

Women's Endowment Fund

Biennial Forum 2025

Empowering Our Community: Understanding & Addressing Domestic Violence

About the Women's Endowment Fund

Established in 1993 as a permanent endowment of the Akron Community Foundation, the Women's Endowment Fund (WEF) was created with the goal to uplift, empower, and educate women and girls throughout Akron and all of Summit County. Today, the fund has grown to nearly \$5.7 million and has awarded nearly \$2.5 million in grants since inception. The fund supports programs in three key areas:

- Economic Empowerment
- Health & Wellness
- Safety from Violence

Forum Purpose & Theme

Held biennially, the Forum fosters dialogue on issues impacting women and girls, guiding WEF's grantmaking priorities. The 2025 Forum focused on safety from violence, with the theme: Empowering Our Community: Understanding & Addressing Domestic Violence.

Domestic violence affects all demographics and often remains hidden. The Forum aimed to raise awareness, dismantle stereotypes, and promote collaboration among community stakeholders.

Keynote Speakers & Discussion Leaders

We were honored to welcome two distinguished leaders from the Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center as the Forum's keynote speakers: Teresa M. Stafford-Wright, Chief Executive Officer, has over 25 years of strategic leadership in survivor advocacy, and Ashley Kline, Chief Program Officer, leads trauma-informed service delivery across Summit and Medina Counties. Together, Teresa and Ashley represent the transformative mission of Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center—an organization that has offered a full continuum of care for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking for over 50 years.

We also had the privilege of hearing from Melissa, a survivor of domestic violence who has made significant contributions by speaking out and educating others. Her impactful efforts have resonated deeply within the community.

Additionally, we were fortunate to have several subject matter experts in attendance. These experts not only facilitated table discussions, but also showcased the collaborative efforts taking place across the community:

- Maggie Beiting – Account Executive at Aon
- Dr. Angela Brake – Director of Operations at Limitless Ambition
- Becky Cool – Interim CEO at Victim Assistance Program
- Linda Diefendorff – President of Brio Performance Solutions
- Jackie Hemsworth – Executive Director for ACCESS Shelter
- Karla McDay – Founder and Executive Director of Harmony House
- Jan ‘Juanita’ Maynor – Child and Family Therapist
- Freeland Oliverio – Summit County Domestic Violence Prosecutor
- Kathy Ress – Retired Mental Health Therapist
- Marta Roueiheb – Career Development Manager at The Well CDC
- Dr. Jennifer Savitsky – Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cleveland Clinic Akron General
- Cristina González Alcalá, Ph.D. – Director of Community Investment at Akron Community Foundation
- Veronica Rena Suber – Chief School Administrator at Emmanuel Christian Academy
- Aimee Wade – Executive Director for the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADM) Board
- Abigail Schock – Summit Legal Defenders Office

Forum Insights & Discussions

The forum was attended by nearly 100 individuals from across the community. The attendees collectively identified several pervasive stereotypes associated with survivors of domestic violence, or more specifically Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Some of the stereotypes are listed below, including:

- Survivors are inherently weak and incapable of standing up for themselves
- Survivors belong to specific racial or socioeconomic groups
- Survivors lack alternative options

It was noted that survivors may not always recognize themselves as victims, particularly in the absence of physical abuse. Consequently, those they confide in may perceive the survivors' accounts as fabricated or exaggerated. The discussions highlighted that survivors often remain in abusive relationships due to various factors, including:

- Threats to their financial stability
- The burden of emotional abuse
- Feelings of embarrassment
- Concerns for their pets
- Fear of the criminal justice system
- Adherence to religious convictions.

Table discussion participants also noted common stereotypes such as “IPV only happens in low-income communities,” and “IPV only happens to women.” Domestic violence does occur in affluent communities but may be swept under the rug because people feel those survivors have the

resources to leave or change their situations. Domestic violence also happens to men, but unfortunately, they are unlikely to come forward because of stereotypes.

The forum underscored the importance of addressing these stereotypes and providing comprehensive support to survivors. By fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding domestic violence, the community can work towards creating a more supportive and empathetic environment for those affected.

As presented by Teresa and Ashley, IPV is often misunderstood due to persistent myths that obscure its true nature and impact. One prevalent misconception is that abuse is limited to physical harm; however, IPV frequently manifests as emotional, financial, sexual, or psychological abuse. The belief that leaving an abusive relationship is straightforward fails to recognize the significant barriers survivors face, including:

- Financial dependence
- Fear for personal safety
- Concern for children
- Cultural or religious pressures.

Another damaging myth is that IPV is a private family matter, which perpetuates silence and stigma, allowing abuse to continue unchecked. Stereotypes regarding who can be a victim—such as the notion that only women are affected or that abuse does not occur in certain communities—ignore the reality that IPV transcends all demographics, impacting individuals of every age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status. The forum addressed these misconceptions directly, emphasizing that anyone can be a victim and that collective community action is essential to break the cycle of silence and stigma.

The consequences of IPV are profound and far-reaching, affecting individuals, families, and communities. Nationally, IPV is responsible for an estimated 1,200 women's deaths annually in the United States, with young women and marginalized populations at highest risk. Homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant and postpartum women in IPV cases. Firearms play a significant role, with over two-thirds of IPV homicides involving a gun, and the rate of firearm-involved IPV homicides has increased markedly in recent years. The economic burden is substantial, with IPV costing the U.S. economy billions of dollars each year through healthcare expenses, legal costs, mental health services, and lost productivity. Survivors lose nearly eight million days of paid work annually, equivalent to 32,000 full-time jobs. In Ohio alone, approximately 188,000 survivors are victimized each year. These statistics highlight the urgent need for comprehensive prevention, intervention, and support strategies, and underscore the importance of prioritizing safety from violence in the Women's Endowment Fund's grantmaking efforts.

Forum attendees discussed the challenges they have encountered or anticipate encountering when someone discloses abuse. This dialogue illuminated the fear that individuals may not know how to appropriately react or respond. In fact, certain responses, such as shaming the individual,

protecting the abuser, or even suggesting couples therapy, might discourage a survivor from seeking help. It is noteworthy that, on average, it takes an individual seven attempts to leave an abusive relationship. Therefore, maintaining a supportive relationship with the survivor is imperative to ensuring they remain open to further communication.

Attendees also deliberated the difficulties in recognizing that certain behaviors exhibited by an abusive partner are, in fact, red flags. These behaviors may include the abusive partner constantly checking in with the individual directly, monitoring their location or whereabouts, and demanding full and swift commitment to the relationship. More subtle forms of control or manipulation, which are not easily discernable, may also be present.

