

# UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF HOME VISITATION

Sarah Leeds, MPH Executive Director Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

 List at least five examples of domestic violence

 Describe at least three ways domestic violence can affect children's behavior

 Understand why screening for domestic violence is important



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CONT)

 Understand how trauma from domestic violence exposure affects brain development of infants and children

- Use a tool for screening of domestic abuse
- Describe how you can connect a client in need to a domestic violence shelter/advocacy program for assistance



### WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

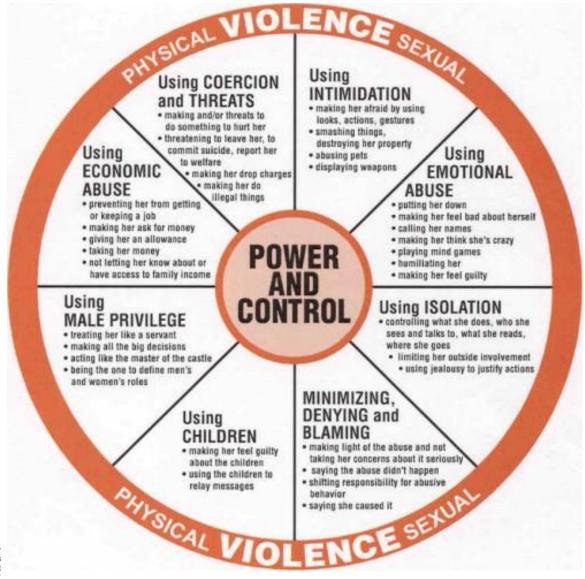
- Legal Definition vs. Public Health Definition
  - Legal Definition
    - Embedded within Idaho Code/Statutes and primarily focused on physical and sexual abuse
  - Public Health Definition
    - Broader and inclusive of emotional abuse, isolation, reproductive coercion, intimidation, etc.



### COMFORT METER

• On a scale of 1 to 10, how comfortable are you asking your clients questions about domestic violence?

### POWER & CONTROL WHEEL



### EQUALITY WHEEL





### THE NUMBERS

 1 in 4 U.S women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime

 1 in 5 U.S. teen girls report ever experiencing physical and/or sexual partner violence



#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILDREN

 Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year.

(National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2011)



### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILDREN

- 44% watched
- 83% overheard
- Over 50% threatened with physical harm
- Over 25% intentionally hurt while trying to intervene
- (Edleson, J.L., 2008)



### EFFECTS ON INFANTS & TODDLERS

- Developmental delays, loss of developmental achievements
- Easily startled
- Eating, Sleep disturbances
- Difficult to soothe
- Injury
- Attachment difficulties



### VIDEO

 First Impressions from Future Without Violence



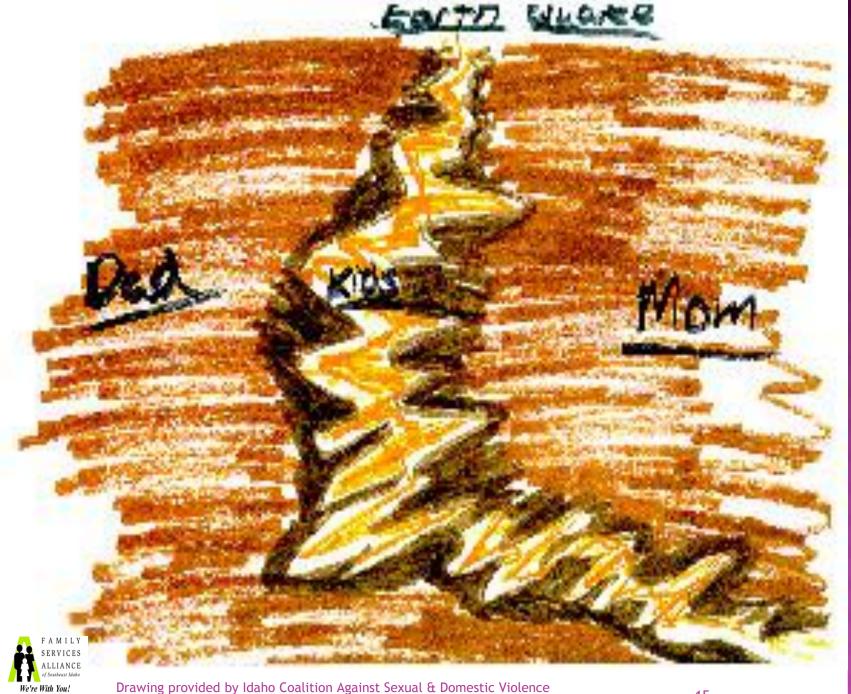
### WHY DO SOME VICTIMS STAY?

Discussion



### WHY DO SOME VICTIMS STAY?

- Faith
- Family
- Economics
- Fear
- Belief that it will get better
- Denial
- Minimization
- Belief that it's their own fault
- Etc.



# WHAT ARE YOUR BARRIERS TO ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Discussion



# LET'S TALK ABOUT HOW QUESTIONS GET ASKED?

 Tone, facial expressions, body language, words..... It all matters



### NO ONE IS HURTING YOU, RIGHT?



# YOU AREN'T BEING ABUSED, ARE YOU?



### HAVE YOU BEEN EXPERIENCING ANY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?



# ARE YOU BEING ABUSED BY YOUR PARTNER?



### ARE YOU SAFE IN YOUR HOME?



# HOW TO ASK IN A KINDER/GENTLER WAY

- Non-judgmental
- Universal screening
  - Because we know so many families experience domestic violence, we're asking this of all our clients.
  - If you don't need the information on this card, maybe you can keep it to help a friend.
- Use "scripts" that normalize the experience
  - I see this every week. You're not alone.



### CONNECTING TO SERVICES

- Find out about your local Domestic Violence program
  - Find out what services they offer (support groups, counseling, court assistance, etc.)
  - Connecting/referring a client to them
  - Give your client time to adjust to the idea of getting help
  - Always show that you're open to talk about it at a later visit



### CALL THE NATIONAL DV HOTLINE YOURSELF & VISIT YOUR LOCAL DV PROGRAM

- 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- Schedule a staff meeting/tour of your local domestic violence program that includes a discussion of how you can make referrals
- Be able to tell your clients what you experienced when you called the hotline and visited the programs.



### REVISIT THE COMFORT METER

• After today, are you more or less comfortable discussing domestic violence with your clients?



### CONTACT INFORMATION

Sarah Leeds
Executive Director
Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho
208-232-0742
SarahL@FSAlliance.org

