

BIRTHING PEOPLE , SUBSTANCE USE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Examining the Intersections & Connecting Survivors to Supports

Mae Reale

Objectives

By the end of this training, you will be able to:


Recognize substance use coercion as a tactic of abuse.

Explain the impact of intimate partner violence on the health of birthing people.

Identify the intersection of intimate partner violence, substance use coercion, and the health of birthing people.

Defining Domestic Violence

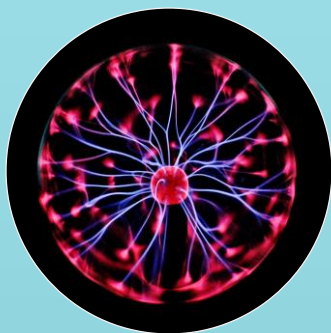
A **pattern of coercive behavior** used by one person to **gain and maintain power and control** over another in an intimate or familial relationship.



People who abuse use many different, intersecting tactics to gain power and control.

Domestic violence is deeply nuanced and every survivor's experience is unique.

A Few Key Points



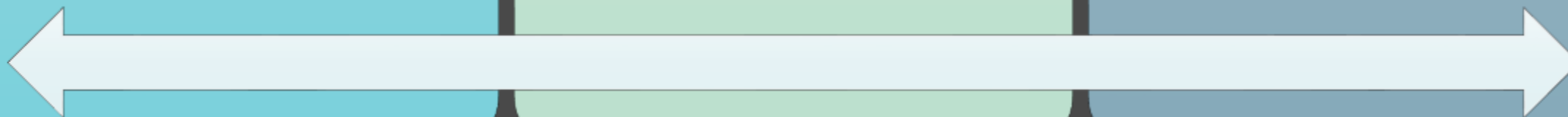
Abusers are responsible for their choices.



Ending a relationship is not always safe or desired.



Survivors are the experts of their situation.



Domestic Violence Counts: A Snapshot of One Day in PA

On just ONE completely normal day in September 2022, the 59 local domestic violence programs in PA served:

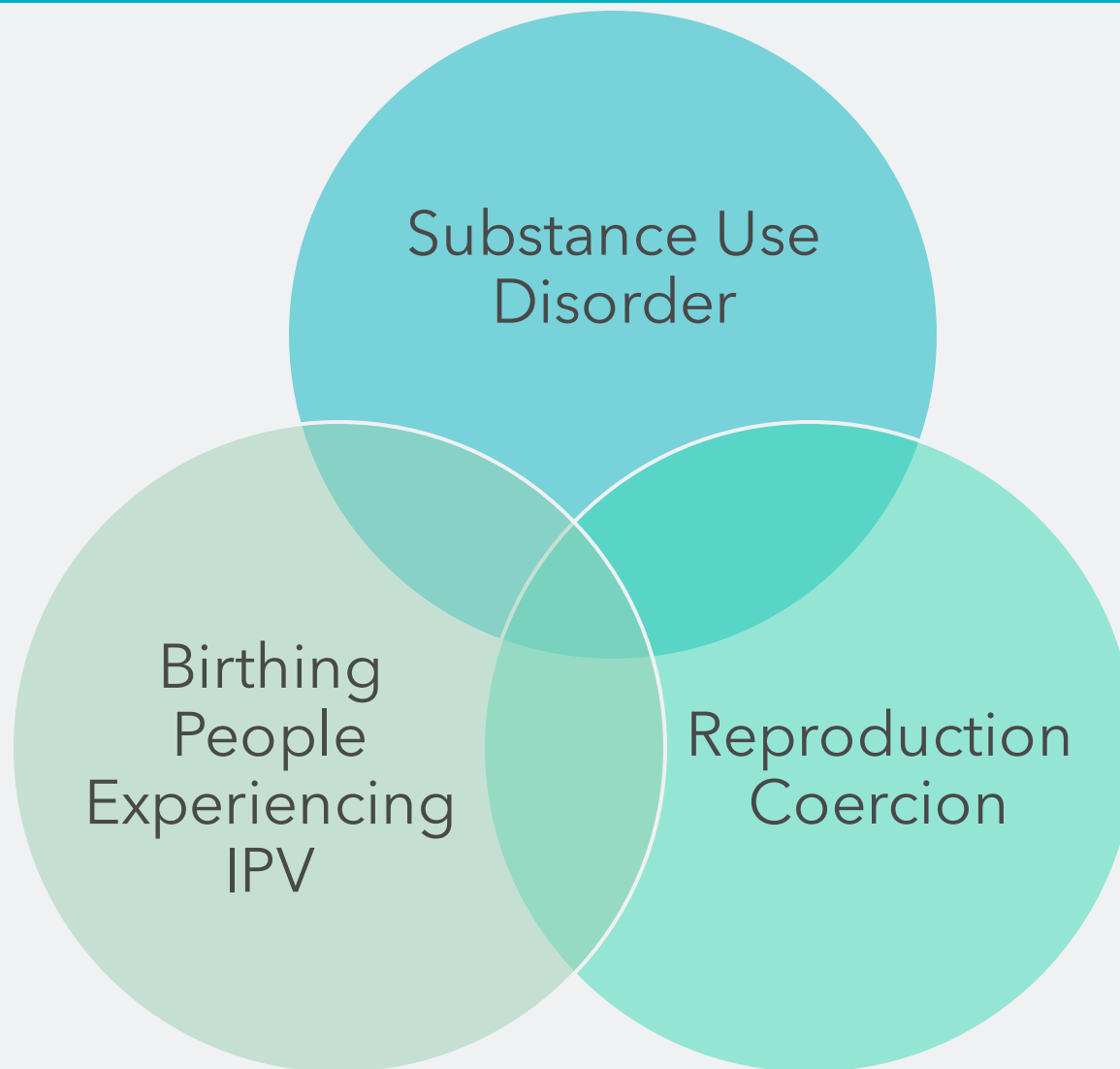
3,030:

1,576 adult and children survivors found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, hotels, motels, or other housing

1,454 non-residential adult and child supportive services including counseling, legal advocacy, and support groups.

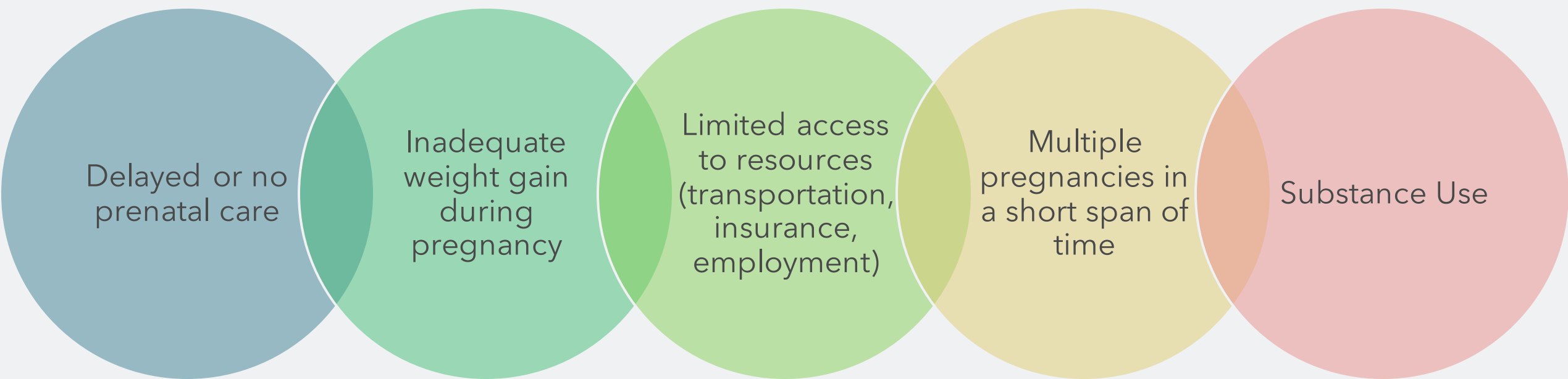
There were also 840 hotline contacts on that day.