Teresa and Ashley noted that abusive behaviors are often disguised as care or devotion, making them difficult to identify. Warning signs may include:

- Constant communication that serves as monitoring
- Isolation from friends and family presented as devotion
- Rapid escalation of intimacy or 'love bombing'
- Financial control masked as responsibility
- Possessiveness or surveillance framed as protectiveness

Additional indicators may include jealousy, swift escalation of commitment, and controlling behaviors related to finances or daily decisions. Cultural norms, family dynamics, and community values can further obscure these signs, complicating recognition for survivors and their support networks. The forum encouraged participants to look beyond surface behaviors and to recognize the underlying patterns of power and control that characterize IPV, fostering early intervention and effective support.

The forum participants continued to discuss that providing support to survivors of IPV requires empathy, confidentiality, and a trauma-informed approach. When an individual discloses abuse, it is crucial to listen without judgment, validate their feelings, and respect their privacy. Responses that inadvertently question the survivor's choices or minimize their experience can discourage help-seeking. Effective support involves connecting survivors to expert resources such as the Hope & Healing Survivor Resource Center and the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Safety planning should be tailored to a survivor's unique circumstances and conducted with trained advocates, addressing risks related to escape routes, children, technology, and legal protections. The forum offered practical guidance on supportive communication, emphasizing affirming language such as 'I believe you,' 'You don't deserve this,' and 'It's not your fault,' while discouraging harmful responses like 'Why don't you just leave?' or 'Are you sure?' Consistent empathy and belief in survivors can be transformative, and ongoing support remains vital, even if a survivor returns to an abusive relationship multiple times.

It became evident that addressing IPV at its roots requires systemic change and coordinated community action. Community action encompasses advocacy for policy reform, investment in

prevention and victim services, and the transformation of cultural norms to challenge victim-blaming attitudes. The forum's facilitators advocated for collaboration among law enforcement, healthcare providers, educational institutions, and faith leaders, and stressed the importance of including survivor voices in policy and service development.

The forum concluded with a reflection on the insights shared by experts and survivors, and a collective commitment to fostering a safer and more supportive community for women and girls. The Women's Endowment Fund will utilize feedback from the event to guide its 2025–26 grantmaking strategy, ensuring that investments align with the needs of survivors. Attendees were encouraged to take action by donating to support trauma-informed services, advocacy, shelter, and empowerment initiatives.

Heartfelt gratitude was extended to the Forum Committee, sponsors, and all participants for their contributions to advancing a stronger and more empowered community. Finally, each attendee was left with two powerful questions for self-reflection:

- What can our community do to better support survivors?
- How can you personally help create a culture of support and safety?

Hope & Healing 2024 Impact

In 2024, bolstered in part by support from the Women's Endowment Fund, Hope & Healing made a significant impact across Summit and Medina Counties, reaching a total of 35,303 individuals through direct services and educational outreach.

- The organization provided advocacy and supportive services to over 3,100 clients, while trauma therapy was delivered to 484 individuals. Shelter services supported 540 clients, and housing programs assisted 334 clients. Altogether, 4,460 unduplicated clients received direct services during the year.
- Hospital accompaniment services were a critical component of crisis support. There were 229 visits related to sexual assault and 254 visits for intimate partner violence. The CARE Center provided 197 visits, contributing to a total of 680 hospital accompaniment visits, a 5% increase from the previous year. Hotline services saw a dramatic rise, with 1,530 calls related to sexual assault and 5,327 calls for domestic violence, totaling 6,857 calls—a 76% increase compared to 2023.
- Shelter services supported 474 clients in Summit County and 66 in Medina County, totaling 540 clients, a slight decrease from the previous year. However, the number of shelter nights increased by 13%, reaching 35,771 nights, and the average length of stay rose to 68 days. Housing programs continued to grow, with 222 clients served through Steps to Independence, 91 through Safeway Home, and 21 through Opportunity Home.

- Educational outreach reached 30,843 participants, reflecting the organization's strong commitment to prevention and awareness. Additionally, volunteers contributed an impressive 10,080.81 hours of service throughout the year.

WEF Grantmaking Impact

The Women's Endowment Fund supports programs that deliver legal advocacy, shelter, crisis intervention, and holistic services for survivors. The Circle of Empowerment, a dedicated group of donors, sustains these initiatives and enhances the fund's capacity for impactful grantmaking. All community members are invited to participate in building an environment where every woman and girl feels safe, valued, and empowered.

In the latest cycle, WEF awarded 30 grants totaling \$191,000, including five grants totaling \$43,000 to promote safety from violence:

- \$10,000 – Community Legal Aid (legal services for survivors)
- \$10,000 – Hope & Healing (crisis intervention for sexual violence)
- \$10,000 – Hope & Healing Shelter (protective shelter for women and children)
- \$5,000 – RAHAB Ministries (support for sex trafficking survivors)
- \$8,000 – Victim Assistance Program (advocacy for women and girls in crisis)

The forum and its impact are made possible through the generous contributions of sponsors, donors, and Circle of Empowerment members. These sponsors include prominent corporations, foundations, and community partners. All individuals and organizations are encouraged to support the fund's mission.

To stay informed about giving campaigns and to learn how your donations support women and girls in the community, follow the Women's Endowment Fund on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

To contribute, visit akroncf.org/give/WEF or mail donations to:
345 W. Cedar St., Akron, OH 44307

For more information, call 330-376-8522 or visit womensendowmentfund.org.

Resources & Additional Materials

Presentation Entitled "Recognizing and Responding to Intimate Partner Violence: A Community Responsibility", Teresa Stafford-Wright and Ashley Kline

Forum Table Discussion Notes

Hope & Healing Survivor Resource Center 2024 Program Report

Champions of Hope Brochure

Recognizing and Responding to Intimate Partner Violence: A Community Responsibility

Teresa Stafford-Wright, Chief Executive Officer
Ashley Kline, LPCC-S, Chief Program Officer



Who We Are

Mission:

At Hope & Healing Survivor Resource Center, we are committed to the prevention of violence through action and empowerment, and providing trauma-informed services to survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking in Medina and Summit Counties.

Vision:

The eradication of domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking, to foster safer and more compassionate communities.



Comprehensive domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking services in Summit & Medina Counties serving **30,000+ individuals annually** through direct support and education

