

# Family Violence Virtual Roundtable

Strengthening the Safety Net for Survivors through Collaboration

## Family Violence and Accessing and Applying for Public Benefits and Work Supports: Challenges and Solutions



# GOALS

1. Provide satellite overview of domestic violence in the US

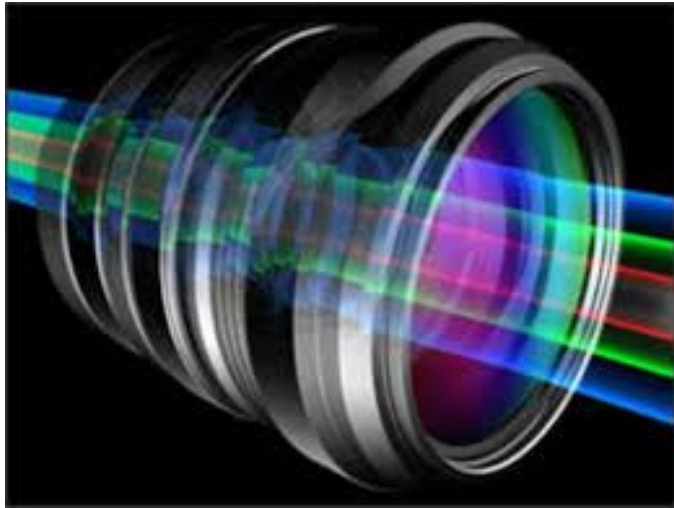


2. Discuss key goals, challenges, & solutions



# AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Definitions, Dynamics and Prevalence of DV
3. Connections between economics and DV
4. Public benefits: Risks and Opportunities for Survivors
5. What are considerations for systems / workforce of these programs?
6. Conclude by returning to scenario



## WELLNESS LENS

What, in your role, do you and your team or agency need?

- Build resiliency skills and resilient organizations
- Paradigm shift from what is wrong to where we want to go

