



# Dynamics of Domestic Violence

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# Objectives



- Define domestic violence.
- Understand types of domestic violence relationships.
- Recognize types of abusive behavior.
- Understand why some people experiencing harm remain in abusive relationships.
- Discuss the dynamics of abusive relationships.
- Recognize myths surrounding domestic violence.



# What is Domestic Violence?



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Domestic violence is the

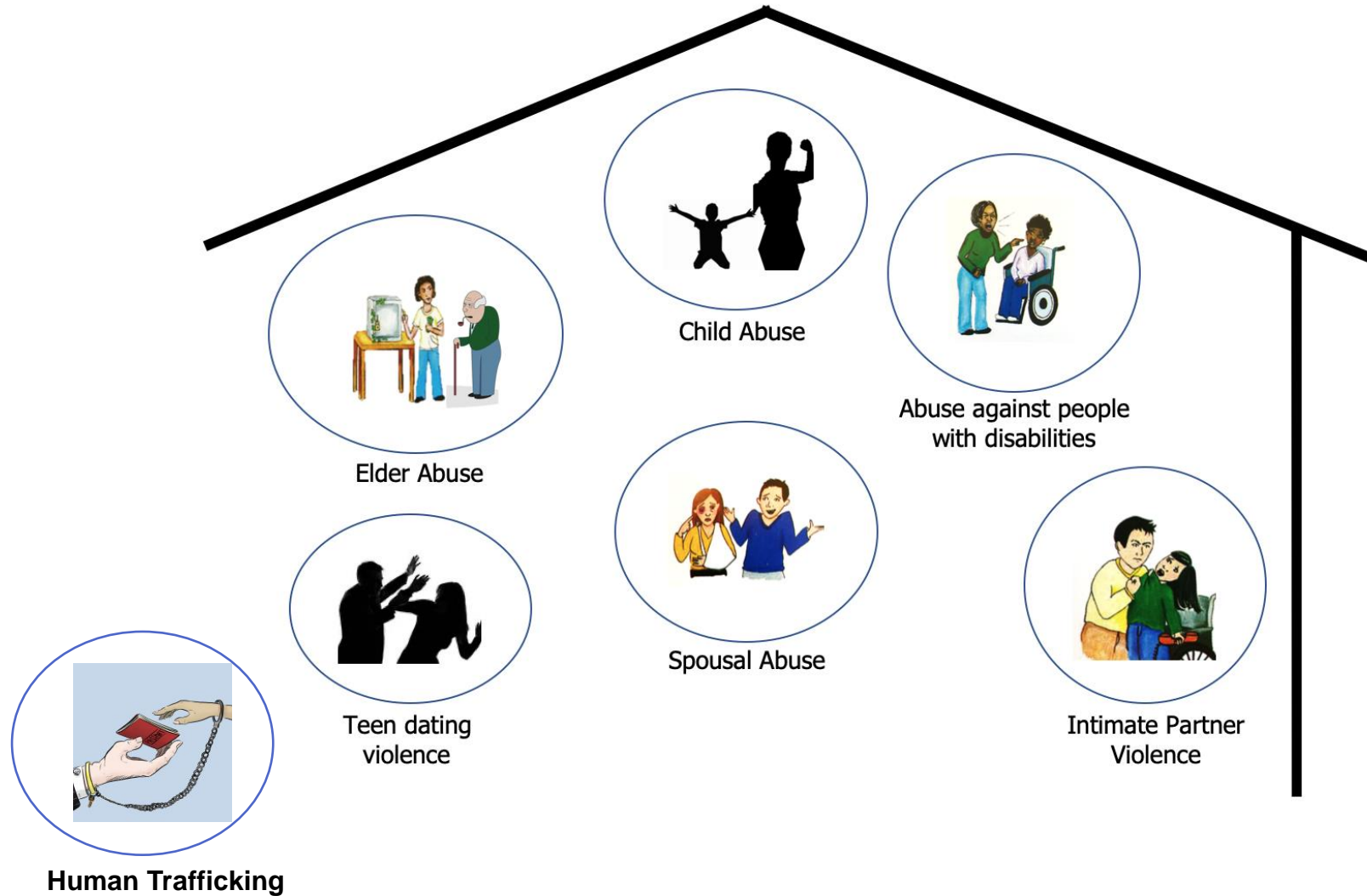
- willful intimidation,
- physical assault,
- battery,
- sexual assault,
- and/or other abusive behavior
- as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another.

# Domestic Violence includes...

- physical violence,
- sexual violence,
- psychological violence,
- and emotional abuse.