Our Services



24/7 Hotline: 330-374-1111



Emergency Shelters



24/7 Hospital Accompaniment



Victim Advocacy Services



Court Advocacy



Therapy & Support Groups



Case Management



Housing Assistance



Prevention Education



ANNIVERSARY
50 hope & healing



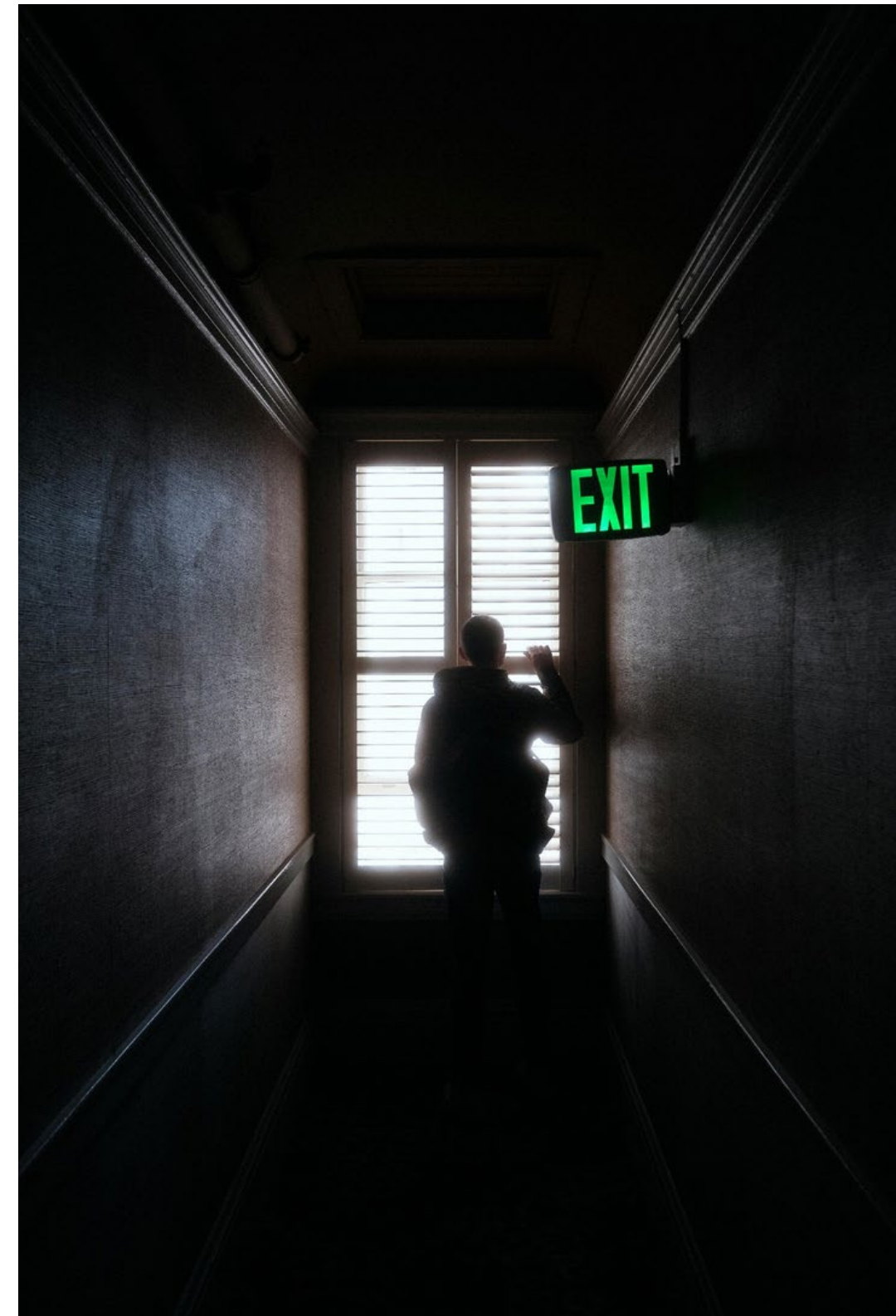
What Survivors Are Told — and Why It's Harmful

Discussion Questions

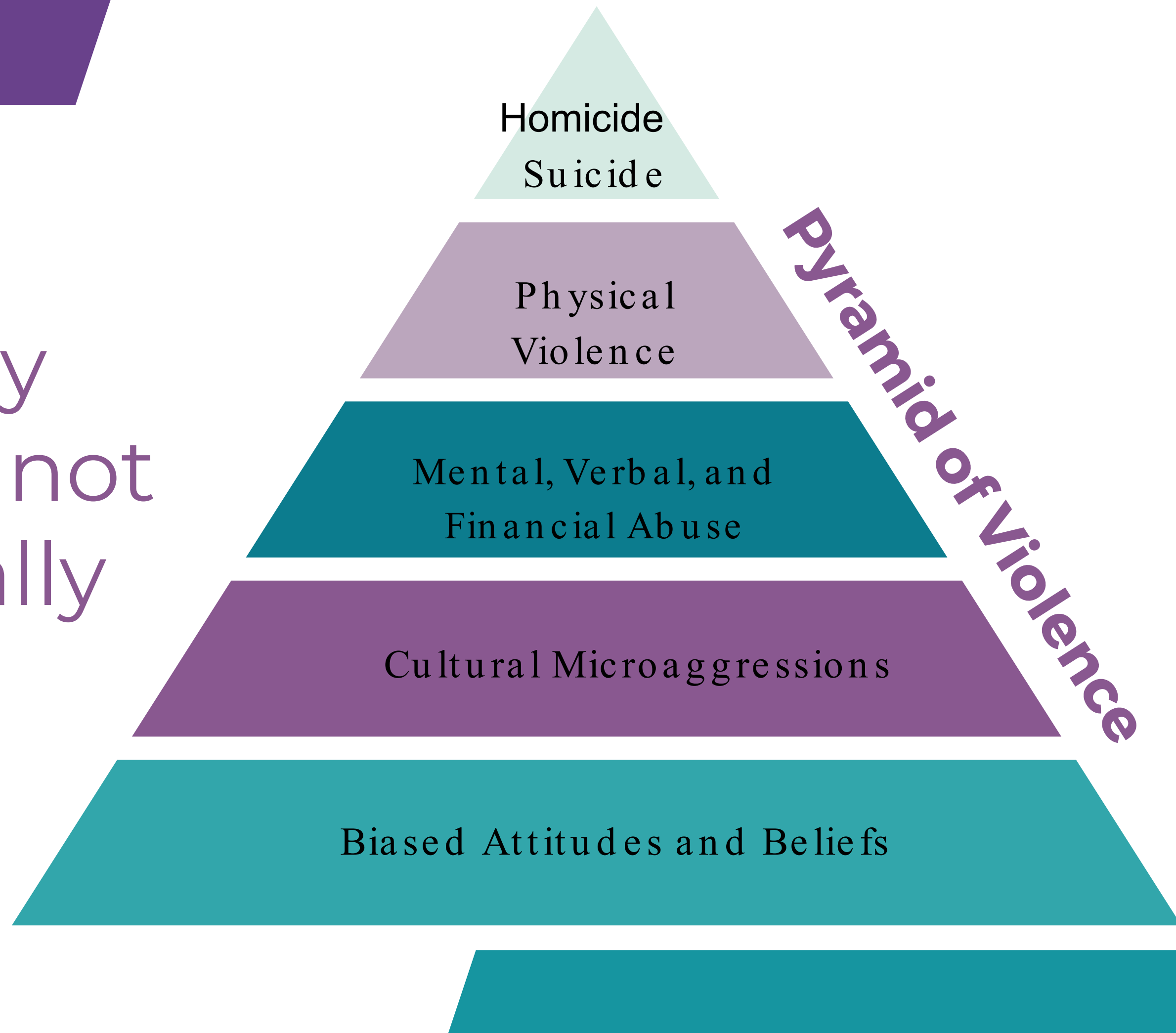
1. What are some common stereotypes about domestic violence survivors, and how do these stereotypes impact how we respond to those experiencing abuse?"
2. Why do you think people in abusive relationships may stay, even when the abuse is severe?
3. What subtle forms of control or manipulation might be harder to recognize as abuse?