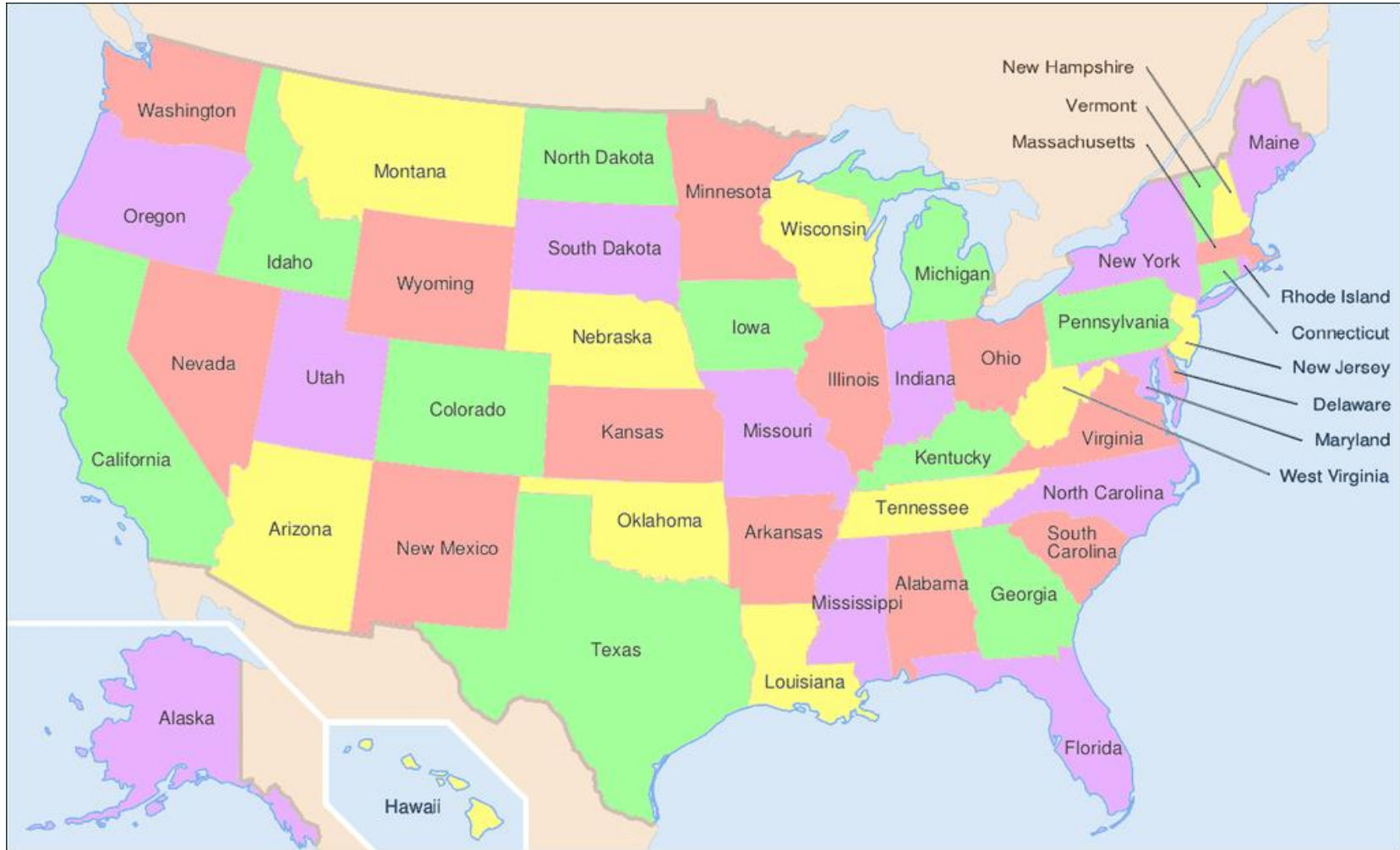


# DEFINING SUCCESS

“Success is measured by our work to reduce isolation and to improve options for safety.”

Futures Without Violence

# WHERE ARE YOU?



# WHAT'S YOUR WORK?

*Click all that apply*

- Child Support
- TANF
- SNAP
- Unemployment Compensation
- Workforce / training programs associated with TANF and SNAP
- Survivor advocate program
- Other – type in chat box

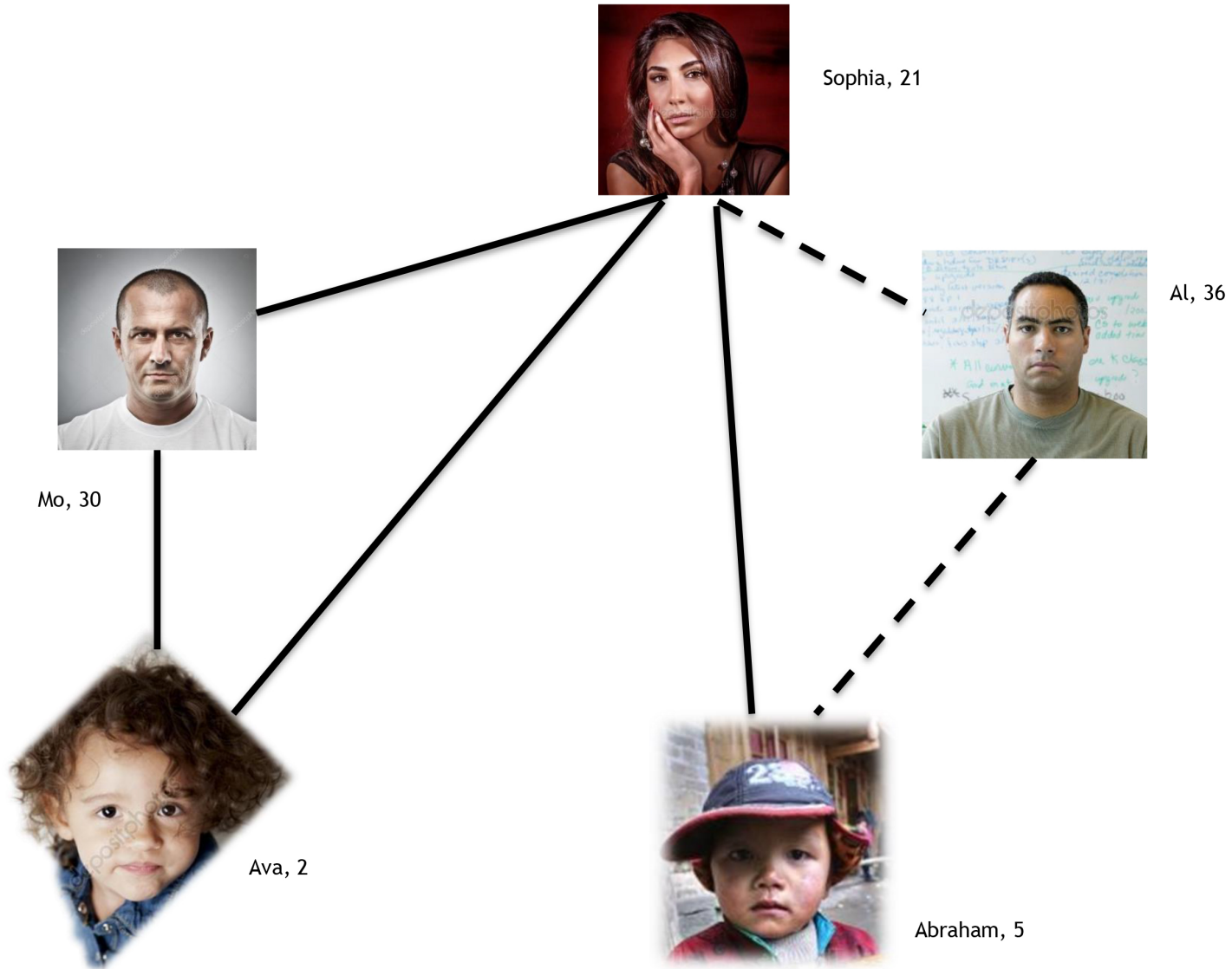
# WHAT DO YOU WANT?



