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## **Domestic Violence and HIV/AIDS**

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### **Disclosure of Financial Relationships**

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## **Why are we talking about this?**

**In order for us to be able to provide optimal support for people living with (or at risk for) HIV/AIDS, it is important to understand we will encounter individuals who are survivors of domestic violence.**



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## **Domestic Violence Advocates and HIV/AIDS Services Providers are both...**

- **Accustomed to working with multiple systems**
- **Understanding of empowerment-based, survivor/client-centered advocacy and case management**
- **Savvy about issues of confidentiality**
- **Crisis responders**



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## **The Risk of HIV/AIDS for Victims of Domestic Violence**

- **Unfaithful partners**
- **Partners refuse to wear condoms**
- **Sexual assault**
- **Forced or coerced sex work**
- **IDU**
- **Lack of information & fear of seeking help**



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## **HIV/AIDS and Battering**

- **Partners prevent access to health care and/or withhold necessary medications**
- **Partners threaten to “out” survivor’s status**
- **Partners make other threats related to status**
- **isolation from family, friends and the community**



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# Domestic Violence Overview



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## Domestic Violence

- Also known as IPV (Intimate Partner Violence)
- occurs in homes regardless of age, income, race, ethnicity, religion, social background, or education level.
- results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death.
- crosses generations and lasts a lifetime



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# Florida Statutes

## **FS 741.28 Domestic violence:**

- "Domestic violence" means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.
- "Family or household member" means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.



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# Florida Statutes, cont.

**FS 784.048 Stalking; definitions; penalties**

**FS 794.011 Sexual battery**

**FS 784.046 Action by victim of repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence for protective injunction; dating violence investigations, notice to victims, and reporting; pretrial release violations**



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# Myths & Facts



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**Myth: Only women are victims of domestic violence.**

**Fact: Approximately 85% of those battered are women; however, in some cases, women are the batterers and their male partners, the victims. Battering also occurs in same gender relationships.**

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001*, February 2003.



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**Myth: Alcohol or drug use causes domestic violence.**

**Fact: Addictions are used as excuses to free the batterer from responsibility for the behavior. This myth does not explain why the batterer uses violence, why he targets women for abuse, or why he batters when sober. The batterer will not necessarily stop battering if he gains control over his addiction.**



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**Myth: Battered woman should just leave.**

**Fact: Leaving can be dangerous. The most dangerous time for someone who is being abused is when s/he tries to leave. There are times when it will be safer to stay.**



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## Domestic Violence is...

- A choice
- A learned behavior
- Tacitly supported by society
- A behavior the survivor does not control or is able to change
- **A CRIME !**

## Statistics

## Florida's Domestic Violence Offenses (2009)

Murder	208
Manslaughter	24
Forcible Rape	958
Forcible Sodomy	334
Forcible Fondling	850
Agg. Assault	20,115
Agg. Stalking	254
Simple Assault	90,565
Threat/Intimidation	2,822
Stalking	417
Total	116,547

Source: 2009 Florida Uniform Crime Report. *Florida Department of Law Enforcement*. Available at - [http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/FSAC/Data--Statistics-\(1\)/UCR-Domestic-Violence-Data/UCR-Domestic-Violence-Data.aspx](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/FSAC/Data--Statistics-(1)/UCR-Domestic-Violence-Data/UCR-Domestic-Violence-Data.aspx). Accessed April 8, 2010.



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- **One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.**

Source: Tjaden and Thoennes. "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," *National Institute of Justice and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention*. (2000).

- **Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships.**

Source: Campbell, et al. "Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide." *National Institute of Justice Journal*. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Justice (2003) 14-19.



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- **Battered women are more than three times as likely to contract HIV as women who are not in violent relationships.**

Source: Sareen, et al. "Abusive Relationships Increase Women's Risk Of HIV Infection." Center for Advancing Health. *ScienceDaily* 25 May 2009. Available at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/05/090521195702.htm>. Accessed April 15, 2010



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- **23% of surveyed men who had lived with another man as a couple reported being raped, physically assaulted and/or stalked.**

Source: Allen, et al. "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) Communities and Domestic Violence: Information and Resources." *National Resource Center on Domestic Violence*. (2007). Available at: [http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc\\_Files\\_VAWnetNRC\\_LGBTDV-Full.pdf](http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnetNRC_LGBTDV-Full.pdf). Accessed April 6, 2010.

