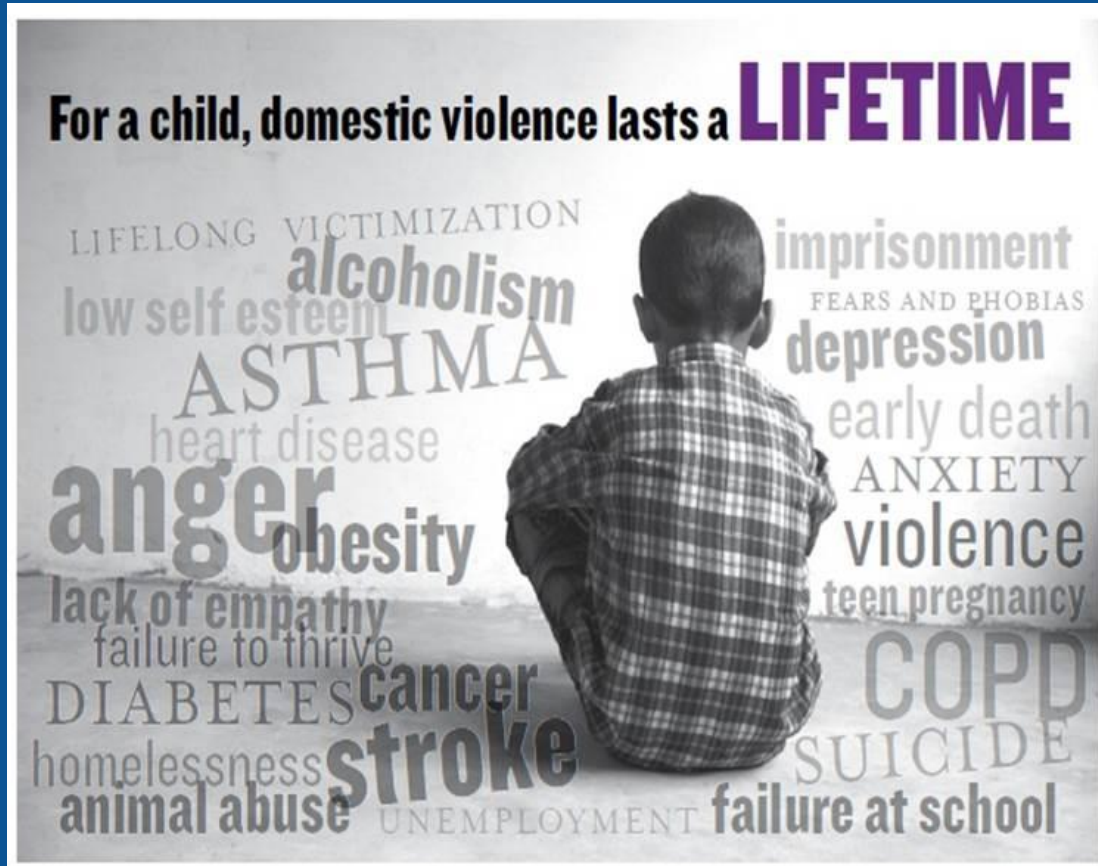
Inability to manage financial obligations

Inability to care for one's children, pets, or residence

Difficulty managing health care plan or case plan



Effects on children



- Regressive behaviors
- Violence with siblings or classmates
- Truancy
- Substance abuse

Child victims and housing considerations

- Does non-offending parent need further support, either in home or in office?
 - Child maltreatment
- Address confidentiality
- Visitation, custody, and parenting plans
- Truancy support