*Click all that apply*

- increase comfort and efficacy working directly with survivors
- system changes to better serve survivors (e.g. trauma informed, train more staff, safety protocols)
- enhanced ability to make administrative decisions (e.g., determining good cause, develop relationships with stakeholders such as DV programs / Indian Country /public benefits programs)
- Other –type in chat box

# SCENARIO



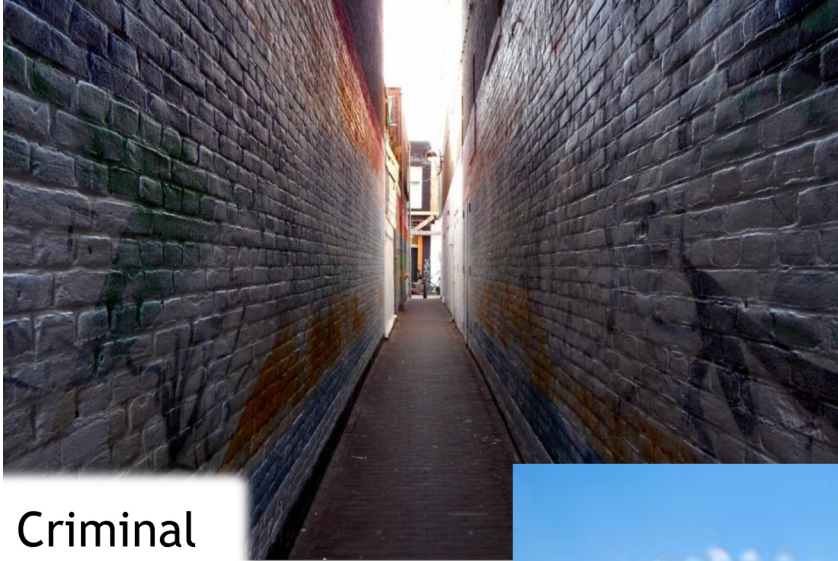


# ***What is Domestic Violence?***

# DEFINITIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEFINITIONS



Criminal



Public health, social services,  
advocacy

# INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

**“...is a serious, yet preventable  
public health problem...”**

Centers for Disease Control

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Pattern of coercive behaviors designed to gain power and control over an intimate partner.