- **A survey of transgender and intersex individuals found that 50% of respondents had been raped or assaulted by a romantic partner, though only 62% of these individuals (31% of the total) identified as survivors of domestic violence when asked.**

Source: Fountain and Skolnik. "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence in 2006: A report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs." *National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. Available at: [www.ncavp.org](http://www.ncavp.org). Accessed April 6, 2010.



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# What is Battering?



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## Legal vs. Working Definition

**Unlike the legal definition of domestic violence, the working definition refers to a much broader range of behaviors used by individuals to exert power and control over their partner.**



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## Specifically...

- **Battering is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear, intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence.**
- **Battering happens when one person believes they are entitled to control another.**



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- **The violence occurs in the context of intimate relationships.**
- **Battering is a subset within a larger societal problem of violence against women including oppression, sexual assault, incest, prostitution, sexual harassment, human trafficking, etc.**



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## The Many Forms of Battering

### Battering behaviors may include

Physical abuse

Sexual abuse

Psychological/emotional abuse

Verbal abuse

Economic abuse



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## Examples of Physical Violence

Slapping

Scratching

Punching

Hair pulling

Biting

Twisting limbs

Pushing

Kicking

Harming pets

Stabbing

Strangulation

Shooting



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## Examples of Sexual Violence

- Forced exposure to pornography
- Forced sex
- Unwanted sexual acts, touching, advances
- Forced prostitution
- Forced pregnancy
- Forced sex with others
- Transmitting HIV/AIDS or STDs



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## What is Battering Not?



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## Abuse is Not a Loss of Control

- Perpetrators select their targets
- They often choose the circumstances of their violence, including the amount of injury inflicted by their acts
- The perpetrator bears sole responsibility for his or her actions - There is no behavior by a victim which causes or excuses abuse
- Abuse is an attempt to control the behavior and/or emotional/intellectual life of the other person and to diminish or prevent the other's free choice



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## Common Beliefs of Batterers

- Anger causes violence
- Women are manipulative
- If I don't control my partner, I'll be controlled
- Smashing things isn't abusive, it's venting - besides I didn't hit
- Sometimes there is no alternative to violence
- Women are just as violent as men
- Somebody has to be in charge
- Jealousy is natural



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# Tactics



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## There is no “typical batterer”

**Most batterers choose to batter because the choice is there to make and because they believe they have the right.**



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- **Domestic violence often begins with emotional abuse.**
- **Batterers use physical force to maintain power and control over their relationships with their partners.**
- **They have learned that *violence works to achieve this end.***



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## **Power and Control Wheel**

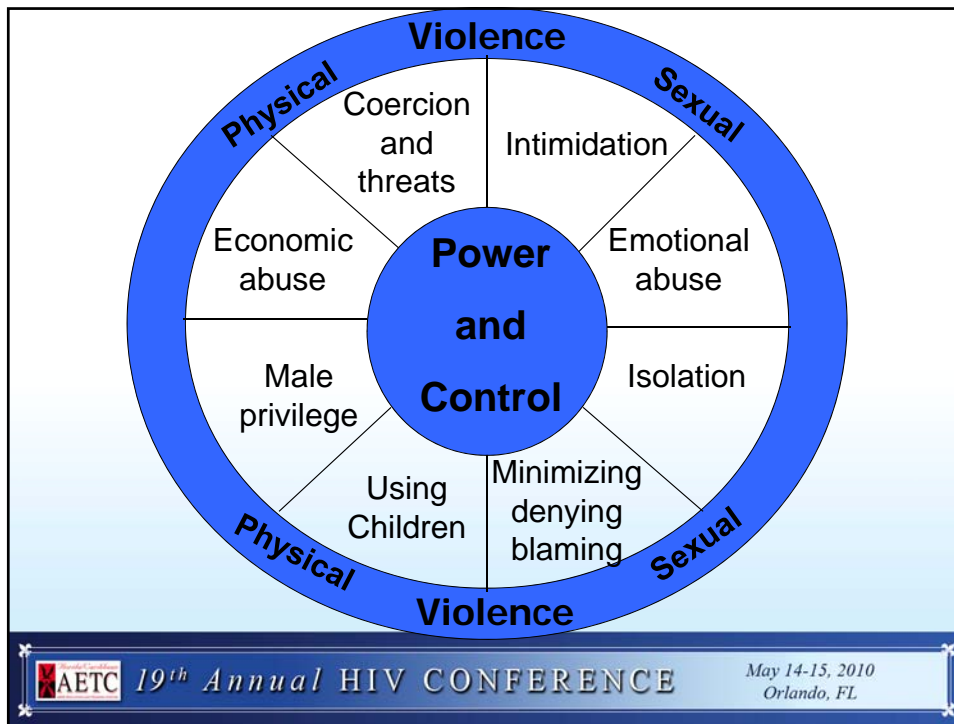
- **The power and control wheel was developed to illustrate the various tactics an abuser uses on his partner.**
- **At the center of the wheel is the abuser's need to get and keep power and control over the survivor's life.**
- **Each spoke contains a tactic used to control the victim.**