“If it was really that bad,
you would just leave.”



“It’s not really
abuse if you’re not
being physically
hurt.”



“Children aren’t affected if they don’t see it.”



“ He wouldn’t act that way if
he wasn’t under so much
pressure.”

“It’s just the alcohol talking,
not him.”





“You should try couples counseling.”

“Come on, a man
can’t be abused by
a woman.”

1 IN 7 MEN

**WILL EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
IN THEIR LIFETIME**



“You shouldn’t talk about this. It’s a private family matter.”



**The Reality:
Intimate Partner
Violence is a Public
Health Crisis**



Intimate Partner Violence

is a Public Health Crisis

- IPV causes an estimated 1,200 women's deaths annually in the U.S.
- For women aged 18–24, IPV is one of the top causes of serious injury and death.
- Among pregnant and postpartum women in the U.S., homicide is the leading cause of death
 - In over half of these cases, the perpetrator is an intimate partner.
- Over two-thirds of IPV homicides involve a firearm.
- An average of 70+ women are shot and killed by an intimate partner each month.
- Firearm-involved IPV homicides have increased by 36% from 2014 to 2023.

(CDC; NIJ, CDC NISVS)

Intimate Partner Violence is a Public Health Crisis

- Survivors from communities that have been marginalized face disproportionately high risk
 - For Black women between the ages of 15 and 45, femicide - most often at the hands of an intimate partner - is the leading cause of death (CDC).
 - IPV related Homicide is a **leading cause of death** for Native women ages 10–24.
- Transgender people are at extreme risk: **54% of transgender people experience IPV**, and homicide rates are disproportionately high, particularly for **Black trans women**.

(CDC; NIJ, CDC NISVS)

Discussion Questions

1. When someone discloses abuse, what emotions might you experience, and how could those feelings impact your response?
2. What are some unintentional things people say or do that could discourage a survivor from seeking help?
3. If someone you care about keeps returning to an abusive relationship, how can you maintain your support without feeling frustrated or helpless?



Understanding the Truth About Intimate Partner Violence

Defining Intimate Partner Violence

Pattern of abusive behaviors used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over the other partner in an intimate relationship.

Prevalence: Intimate Partner Violence

On average, **nearly 20 people per minute** experience physical violence, stalking, or sexual assault by an intimate partner in the United States, which adds up to more than 10 million individuals a year

1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner contact sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking

- Teen Dating Violence: About 1 in 10 high school students report experiencing physical violence in a dating relationship.
- Elder Abuse: Older Adults are also impacted by IPV, with a growing concern for IPV among the elderly population.

Over 15 million children experience some form of exposure to intimate partner violence in their homes each year

(thehotline.org; Center for Violence Prevention)

Economic Impact of IPV

National Impact

- IPV costs the U.S. economy an estimated **\$8.3 billion annually** (CDC).
- Includes healthcare, legal costs, mental health services, and lost productivity.
- Survivors lose nearly **8 million days of paid work each year** — the equivalent of **32,000 full-time jobs**.

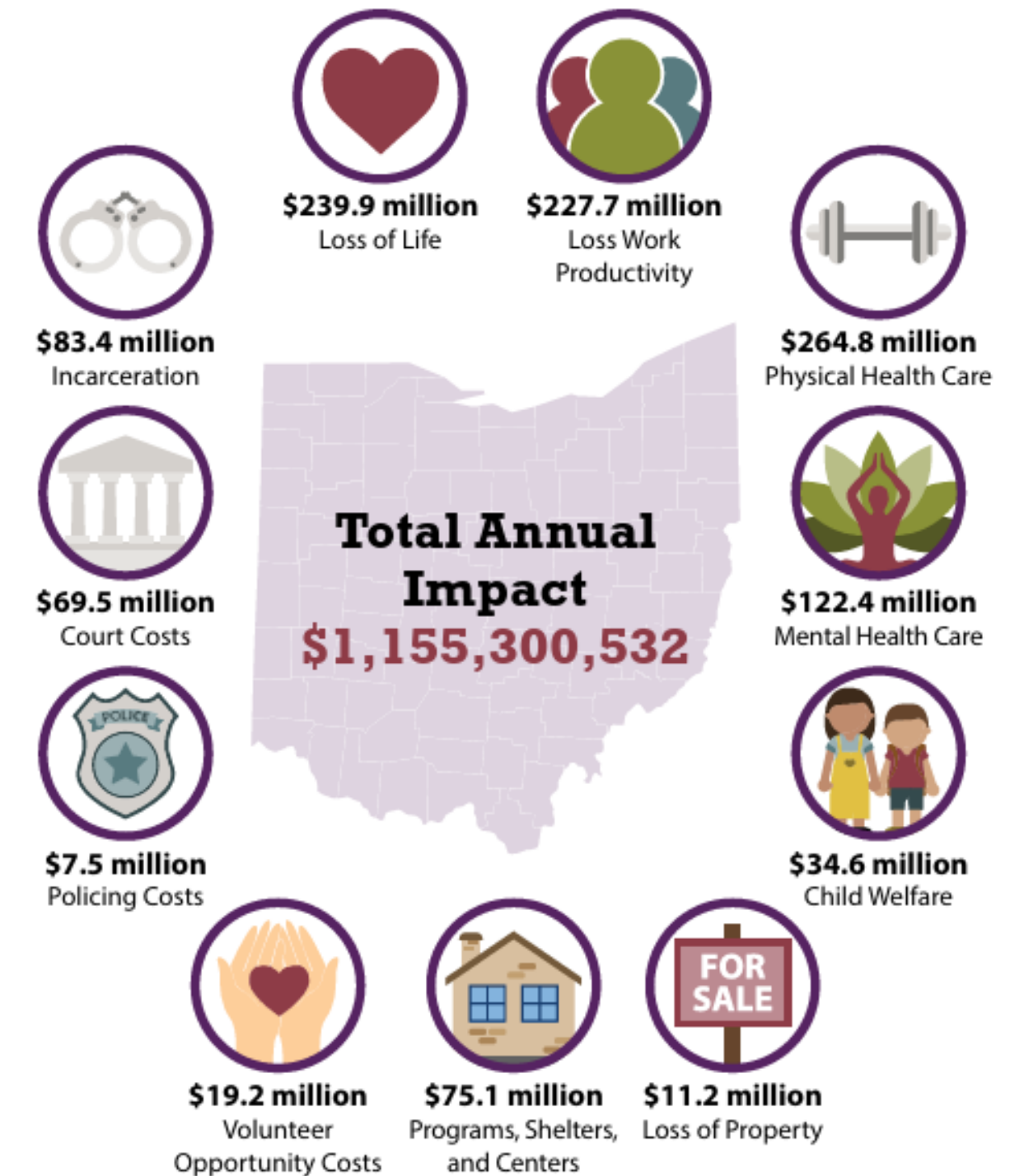
Workplace Impact

- **21–60% of survivors** lose their jobs due to reasons related to abuse (stalking at work, missed shifts, health impacts).
- Businesses face increased turnover, absenteeism, and reduced productivity.
- Employers also bear indirect costs: higher healthcare claims, safety/security expenses, and decreased morale.

