



Resources and Responses to Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence



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Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence overlap in many ways but are **not** interchangeable

Sexual Violence does occur in domestic violence relationships

Needs of DV and SA survivors can be very different: available supports are not the same, systems to address the issues are not the same

Both are rooted in systems of oppression; racism and sexism allow them to exist; loss of power and agency

Happens in all communities but folks living at the intersection of multiple marginalized identities experience higher rates of violence; have less access to resources for safety and stability

Key factor in supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence is developing responses that foster autonomy, agency, and self determination

KEY TAKEAWAYS: Similarities and Differences



Overview | Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness

Domestic Violence is a major contributing factor in homelessness

- As many as 57% of all homeless women report DV as the immediate cause of their homelessness. 1
- 80% of homeless women with children have experienced DV in their lifetime. 2
- In King County, the overall % of unique callers identifying fleeing domestic violence per Mary's Place Intake Line is 30-39%.
- 1. Women and Children in Chicago Shelters, 3; Nat'l Center for Homelessness & Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network (2003). Social Supports for Homeless Mothers, 14, 26; Inst. for Children & Poverty (2004). The Hidden Migration: Why New York City Shelters are Overflowing with Families; Homes for the Homeless and Inst. for Children & Poverty (1998). Ten Cities 1997-1998: A Snapshot of Family Homelessness Across America, 2. Aratani, Y. (2009). Homeless Children and Youth, Causes and Consequences. New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty



Overview | Intersection of Sexual Assault and Homelessness

Homeless women experience disproportionately high levels of sexual violence before and during homelessness 1

- Homelessness increases the risk of sexual assault
- Lack of comprehensive studies
 - One study: 78.3% of homeless women in the study had been subjected to rape, physical assault, and/or stalking at some point in their lifetimes. Of victimized respondents, over half of the respondents (55.9%) had been raped, almost three-quarters (72.2%) had been physically assaulted, and one-quarter (25.4%) had been subjected to stalking. 2
- 1. Lisa A. Goodman et. al., *No Safe Place: Sexual Assault in the Lives of Homeless Women*, Nat'l Online Res. Ctr. Violence Against Women 1, 1 (2006)., 2. Jasinski, J. L., Wesely, J. K., Mustaine, E., & Wright, J. D. (2005). The experience of violence in the lives of homeless women: A research report (Document No. 211976). Retrieved from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/211976.pdf>

Review | Key concepts, baseline assertions

Definitions of Domestic Violence

- Behavioral definition
- Legal definition

The fundamental harm of domestic violence is loss of autonomy and agency

- Self-determination leads to safety, not the other way around

Self-determination is a necessary pre-condition to creating sustainable, authentic safety

Whenever there is conflict between the survivor's self-determination and a service provider's beliefs about safety, **self determination should be the primary obligation.**





Review | Key concepts, baseline assertions about Domestic Violence

Money is an important factor in people's ability to get safe and STAY safe

Financial abuse is a key dynamic that keeps survivors trapped

Social systems play an enormous role (helpful or harmful) in a survivor's journey to safety

People living in abusive relationships are constantly trying to get safe – but institutions and systems often undermine their attempts



Key Considerations

Tools and Skills

Your relationship is the intervention

Survivors are the best resource for finding out what works and what doesn't

The act of "surviving" is not always heroic

Abusive partners only use the amount of force necessary

Leaving doesn't always equal safety

Be prepared that some survivors are not ready to leave

Be prepared that even if a survivor is ready to leave, they may not have anywhere to go