Source: Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, The Duluth Model. *Power and Control Wheel*. Available at: <http://www.theduluthmodel.org/wheelgallery.php>. Accessed April 2, 2010



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## Emotional/Psychological/ Verbal Abuse

- **Mocking**
- **Put downs**
- **Name calling**
- **Harassment**
- **Blaming**
- **Character attacks**
- **Crazy-making**

## Intimidation

- **Accusing partner of having affairs**
- **Playing mind games (lying, denying)**
- **Changing stories**
- **Controlling partner's appearance**
- **Monitoring partner's schedule**
- **Setting rigid rules – acting as enforcer**
- **Risky behavior**
- **Stalking**
- **Violating privacy**
- **Threats**



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## Isolation

- **Geographic**
- **Isolation from Resources**
- **Physical restraint**



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## **Minimizing, Denying, Blaming**

- He didn't hit her that hard
- It was only a little nudge
- It was her fault
- It hurt him a lot more than it hurt her
- The drugs/alcohol made him do it



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## **Using the Children**

- Using the children to spy on the survivor
- Forcing the children to assault the survivor
- Making children watch degradation and abuse of the survivor
- Abusing or threatening to abuse children



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## Using Male Privilege

- Making household rules and consequences
- Demanding special treatment as “head of house”, “king of the castle”, “breadwinner”
- Demanding sex
- Being listened to more attentively by friends and acquaintances



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## Economic Abuse

- Controlling money
- Running up bills
- Spending needed money on self rather than essentials for the family (addictions, recreation)
- Destroying credit



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## Coercion and Threats

- Threatens to kill her
- Threatens to take the children
- Threatens to commit suicide
- Threatens to ruin her credit
- Threatens to harm her family
- Threatens to burn the house down
- Filing frivolous legal documents of social service reports



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## Presentation of a Batterer

- The “real” victim in the family
- Claims he is trying to keep the family together
- Acknowledges “family problems” but denies any violence
- Confronted about his assaultive acts, he may respond by saying: “she bruises easily”, she was hysterical”, or “she was drunk/high”, “I had to restrain her”



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- **Uses the system to make a counter complaint to law enforcement**
- **Makes reports to DCF alleging abuse or neglect**
- **Changes lawyers, asks for continuances to delay court hearings resulting in financial hardships for her**
- **Encourages prosecuting her when she has acted in self defense (or use the threat of prosecution to make her return)**



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- **Asserts that he knows key people in the criminal justice system, and that there is no way she will get justice**
- **Gives erroneous information about the criminal justice system to confuse her or prevent her from acting on her own behalf**
- **Calls her before she is going to testify against him to say it has been postponed or her testimony is not needed**



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## Continuum of Abuse...