Generational Impact

- Children exposed to IPV face higher risks of health and educational challenges, which perpetuate long-term economic instability.

The Many Economic Factors Of Intimate Partner Violence in Ohio



(thehotline.org; Center for Violence Prevention, ODVN)

Discussion Questions

1. What behaviors displayed by an abusive partner might initially seem 'normal' on the surface but could actually be warning signs of abuse?
2. How might cultural norms, family dynamics, or community values make recognizing IPV more difficult?
3. What are some ways an abuser may manipulate others to hide their abusive behavior?



Abusers Don't Fit One Profile

- Any gender, race, religion, or age
- From any income level — wealthy, middle class, or struggling
- Highly educated or not formally educated
- In positions of power and respect (community leaders, professionals, faith leaders, celebrities)
- People who may be *charming, generous, or well* -liked in public
- Abuse happens in all types of relationships
 - heterosexual, same-sex, dating, married, cohabiting

When Red Flags Look Like Green Flags

Constant Communication

- ✓ Seems like: attentiveness, excitement to connect.
- ✗ Actually: monitoring, testing availability, inability to have boundaries.

Wanting to Spend All Their Time Together

- ✓ Seems like: devotion, deep connection.
- ✗ Actually: isolation from friends/family, cutting off support systems.

Quick Intensity / “Love Bombing”

- ✓ Seems like: passion, soulmate energy, commitment.
- ✗ Actually: manipulation, fast-tracking intimacy to gain control before trust is fully built.

Jealousy Framed as Care

- ✓ Seems like: “They must really love me, they don’t want to lose me.”
- ✗ Actually: possessiveness, entitlement, and a warning sign of escalation.

Taking Charge of Finances / Decisions

- ✓ Seems like: responsibility, stability, generosity.
- ✗ Actually: financial control, removing autonomy, dependency.

When Red Flags Look Like Green Flags

Taking Charge of Finances / Decisions

- ✓ Seems like: responsibility, stability, generosity.
- ✗ Actually: financial control, removing autonomy, dependency.

“Protectiveness”

- ✓ Seems like: safety, chivalry, being cared for.
- ✗ Actually: restricting freedom, deciding where you can go or who you can see under the guise of “protection.”

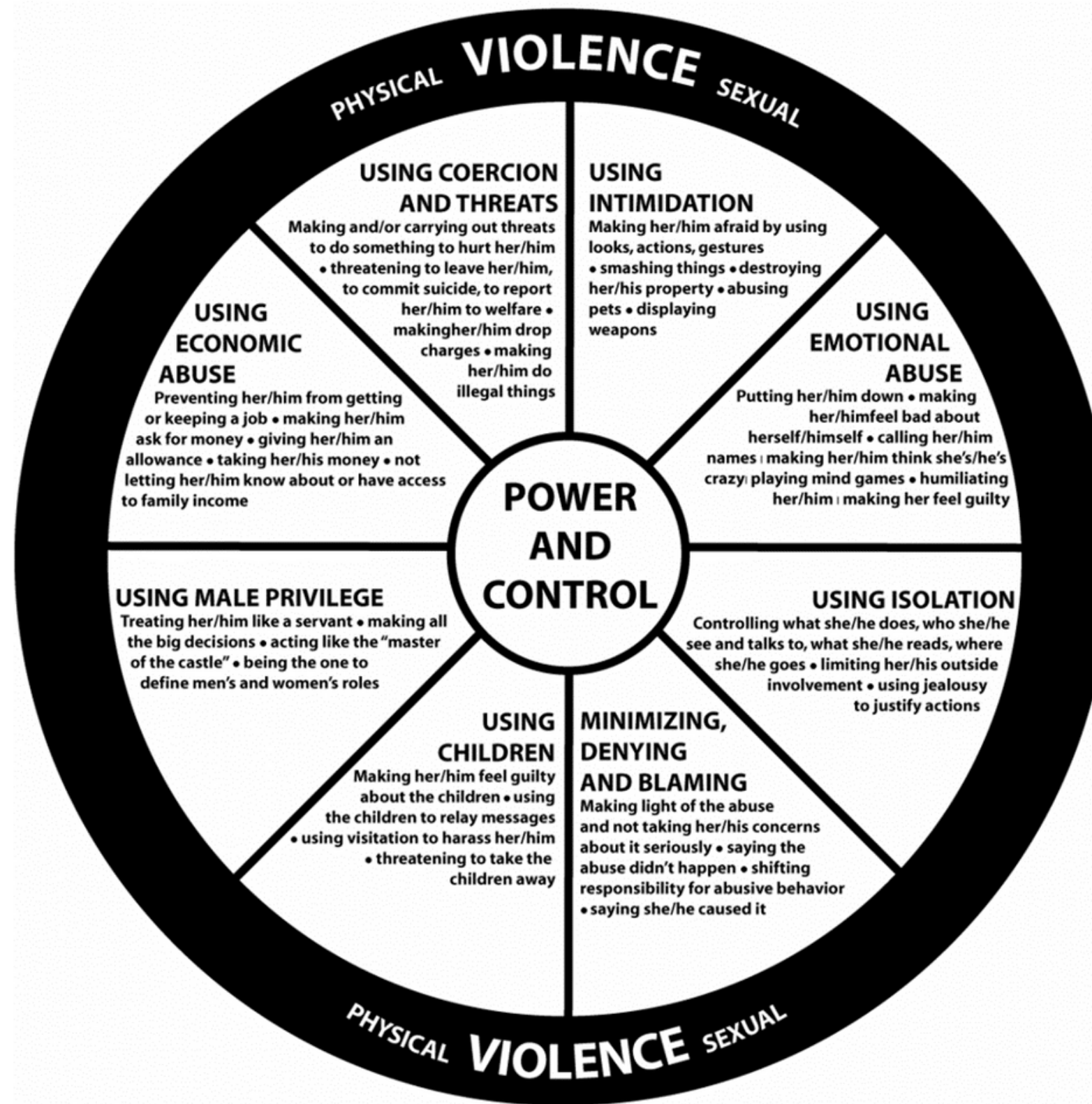
Pushing for Commitment Quickly

- ✓ Seems like: seriousness, loyalty, eagerness to build a future.
- ✗ Actually: rushing the relationship so there’s less time to notice red flags.