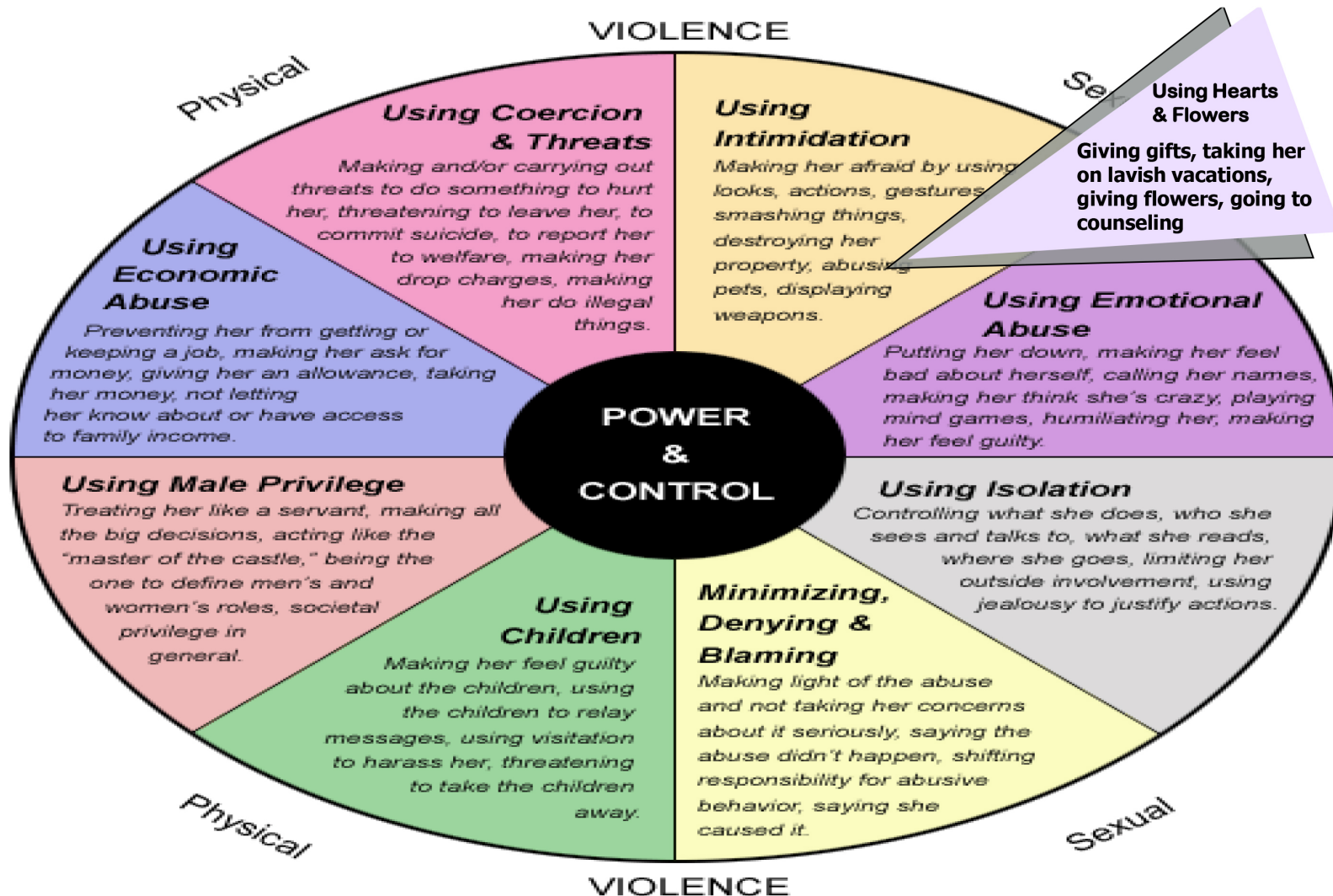


# COERCIVE CONTROL

- A strategic course of conduct in which violence, sexual coercion, intimidation, isolation and control are used to dominate and exploit a partner and deprive her of basic rights and resources.

(Stark, 2016)

# PERPETRATOR POWER AND CONTROL TACTICS

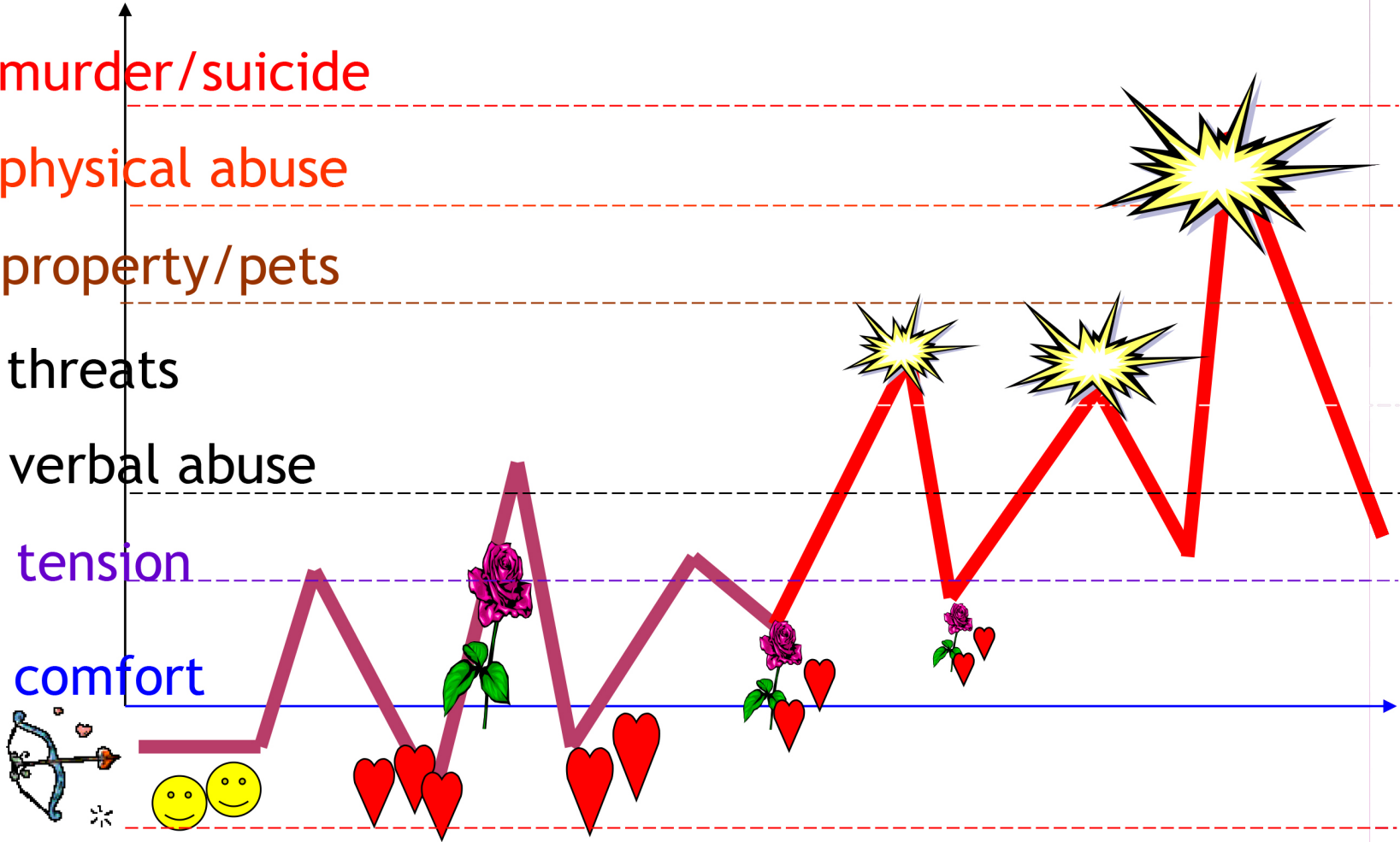


Used with permission: Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: PATTERNS AND CYCLES