**Over time, the layering effect may adversely influence the survivor's coping responses, confidence and self-esteem.**



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Cutting up clothes    Slapping with an open hand  
    Punching in the stomach when pregnant  
    Throwing her across the room    Threats of  
murder    Destroying a photo album    Threatening  
    with weapons    Making sexist/offensive jokes  
    Stabbing with a knife    Name-calling    Repeated  
    threats to harm her    Threatening to harm the  
children    Rape    Harassing phone calls at work  
    Isolating from others    Punching in the face  
    "The Look" mocking    The silent treatment  
    Obsessive jealousy    Killing the family pet  
    Mind games    Stalking



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# Factors Influencing Her Decisions



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- Fear of the abuser
- Love
- Threats of personal harm, harm of loved ones or pets
- Threats of suicide
- Believing the abuser will take the children



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- **Religious beliefs**
- **Believing the abuser will change**
- **Self-blame**
- **Limited financial options**
- **Believing that violence is normal**
- **Believing in the sanctity of marriage and the family**



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- **Limited housing options**
- **Blaming abuse on alcohol, financial, pressures, or other outside factors**
- **Low self-esteem**
- **Fear of the unknown, of change**
- **Isolation**



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- **Embarrassment and shame**
- **Believing no can help/will help**
- **Cultural beliefs**
- **Denial**
- **Pressure from friends and family to stay**

## **Realities of Leaving or Staying**

Many battered women leave. Leaving is a process and it may take several attempts before the survivor is able to depart safely. Leaving is often a trigger for escalated violence.

## Lethality may increase when...

- The survivor has left or is about to leave
- The batterer becomes aware of an injunction for protection or other legal action
- The batterer is released from jail or prison
- The batterer's behavior becomes "public"

## What Do You Do Now?

- Screen for indicators of domestic violence**
- Safety Plan**
- Use an empowerment-based, survivor/client-centered approach**
- Educate yourself about potential remedies (domestic violence services providers, legal aid, IFP, etc.)**
- Provide linkage to community resources**

## Indicators of Abuse

## Injuries

- Common injury sites: head, face, neck, areas usually covered by clothing – chest, breast, abdomen, etc.**
- Common injury types: Contusions, abrasions, lacerations, fractures, sprains**
- Eye or ear trauma**
- Loose teeth**



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## Injuries, cont.

- Injury to multiple sites**
- Injuries that don't fit with provided Explanations**
- Injuries in various stages of healing**
- Injuries during pregnancy**



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## Medical/Psychological Findings

- Miscarriages and spontaneous or multiple abortions
- Pregnancy complications
- Frequent vaginal and urinary tract infections, pelvic pain
- Pain with no visible sign of injury



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## Medical/Psych. Findings cont.

- Chronic pain/headaches
- Anxiety
- PTSD
- Substance abuse/self-medication



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## Other

- Noncompliance with treatment regimens
- Partner limits access to medical care
- Missed appointments
- Failure to use condoms/birth control



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## Other, cont.

- Reluctance to speak or disagree in front of partner
- Minimalizing extent of injuries
- Partner insists on attending appointments
- Overt displays of possessiveness by partner



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# Safety Planning



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- **Inquire about safety generally, then specifically**
- **Remember that a safety plan is personalized**
- **A safety plan will change over time**
- **Consider partner notification**



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# Empowering Survivors



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## Empowerment is About

- Recognizing one's professional *power* in order not to impose it on the survivor
- Being honest, authentic and trustworthy
- Expecting and accepting ambivalence
- Remember that you may know about domestic violence but the survivor knows about the abuser



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## Empowerment is Not About...

- Informing a survivor that you know what is best
- Assuming *you* know everything about a survivor's experiences
- Assuming that he or she is in a crisis mode and is incapable of making decisions
- Concentrating on challenges rather than focusing on strengths



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## Education and Resources:

- **Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
<http://www.fcadv.org>  
Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 500-1119 x2  
Domestic Violence Legal Hotline (800) 500-1119 x3
- **National Coalition Against Domestic violence**  
<http://www.ncadv.org>
- **National Network to End Domestic Violence**  
<http://www.nnedv.org>
- **CDC – Violence Prevention**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/index.html>



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## Suggested Reading

- Bancroft, L. *Why Does He Do That? Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men*. New York, New York: Berkley Publishing Group (2003).
- Kilmartin, C. & Allison, J. *Men's Violence Against Women: Theory, Research, and Activism*. New York, New York: Psychology Press (2007).
- <http://www.vawnet.org/> National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women



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## Remember...

- ✓ No person wants to live with violence
- ✓ Don't forget the stigma attached to labels
- ✓ Don't assume that a person will identify as battered



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Remember that your involvement may threaten the batterer's control of the situation and may increase the risk to the individual and **to you.**



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## For More Information:

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