Checking In Constantly About Where You Are

- ✓ Seems like: care and concern for safety.
- ✗ Actually: surveillance, control over movements, lack of trust.

The Power and Control Wheel: Tactics of Abuse



- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Verbal Abuse
- Psychological Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Digital Abuse
- Reproductive Abuse

Trauma -Coerced Attachment

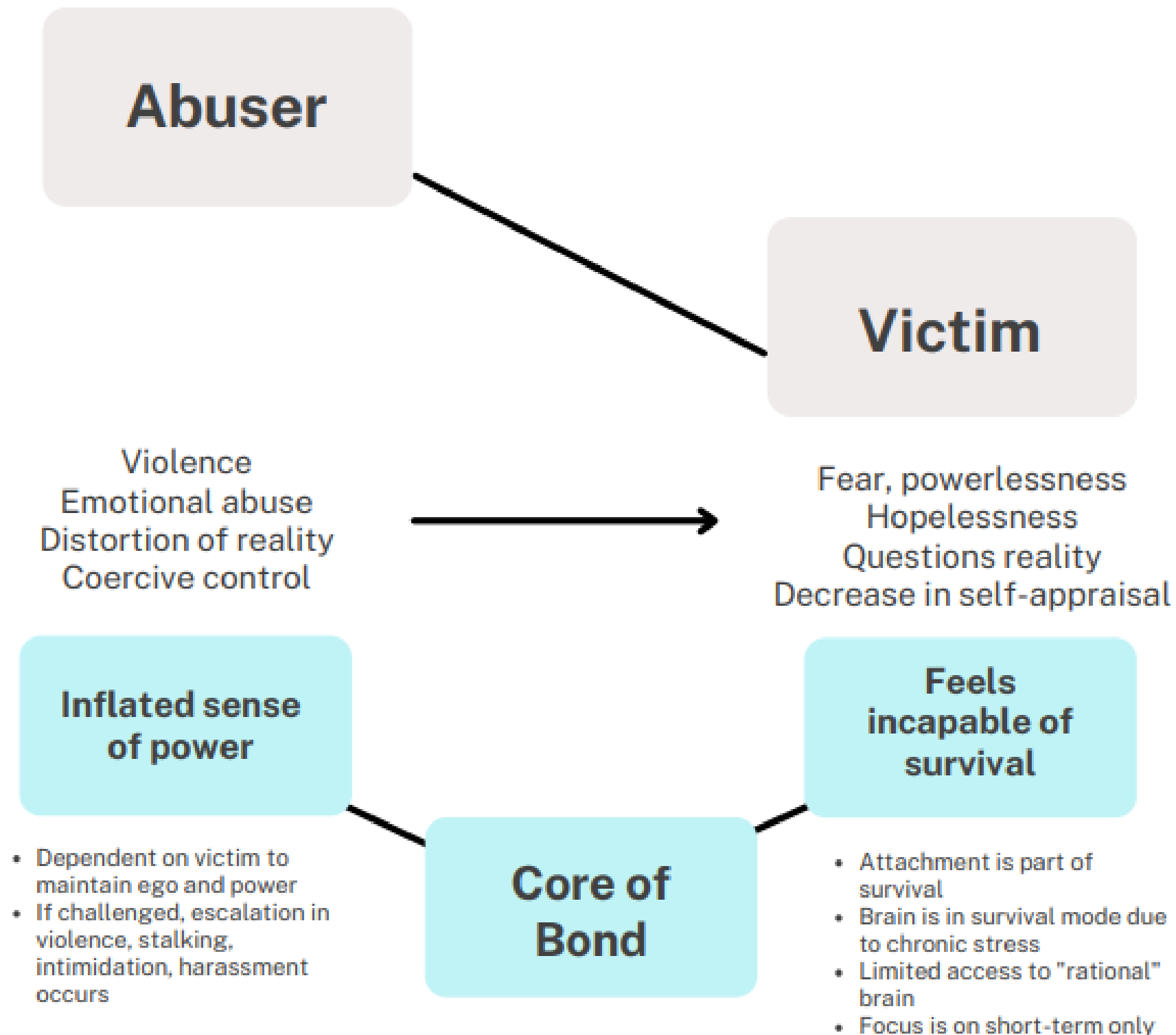
- The strong, emotional attachment to a person that occurs in the **presence of danger, shame, and exploitation**:
 - 1.1. Imbalance of power
 - 2.2. Cycle of intermittent good-bad treatment
- The trafficker is responsible for creating and maintaining this dynamic as a means of **power and control**
- Difference between “she is trauma bonded” (responsibility on survivor) vs. “the abuser uses coercive control to enforce a traumatic attachment”