- Phase I – Hearts and Flowers
- Phase II – Tension Building
- Phase III – Explosion/Battering
- Phase IV - Remorse

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: PATTERNS AND CYCLES



**Anyone can  
be victimized**





***IMPACT***

# IMPACTS

- Maternal health
- Pregnancy outcomes
- Children's cognitive and emotional development and physical health
- Parenting skills
- Family safety
- Social support

# NOT JUST PHYSICAL ....

Psychological abuse by an intimate partner was a **stronger predictor** than physical abuse for the following health outcomes for survivors:

- Depressive symptoms
- Substance use
- Developing a chronic mental illness

**Families where there is domestic violence are  
TWICE AS LIKELY  
to have a substantiated case of child abuse**



**compared to families without  
domestic violence.**

(Rumm et al, 2000)



- Actions taken to harm children

- Seeing, hearing or learning about the violence

## Effects on family ecology

- Loss of income
- Housing instability
- Loss of contact with extended family
- Educational and social disruptions

## Effect on partner's parenting

- Depression/PTSD/anxiety/substance abuse
- Loss of authority
- Energy goes to addressing perpetrator instead of children
- Interference with day to day routine and basic care

## Harm to child

- Behavioral, Emotional, Social, Educational
- Developmental
- Physical Injury

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LLC [www.endingviolence.com](http://www.endingviolence.com)

How a Parent's Violence Against Children and the Children's Seeing, Hearing, or Learning about the Violence Affect the Family's Ecology and the Partner's Parenting and Harm the Children



# ECONOMIC IMPACT

- ◎ **Physical and psychological violence against women occurs in all social groups.**
- ◎ **Financial resources significantly impact women's decisions.** (Source: Patel and Turetsky, 2004)
- ◎ **One of the main reasons women stay with or return to an abusive partner is a lack of financial resources.** (Source: Patel and Turetsky, 2004)



**Domestic violence leads to poverty, and poverty leads to increased vulnerability to violence.**

- ⦿ Low income women experience high rates of domestic violence
- ⦿ Domestic Violence is the THIRD leading cause of homelessness

***Can you ....  
Will you...  
help me?***

# WHAT'S YOUR PROGRAM'S GOAL?



# Current help seeking => past help-seeking

Exposure to multiple forms of abuse & abuser has access to program



Shrinks the pool of potential helpers; increases danger

Contexts of societal oppressions e.g., racism or discrimination against LGBT applicants



Diminishes access, increases barriers to services; increases abusers' impunity

<b>Severity</b>	<b>Catastrophic</b>					
	<b>Major</b>					
	<b>Moderate</b>					
	<b>Minor</b>					
	<b>Insignificant</b>					
		<b>Rare</b>	<b>Unlikely</b>	<b>Possible</b>	<b>Likely</b>	<b>Almost Certain</b>
	<b>Probability</b>					

**Applying for public benefits and services is associated with benefits and risks for survivors**





## Risks and Concerns

- ⦿ **fear** increased contact with abuser = harassment & more abuse
- ⦿ **fear** their information will be revealed and they will be located





Women who have experienced difficulties with TANF program compliance also report higher rates of domestic violence. (Source:

Appendix 1 of Lyon, 2002)



- ⦿ Computer use
- ⦿ Data brokers used
- ⦿ Many systems / staff access information

# PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

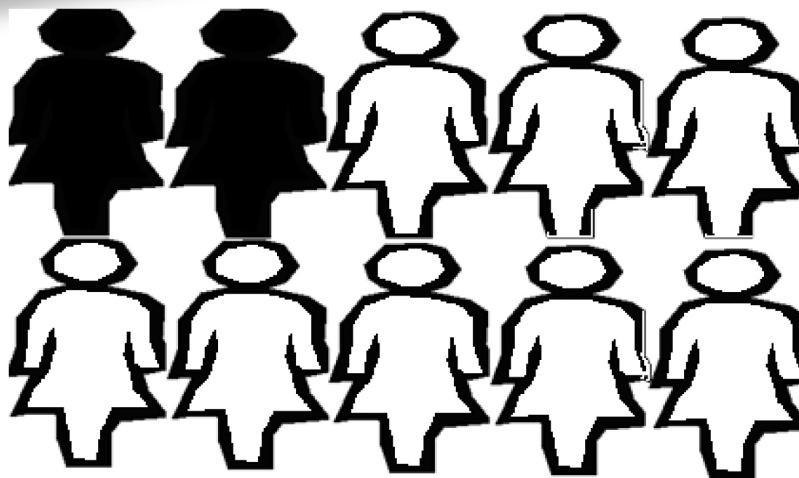


## RISKS

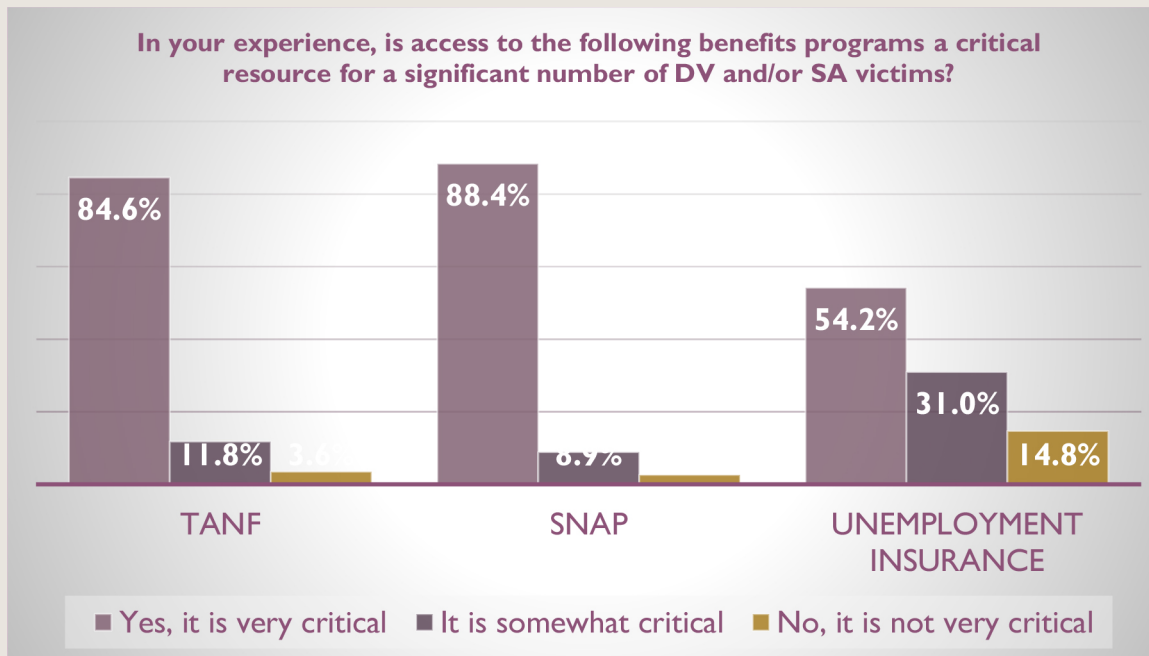
- ⦿ Potentially unsafe to be in public places
- ⦿ Transportation
- ⦿ May need to use the time taking steps to become safe (i.e. cooperating with a criminal investigation, applying for a protective order, receiving services from a domestic violence program, etc.)

**Approximately 25% of the women in families receiving TANF are current survivors of DV and 50% of TANF recipients have experienced DV in the past.**

**75% are or have been**



- ▶ 85% of advocates say that TANF is a very critical resource for a significant number of domestic violence and sexual assault victims
- ▶ 88% of advocates say that SNAP is a very critical resource for a significant number of domestic violence and sexual assault victims
- ▶ 54% of advocates say that UI is a very critical resource for a significant number of domestic violence and sexual assault victims



# Voices from the Field

*“Benefits programs such as TANF, SNAP, and Unemployment Insurance constitute a vital safety net for victim-survivors who, trauma notwithstanding, already struggle to meet their basic needs and/or support their dependents and families.”*

*“Making it difficult to obtain benefits makes the decision to give up and go back to an abuser an easier choice.”*

*“For those that need these programs, it is the difference between surviving and not surviving.”*

*“Access to benefits programs contributes substantially to victim-survivor empowerment and post-trauma healing because it enables victim-survivors to take steps toward addressing or remediating the trauma they have experienced while their basic needs are (at least partially) met by benefits programs.”*

*“The DV/SA victims we assist tell us that access to these programs has been a factor in planning how to afford to leave, and how to keep themselves and their children healthy, well, and housed.”*



- ▶ More than two-thirds of respondents say that most *domestic violence* victims rely on TANF to help address their basic needs and to establish safety and stability
- ▶ 45% of respondents report that most *sexual assault* victims need TANF to establish safety and stability

*“Often abusers use financial means to control their victims; many who flee abusive relationships do not have access to money of their own. This is a MAJOR reason why people, especially people with children, do not leave. Having access to receipt of benefits allows people who flee to pick up their lives faster, and feel safer faster.”*

*“Sexual assault often impacts an individual's ability to work for a variety of reasons. Many survivors end up relocating as a result of their victimization. When they cannot support themselves and/or their families, these financial benefits are often their only recourse.”*

- ▶ Nearly 80% of respondents report that most *domestic violence* victims rely on SNAP to help address their basic needs and to establish safety and stability
- ▶ 55% of respondents report that most *sexual assault* victims need SNAP to establish safety and stability

*“For many survivors, jobs, housing, and financial stability can be affected by abusive situations and relationships. Many survivors have the skills and ability to secure jobs, and secure housing, but TANF and SNAP can be invaluable in the interim between leaving an abuser and feeling stable and safe.”*





# CURRENT RESPONSE

Varies by state / county, but broadly...