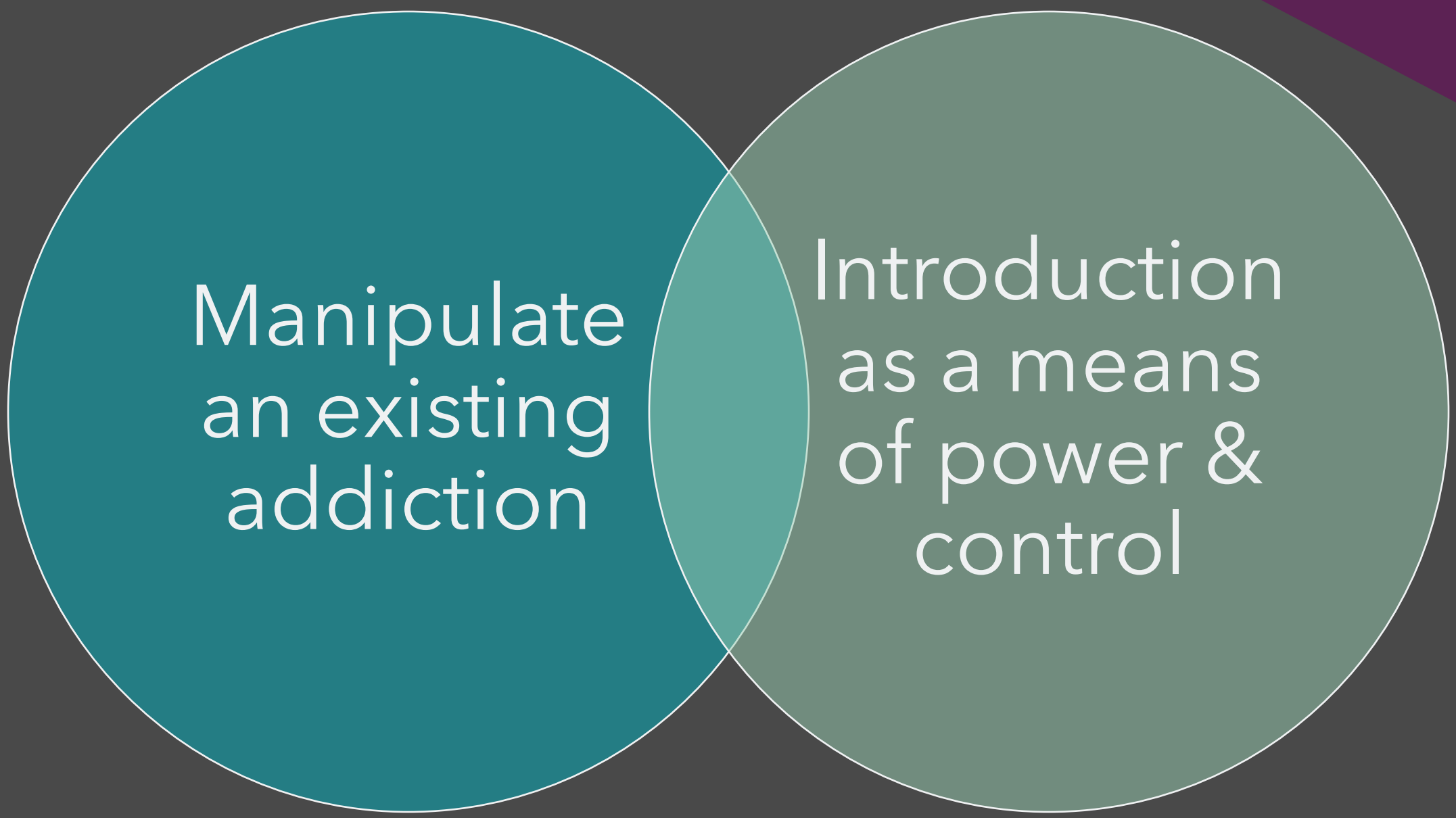
Understanding Complex Connections





People who
perpetrate
intimate violence
gain additional
coercive tactics
when someone is
or has recently
been pregnant.