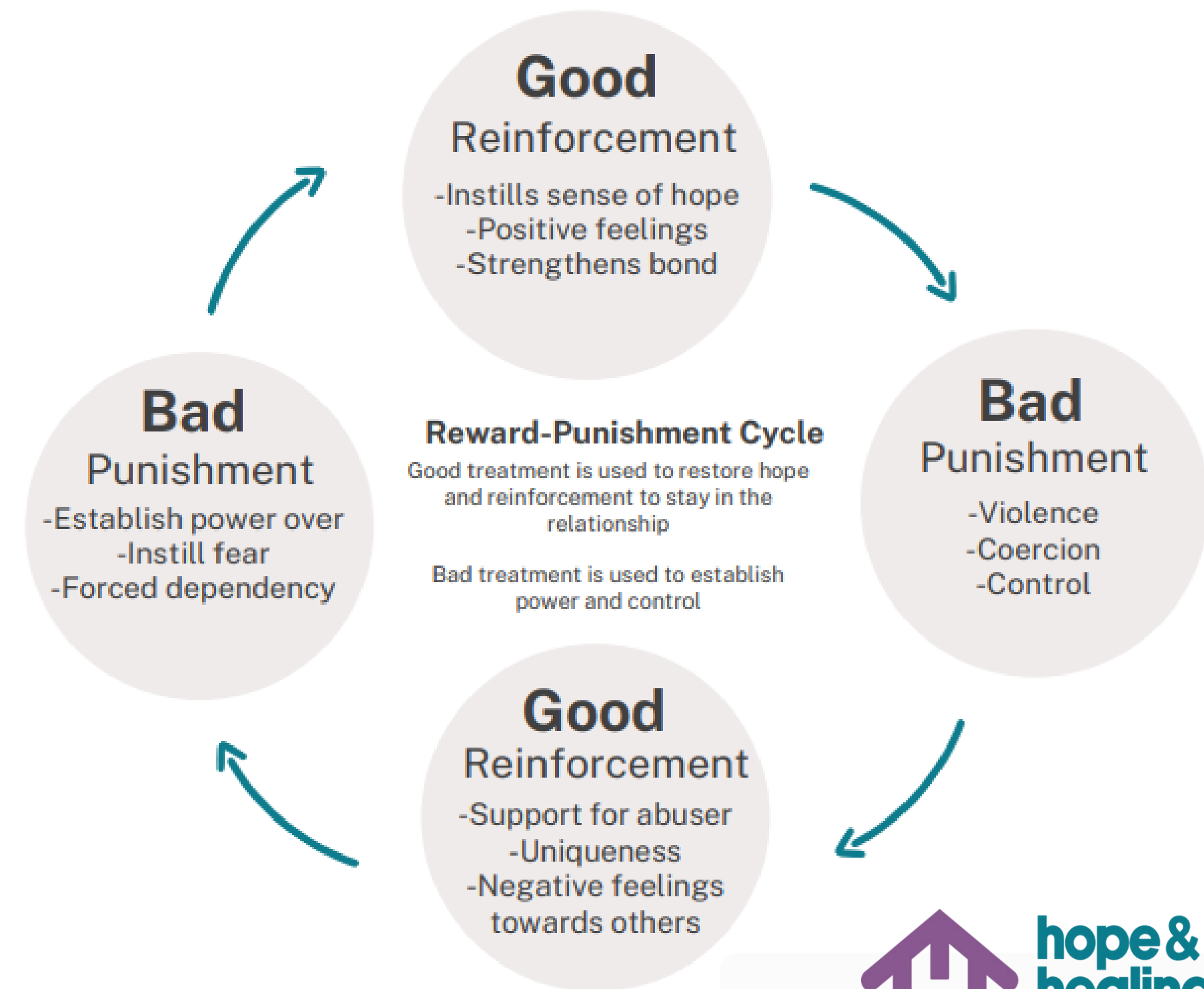
Trauma-Coerced Attachment

The strong, emotional attachment to a person that occurs in the presence of danger, shame, and exploitation.

Power Imbalance



Intermittent Cycle of Good-Bad Treatment





The infographic features a central title 'Traumatic Impacts of Intimate Partner Violence' surrounded by ten circular nodes. The nodes are arranged in a ring, with colors alternating between shades of purple, teal, and light blue. The central text is in a bold, purple font.

Traumatic Impacts of Intimate Partner Violence

PTSD Symptoms:
Flashbacks,
nightmares,
hypervigilance and
severe anxiety.

Emotional
Numbing &
Dissociation

Mood
Dysregulation:
Intense mood
swings, irritability,
or chronic
depression.

Guilt and Shame

Identity
Fragmentation

Conflict with
Value

Conflicting
Beliefs

Denial and
Minimization

Trauma-Coerced
Attachment

Fear and
Dependency

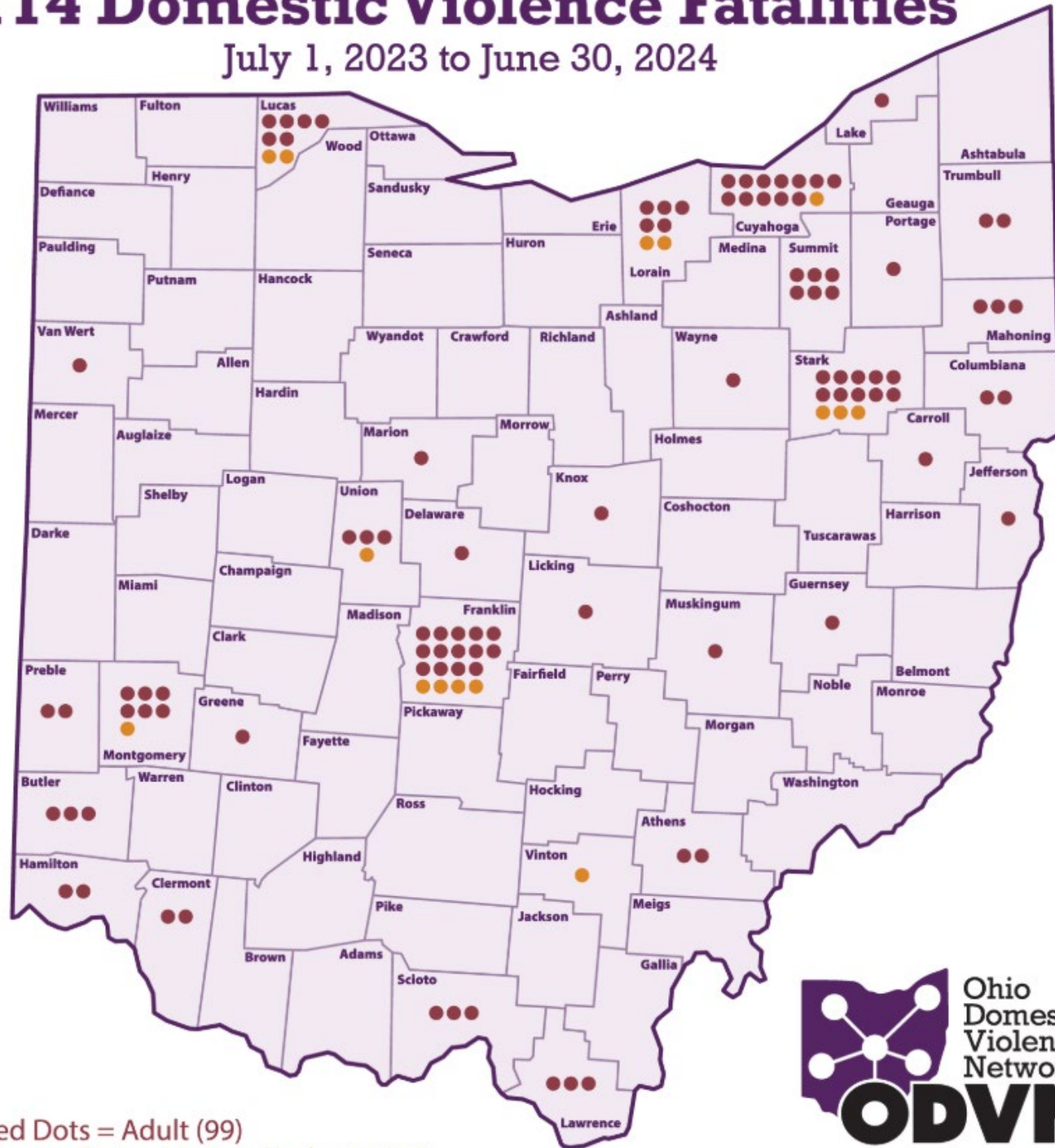
Avoidant
Behavior

When Abuse Becomes Deadly: Recognizing Lethality in Domestic Violence

Recognizing Lethality Factors

114 Domestic Violence Fatalities

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024



● Red Dots = Adult (99)
● Orange Dots = Victims Under 20 (15)



79 deceased victims

- The youngest victim was 4 months old; the oldest was 85 years old
- 5 pregnant women
- 6 teens killed by a boyfriend
 - 5 of the killers were also teens. The youngest killer was 14
- 33 children were present at the scene witnessing a parent/caregiver's murder
- 25% of victims died from strangulation or traumatic brain injury
- 72% of cases had prior contact with criminal or civil justice system
- In at least 22% of the cases, the victim was ending the relationship
- High risk incidents for law enforcement officers



Recognizing Lethality Factors

Access to Firearms



5x more likely to be killed when guns are present

Strangulation



7x more likely to be killed

Escalation in Severity and Frequency



Abuser is losing control and may be on a path toward lethal violence

Extreme and Obsessive Possessiveness



"If I can't have you, no one will."