# What is Domestic Violence?





- The party that is protected by the IDVA is any person abused by a family or household member and any child or dependent that is in the care of such person. 750 ILCS 60/201(a)(i,iii).
- The definition of family and household members includes:
  - spouses,
  - former spouses,
  - parents,
  - grandparents,
  - siblings,
  - children,
  - stepchildren
  - and other relatives, by either blood or marriage, both former and current. 750 ILCS 60/103(6).

# Illinois Domestic Violence Act



- The Illinois Domestic Violence Act (IDVA) recognizes the many forms of violence as abuse.
- The IDVA defines abuse as physical abuse, harassment, intimidation of a dependent, interference with personal liberty or willful deprivation. 750 ILCS 60/103(1).



More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.



# Numbers to Consider



- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.
- 19% of domestic violence involves a weapon.

<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>

- The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$8.3 billion per year.

Rothman, E. F., Hathaway, J., Stidsen, A., & de Vries, H. F. (2007). How employment helps female victims of intimate partner violence: A qualitative study. *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*, 12(2), 136–143. <https://doi.org/10.1037/1076-8998.12.2.136>



Men are also victims of domestic violence.

Men are more likely to experience harm or violence by other men and are rarely abused by women.

Tjaden and Thoennes, 2000



# The scope of the problem in Illinois



- 41.5% of Illinois women and 25.9% of Illinois men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>

- In Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, Illinois had 44 domestic violence incidents that led to 61 deaths.

<https://docs.google.com/gview?url=http://cm20-s3-ilcadv1.s3.amazonaws.com/ResourceFiles/743ddd46a8074ca9bbd991a23b90f20aHomicideReportFY17.pdf&embedded=true>





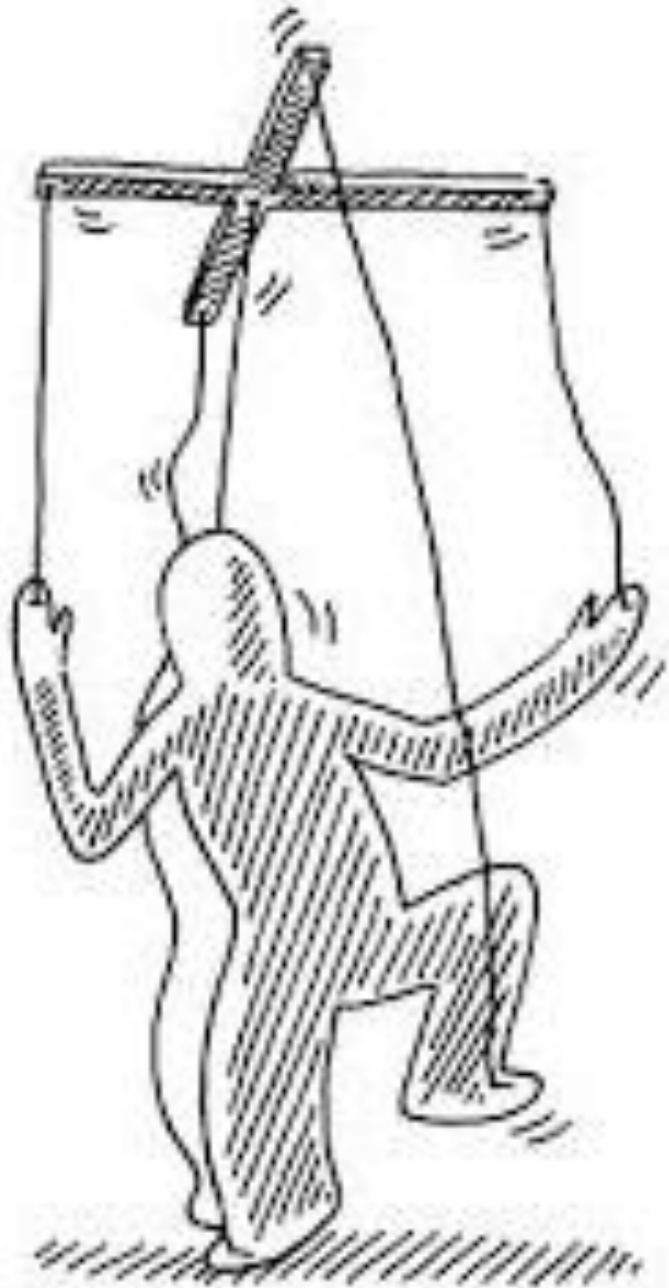
What causes  
domestic  
violence?