Manipulate
an existing
addiction

Introduction
as a means
of power &
control

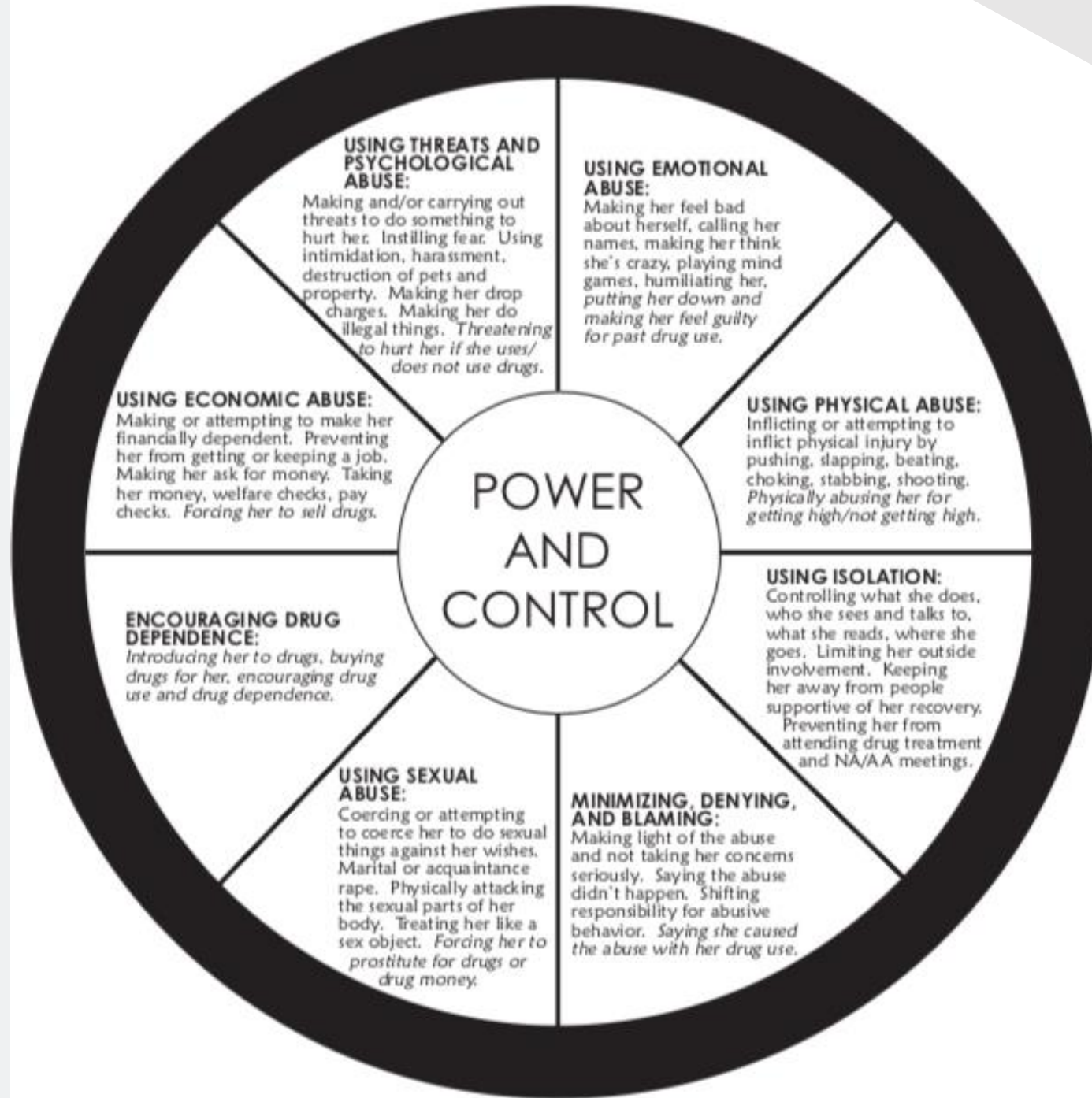
Survivors who are birthing people experience:



Increased
judgment, stigma,
and violence



Reduced Access to
Healthcare



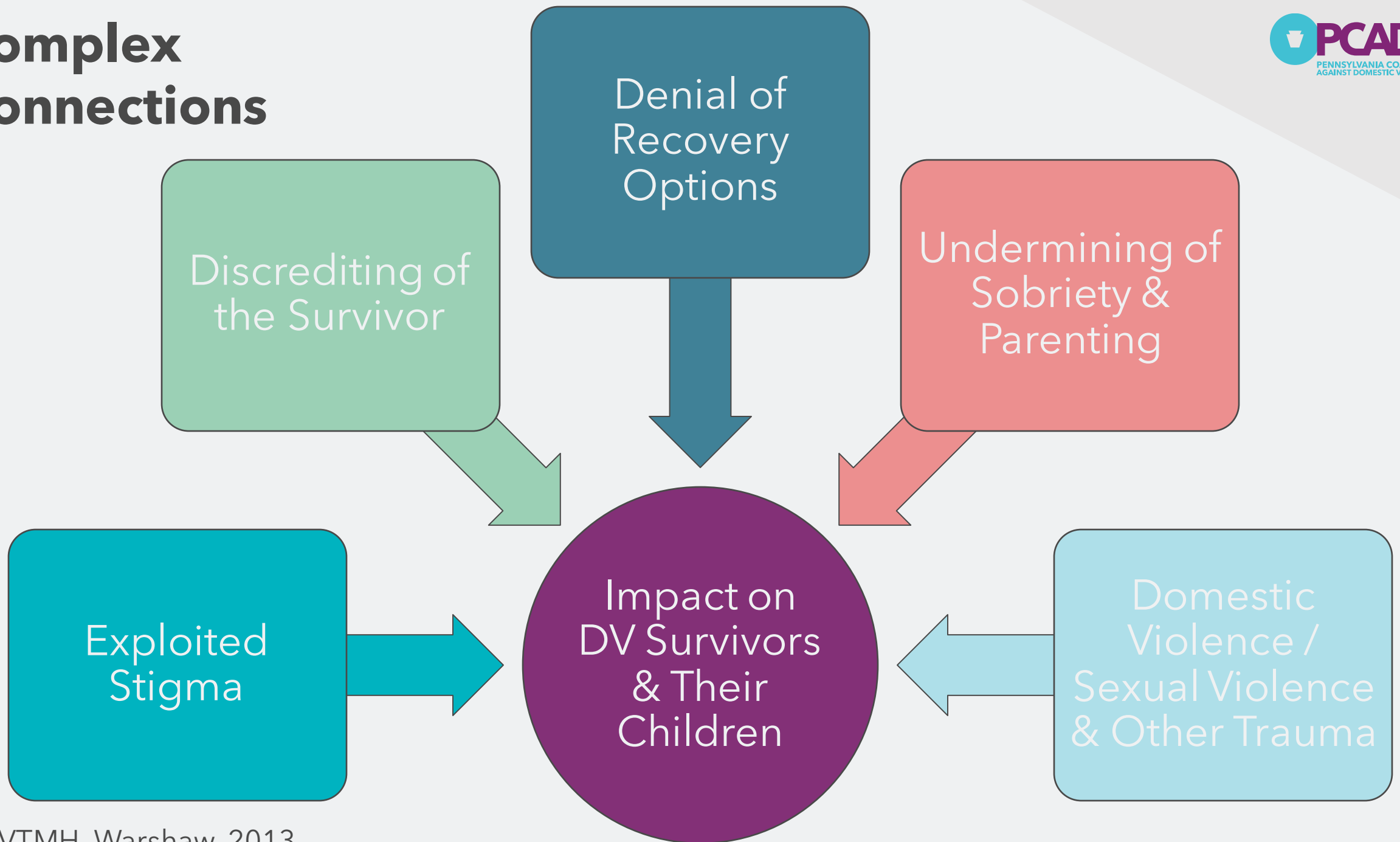
Adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs
Duluth Model Power & Control Wheel

Reproductive Coercion



Impeding, limiting, or forcing a partner's choices related to reproductive and sexual health.

Complex Connections



In Your Work . . .



BE AWARE OF BIASES



RECOGNIZE THE
POWER DIFFERENTIAL

Moving Beyond a Screening Question



Asking about Domestic Violence

Normalize the conversation.



Reach out to your DV program to talk about how to ask.



Express concerns without judgment.

Survivors are
constantly navigating
their options.