Recognizing Lethality Factors

Stalking and Surveillance



In 76% of IPV homicides, stalking occurred prior to the fatal incident

Sexual Violence



7.6x more likely to be killed when sexual violence is present

Threats to Kill Children, Survivor, Pets, or Self



15x more likely to be killed

When Survivors Say: *"I think I will be killed."*



A survivor's fear is a validated risk factor for homicide

Summit County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee

Call to Action: Working Together to Support Survivors and End Domestic Violence



Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center 2024 Data



Provided safety to **540 adults and children** with **32,123 nights** of emergency shelter in Summit County



Answered **6,857** crisis hotline calls



680 Hospital Visits

- 254 visits for domestic violence
- 229 visits for sexual violence
- 197 visits for child survivors of sexual abuse

From Awareness to Action



Establish Safety

- Listen without judgment
- Respect confidentiality
 - don't share without consent (unless mandated).
- Validate feelings
 - Acknowledge fear, confusion, or mixed emotions.
- Offer support, not solutions
 - let them lead

What to Say and Not to Say

Supportive Language (Say This):

- “I believe you.”
- “You don’t deserve this.”
- “It’s not your fault.”
- “I’m here to support you.”

Harmful Responses (Don’t Say):

- “Why don’t you just leave?”
- “Are you sure? Maybe it wasn’t that bad.”
- “You need to...” (giving orders).
- “I would never let that happen to me.”

Safety Planning: First Steps

Your role: recognize the need and connect them to expert help.

Advocates Provide:

- 24/7 hotlines
- Legal, housing, medical, and counseling support
- Tailored safety planning based on survivor's unique risks

What You Can Do:

- Believe them.
- Offer empathy.
- Connect to Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center Hotline: **330-374-1111**
- National DV Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or Text "START" to 88788
- Ask: "Would you like me to connect you to someone who can help you with next steps?"



Strategies for Effective Support for Service Providers

Trauma Responsive Care: Implementing a trauma-informed approach that acknowledges the depth of trauma experienced by survivors.

Culturally Responsive Services: Providing culturally responsive services that respect and incorporate the survivor's background and identity while also recognizing the intersections of identity with victimization

Holistic Support Systems: Developing comprehensive support systems that include legal aid, mental health services, peer support, and economic empowerment programs.

Education and Training: Ongoing education on the unique dynamics of domestic violence.

Comprehensive Assessments: Using thorough and trauma-informed assessment tools to identify domestic violence indicators

Mechanisms for Survivor Feedback and Inclusion: Implement consistent feedback channels for survivors; incorporate survivor feedback into service development; engage survivors on advisory boards and offer employment opportunities.

Suggestions for Law Enforcement

Specialized Training: For officers to recognize and appropriately respond to domestic violence, including lethality assessments.

Survivor -Centered Approaches: Adopting and effectively implementing victim-centered approaches in investigations and interactions with survivors.

Collaboration with Service Providers: Working closely with service providers to ensure comprehensive support for bottoms.

Strategies for Systemic Change

Address Disparities

Advocate for Policy Change

Invest in Prevention and Victim Services

Shift Community Norms

Engage Systems Leaders to Ensure Effective Coordinated Responses

Engage Survivors in Policy and Service Implementation

Believe and Support Survivors

Community Partners

Not an exhaustive list

- Victim Assistance Program
- Asia Inc
- Summit County Prosecutor's Office
- Domestic Violence Intervention Court
- Early Intervention Program
- Community Legal Aid
- PATH Center at Cleveland Clinic Akron General
- Harmony House
- City of Akron Prosecutor's Office
- Local law enforcement
- Summit County COC
- Unite Us, Summit County Executive Shapiro's Office

How You Can Help

Share Resources: Make sure survivors know where to turn.

📞 24/7 Hotline: 330-374-1111

🌐 www.hopeandhealingresources.org

Join us for a Night of Hope & Healing Gala

Friday, October 10th at House Three Thirty

Donate: Your gift saves lives - each donation ensures survivors have access to shelter, advocacy, and prevention when they need it most.

Volunteer: Give time to support survivors, prevention education, or community outreach.

Advocate: Use your voice to contact lawmakers and community leaders to ensure continued funding for victim services and to strengthen resources and policies that protect survivors.



**Ways to Give
to Support
Survivors!**



Please Join The Maynard Family Foundation and
Rea Foundation in Support of Survivors

*a Night of Hope &
Healing Gala*

10.10.2025 | 6:00 PM
House Three Thirty



Champions of Hope



Comprehensive Training

We provide specialized workshops and training sessions to help employees and leadership recognize the signs of interpersonal violence and learn how to respond with compassion and confidentiality.



Supportive Policies

Our experts work with corporate partners to implement clear policies that protect employees experiencing interpersonal violence, including job protection, flexible leave options, and access to critical resources.



Workplace Awareness

Through educational campaigns, including posters, newsletters, and awareness events, we ensure that employees are informed about the impact of interpersonal violence and know how to access help.



Resource Access

Corporate partners will have direct access to the Hope & Healing hotline, counseling services, and ongoing support to help their employees navigate through difficult times.



Connect with Us!



Subscribe to Our Newsletter

Stay up-to-date on the latest from Hope & Healing and how we are working to end domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking

Find Us on Social Media



Presenter Contact Information

Teresa Stafford-Wright | teresas@hope-healing.org
Ashley Kline | ashleyk@hope-healing.org

Discussion Questions

1. What can our community do to better support survivors?
2. How can you personally help create a culture of support and safety?





Champions of Hope

Partnering for Progress, Empowering Survivors



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Resource Access

Corporate partners will have direct access to the Hope & Healing hotline, counseling services, and ongoing support to help their employees navigate through difficult times.

At **Hope & Healing Survivor Resource Center**, we believe that creating a safer, more supportive workplace starts with education, awareness, and action. The **Champions of Hope** program is designed to equip organizations and corporate partners; with the knowledge and resources they need to address domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking (interpersonal violence) in the workplace and foster a culture of safety and support for survivors.

Why Participate?

Empower Your Workforce

Foster a Culture of Compassion

Make a Real Impact

1 in 5 Workers experienced the impacts of domestic violence at work

More than 1/3 of workers said sexual harassment experiences contributed to them leaving their jobs

8 million days of paid work are lost every year by survivors of domestic violence

 **330-374-0740**

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