- TANF → Family Violence Option
- SNAP → Waiver from E&T participation
- Child Support → Family Violence Indicator
- UI → Access if left job for safety

And...

- Required training for staff
- Confidentiality / Privacy Protections
- Protocols around Screening Referrals

# KEY ELEMENTS

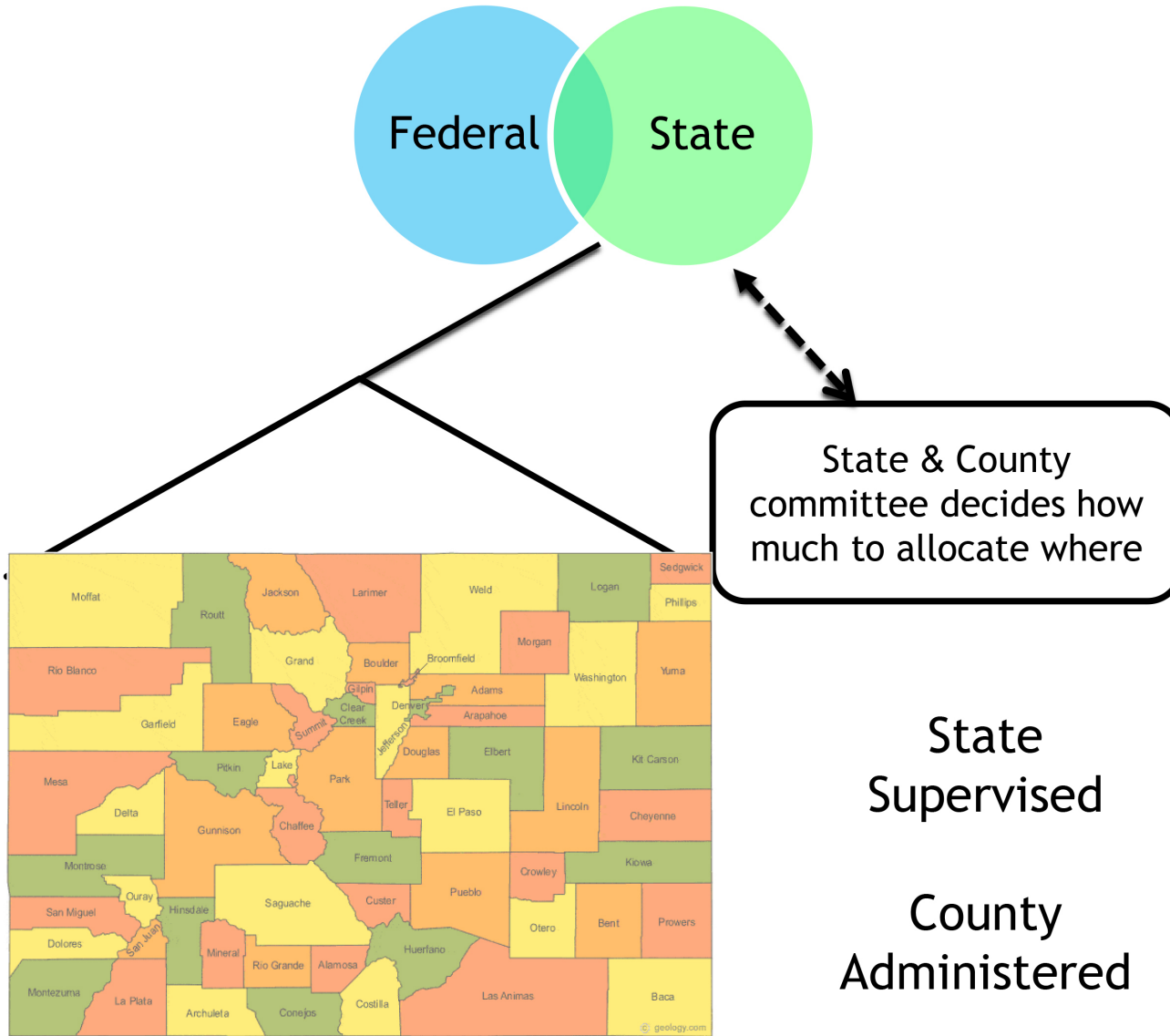


- ◉ Universal education about DV protections and resources
- ◉ Create safe opportunities for disclosure
- ◉ Respond in appropriate, culturally relevant ways
- ◉ Competency in providing referrals to services to survivors and their families

- Vision of success
- System change
- Regulatory enhancement
- Training & capacity building
- Meaningful partnership-building & engagement
- Responsiveness and shift as needed



# COLORADO



# TOTAL ACTION

## Vision: Customer's Thrive

### Principles

Evidence based  
WPR - we learned the code & meet WPR  
Economic security - 42% of leavers

### Regulatory

- Rules
- County policies
- Benefits & Services
- Name: customers
- 60 months
- No birth cap
- Minimum verification
- FVO
- Conciliation
- 100% Child Support Pass Through
- Transitional food
- Transitional child care