Survivor-Centered Support



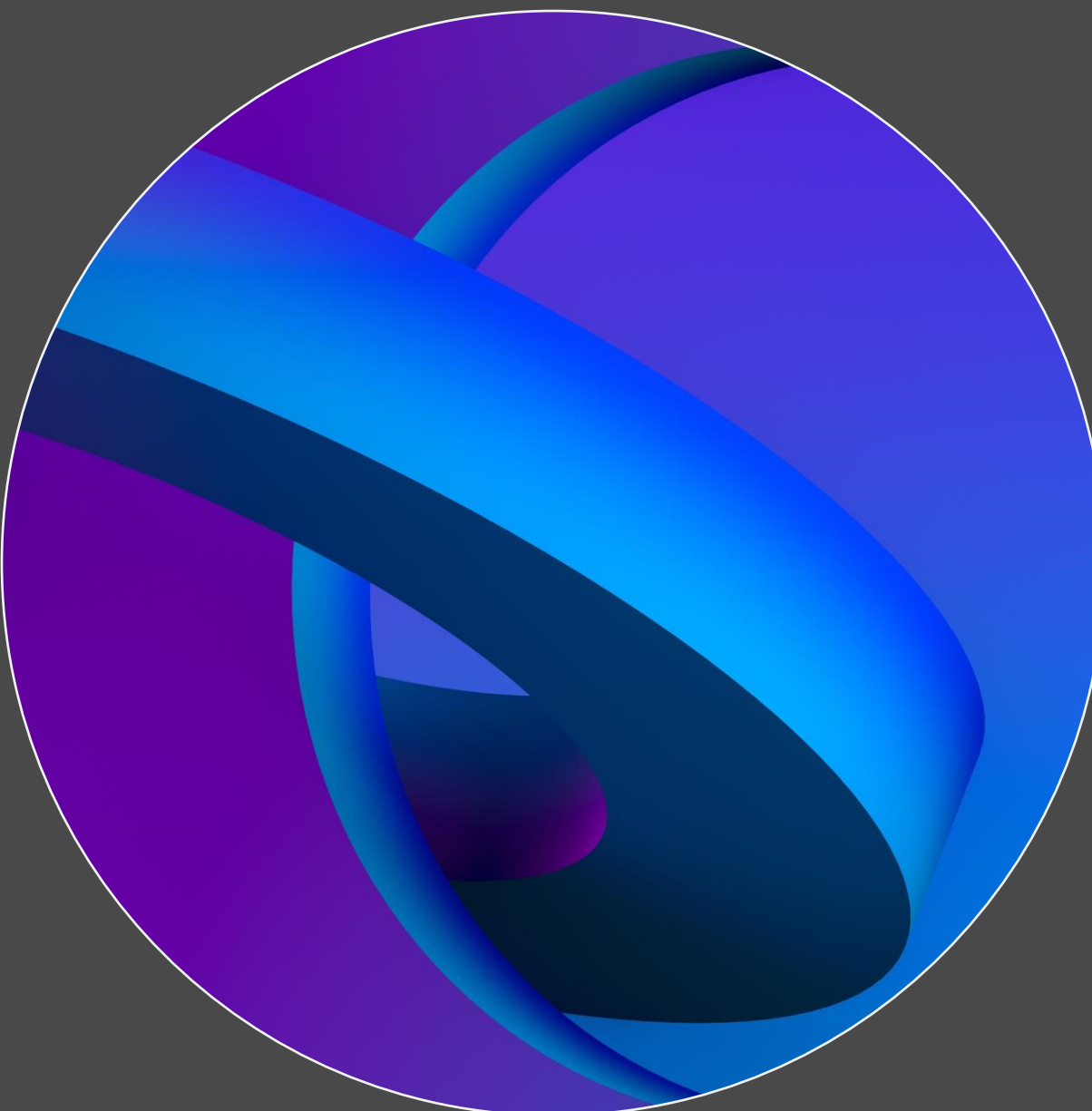
Some Helpful Questions

What do you need from me?

What do you need from [my organization]?

What are you most concerned about?

What do you need today?



Meaningful, robust
collaborative partnerships
with your local domestic
violence program is the key to
increasing safety and supports
for all of your patients.

Domestic violence programs
can help survivors to connect
with engage with healthcare
providers!