Safety planning

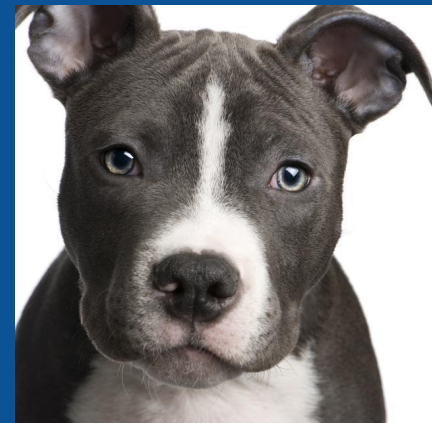
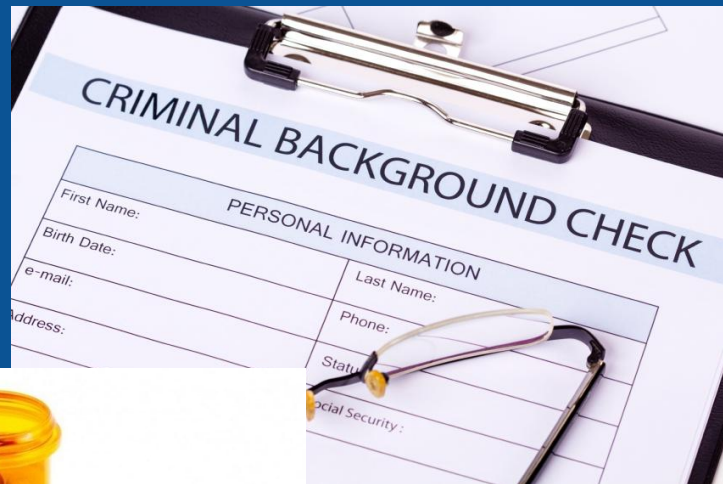
THIS IS ALWAYS STEP ONE.

Please refer to the template in your handouts.



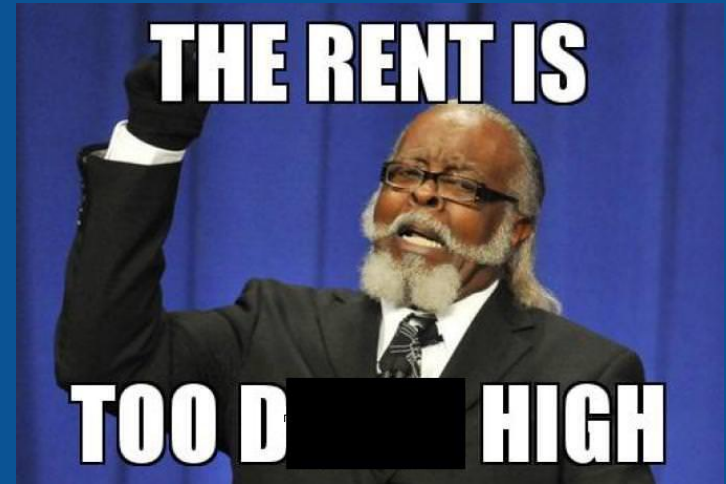
Barriers to safe housing

- Lack of family or community support
- Financial/economic abuse
- Lack of reliable transportation
- Substance use
- Criminal record
- Poor credit
- Need for pet-friendly housing
- No job or marketable skills
- Chronic mental/physical health issues



Client-centered services: Prevention

- Assessment: Who qualifies for prevention/at-risk services?
 - Any documentation required?
- Discuss history of evictions, credit, income, survivor strengths and supports
- Discuss client needs (access to schools, public transportation, etc.)
- Determine amount and length of rental assistance
- Other services wanted or needed (child care, trauma counseling, job search support, etc.)



Client-centered services: Intervention

- Is shelter stay required for entrance into housing program?
- Does survivor qualify for ACP while in this program (if desired)?
- If the survivor does not want or qualify for ACP, how will child visitation issues be handled?
- Offer all services that would be offered in prevention program.
- **Wild card: What if the abuser finds the victim?**
 - Don't forget to update the safety plan



“Upon receiving the keys to
her new home,
the survivor was elated
and stated,
'I finally feel free.'”

- Ohio Advocate



Questions??



Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or would like electronic copies of handouts:

amoli@mail.usf.edu