### System

- Collaboration
- Align programs
- Data base
- Streamline processes
- Statistical tracking / evaluation
- Integrated staffing

### Practice

- Quick processing
- Training
- Encourage appropriate waivers
- Tools
- Encourage data entry
- Management Evaluation
- Quality Assurance
- Regional Representatives
- Technical Assistance
- Evaluation: Leaver Study
- Encourage Self-Care
- Celebrate successes



# WHAT'S YOUR TANF & SNAP GOAL?



# ***Resources***



# 24 HOUR SAFETY PLANNING RESOURCES

The National Domestic Violence  
**HOTLINE**  
1.800.799.SAFE (7233) • 1.800.787.3224 (TTY)



**1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**  
**1-800-787-3224 (TTY)**  
Live chat at  
**[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)**

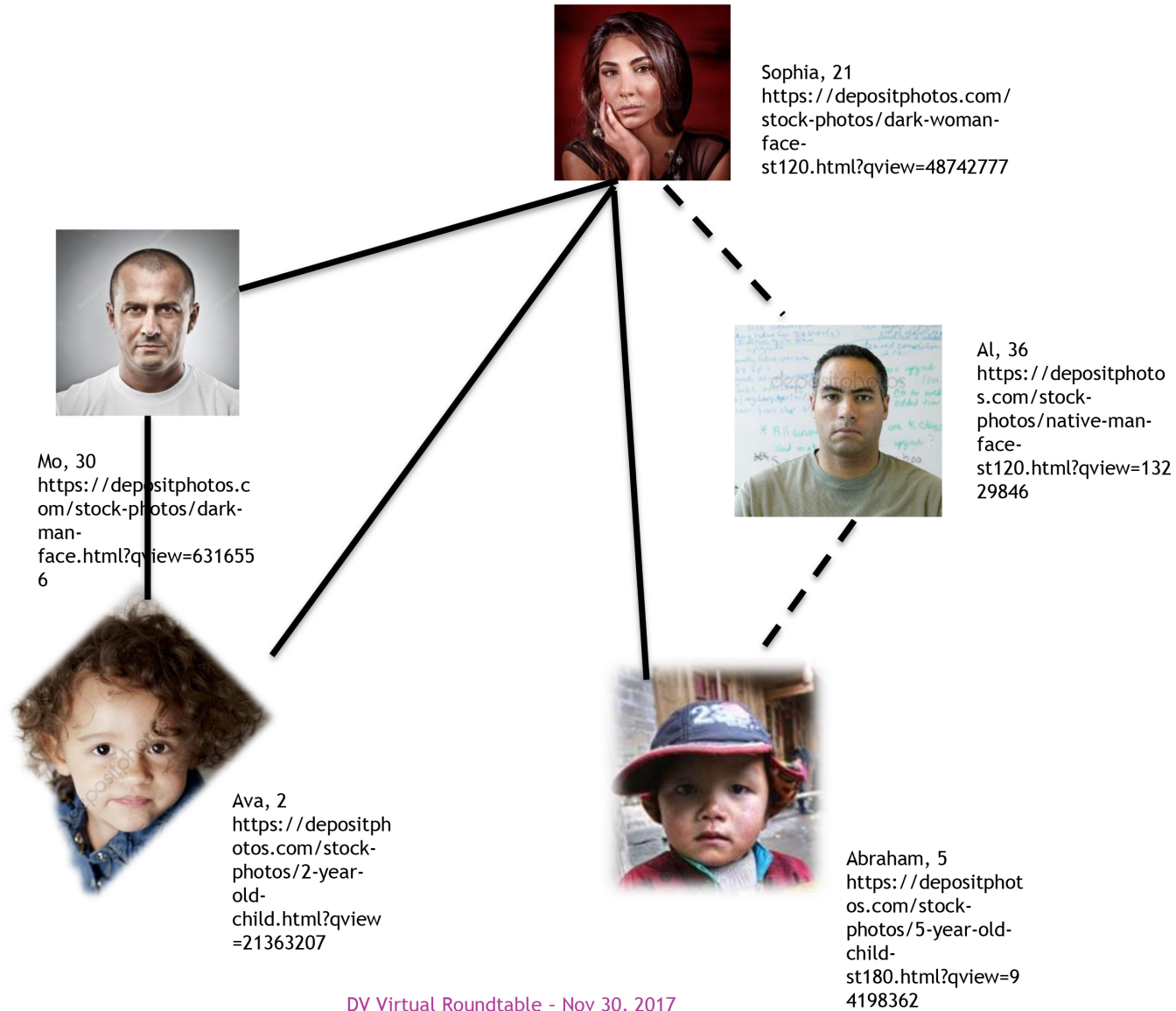
**1-866-331-9474**  
Text "loveis" to 22522  
Live chat at  
**[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)**

# DEFINING SUCCESS

“Success is measured by our efforts to reduce isolation and to improve options for safety.”

Futures Without Violence

# SCENARIO



DV Virtual Roundtable - Nov 30, 2017

# CONTACT INFORMATION



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THANK YOU!

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