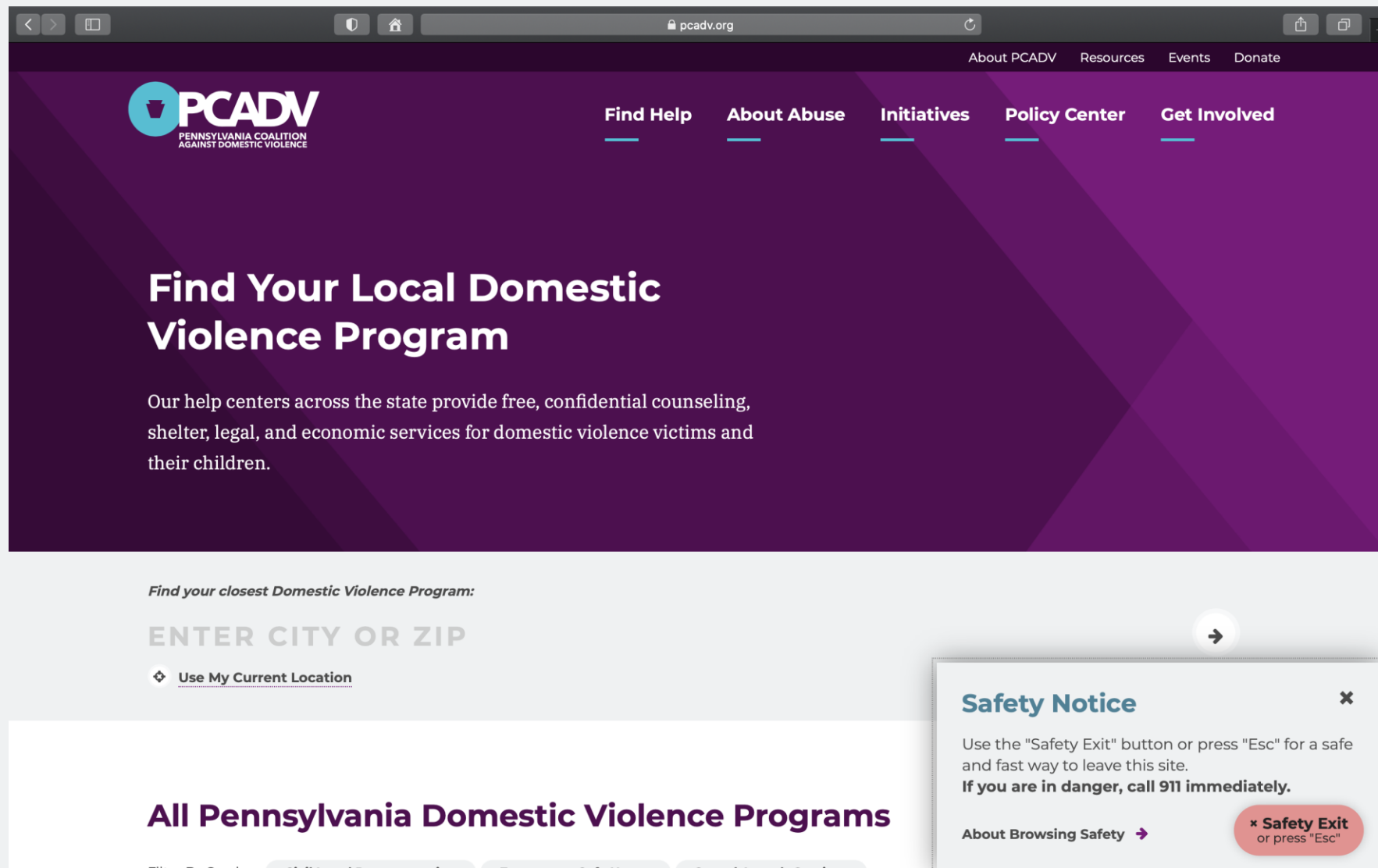


Network of programs
that provide services
in all 67 counties

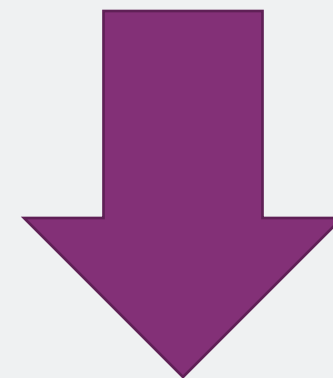
Our Services

- Free
- Voluntary
- Survivor- Centered
- Trauma-Informed
- Confidential

Find Your Local Domestic Violence Program



The screenshot shows the PCADV website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: About PCADV, Resources, Events, and Donate. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links: Find Help, About Abuse, Initiatives, Policy Center, and Get Involved. The main heading is 'Find Your Local Domestic Violence Program'. Below the heading, a paragraph states: 'Our help centers across the state provide free, confidential counseling, shelter, legal, and economic services for domestic violence victims and their children.' There is a search bar with the placeholder text 'ENTER CITY OR ZIP' and a button with a right arrow. Below the search bar, there is a link 'Use My Current Location'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'All Pennsylvania Domestic Violence Programs' with several filter buttons: 'Filter By Category', 'Shift Local Representation', 'Emergency Safe Haven', and 'Sexual Assault Centers'. A 'Safety Notice' pop-up is visible on the right side of the screenshot, containing the text: 'Use the "Safety Exit" button or press "Esc" for a safe and fast way to leave this site. If you are in danger, call 911 immediately.' and a button 'About Browning Safety'.