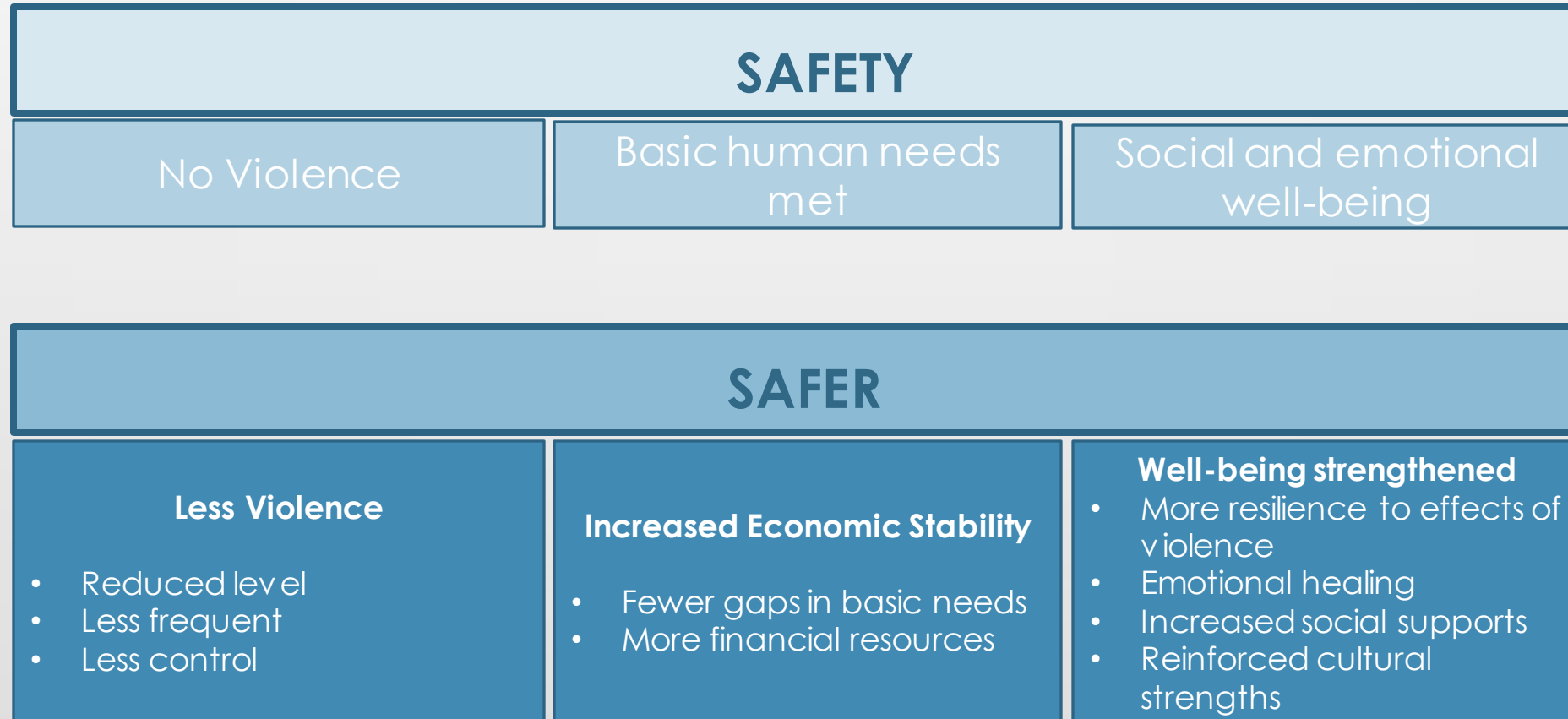


Key Takeaways | DV Safety Planning

- Safety planning is an ongoing, fluid process
- Survivors are safety planning all of the time, regardless of if they are calling it that or thinking about it in that way
- A safety plan is developed in partnership with the knowledge that the survivor is the expert over their own lives
- Anyone working with survivors can engage in some form of safety planning



Safety/Safer



“Victim-Defined Safety Plans focus on more than physical violence. For survivors of violence, safety is a broad concept, not one limited to reducing physical violence or a partner’s controlling behavior. Like all of us, victims and their children also need food, shelter, and other essential resources to live. The spiritual, social, and emotional aspects of our humanity are also necessary for security.” -Jill Davies



Boat Analogy

The safety equipment on a boat might include an anchor to keep the boat in place and away from danger, a life preserver to keep a person afloat, and a radio to call for help. If you’re on a boat and someone goes overboard, you wouldn’t throw the person an anchor. If the boat were headed for the rocks, you wouldn’t toss out the life preserver. In the same way, if a victim’s priority risk is more focused on providing for her family than physical violence, you wouldn’t only offer strategies that would reduce her financial security—for example, a shelter stay that would mean she loses her job or a move that would mean the loss of subsidized housing, or law enforcement that would mean her partner would lose the source of income that supports the family.

Quick Safety Planning Guide Survivor Priorities + Resources Offered

- **What are the survivor's priorities?**
- What are the risks and other life circumstances relevant?
- What are immediate strategies to reduce sexual or physical violence?
 - Information about the person causing harm
- What resources are available/can you offer?
- What has helped or hasn't helped in the past?
 - Staying or leaving strategies
- What resources are available?
 - Re: kids - age appropriate involvement in safety planning