www.pcadv.org/find-help/find-your-local-domestic-violence-program

All PCADV Programs Provide

Counseling

Shelter &
Safe
Housing

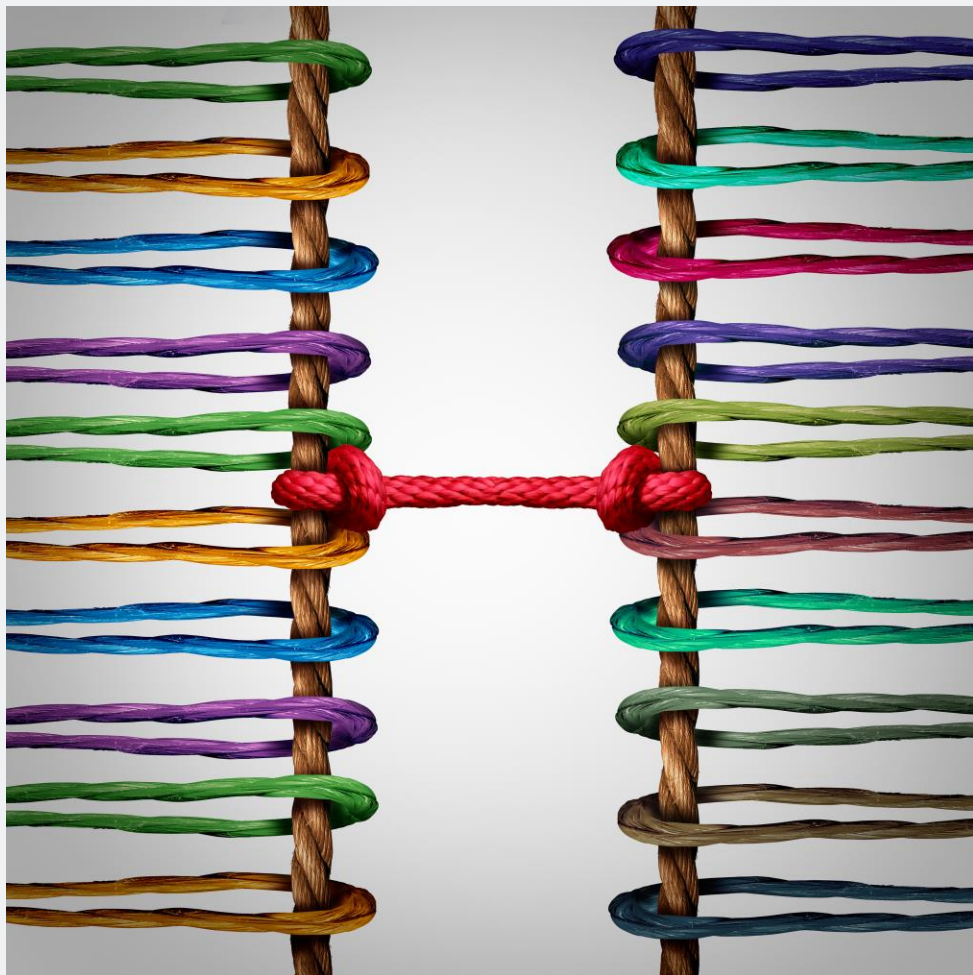
Legal
Advocacy

Medical
Advocacy

Advocates
at your
local
program

HER
TO
HELP

Suggestions for Collaborating



Cross-training about your roles and work

Schedule regular, ongoing meetings

Celebrate the successes of collaboration

Warm Referrals



Questions?

Contact Information

Mae Reale, MA

Health Education Specialist

PCADV

mreale@pcadv.org

Phone: (717)-545-6400 ext. 118