# What domestic violence is NOT caused by:



- Cultural Differences
- Religious Beliefs
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Problems from childhood
- Past war experiences
- Stress
- Physical Illness
- Insecurity
- Financial problems
- The Victim



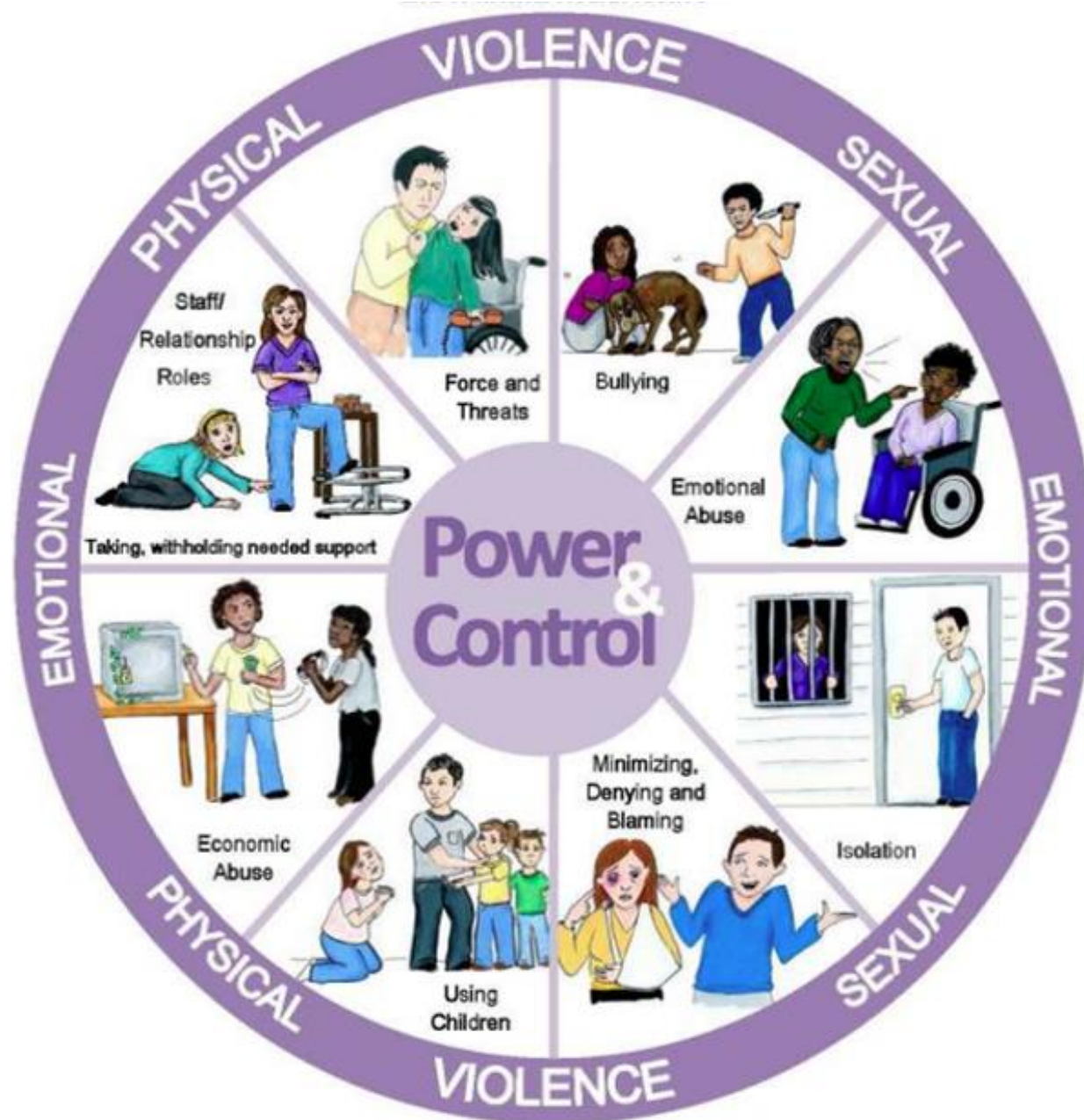
# Power and Control

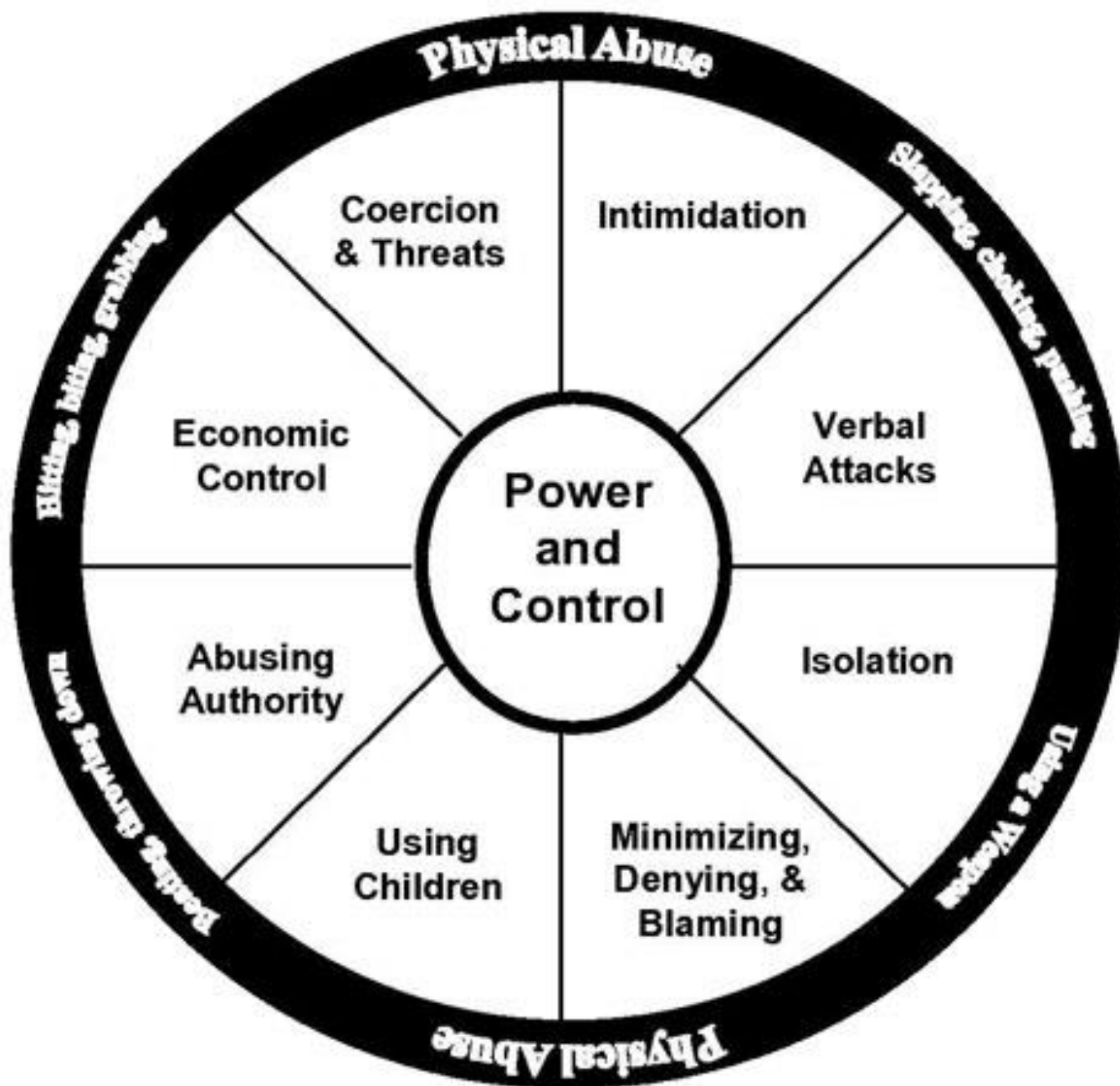




Power & Control







Developed by: Domestic Abuse  
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# Coercion and Threats:

- Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt them.
- Threatening to leave them, commit suicide, or report them to welfare.
- Making them drop charges.
- Making them do illegal things.



# **Intimidation:**

- Making them afraid by using looks, actions, and gestures.
- Smashing things.
- Destroying their property.
- Abusing pets.
- Displaying weapons.

# Emotional Abuse:

- Putting them down.
- Making them feel bad about herself.
- Calling them names.
- Making them think she's crazy.
- Playing mind games.
- Humiliating them.
- Making them feel guilty.





# Isolation:

- Controlling what they do, who they see and talks to, what they read, and where they go.
- Limiting their outside involvement.
- Using jealousy to justify actions.

# Minimizing, Denying, and Blaming:



- Making light of the abuse and not taking their concerns about it seriously.
- Saying the abuse didn't happen.
- Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior.
- Saying they caused it.



# Using Children:

- Making them feel guilty about the children.
- Using the children to relay messages.
- Using visitation to harass them.
- Threatening to take the children away.





# **Economic Abuse:**

- Preventing them from getting or keeping a job.
- Making them ask for money.
- Giving them an allowance.
- Taking their money.
- Not letting them know about or have access to family income.



# Male Privilege:

- Treating them like a servant:
- making all the big decisions,
- acting like the "master of the castle,"  
being the one to define men's and  
women's roles.

The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of domestic violence is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain **power and control** over the other.



# Pattern of Abuse

- not an individual event, but rather a series or pattern of behaviors
- intentional and functional behavior
- cyclical





"I was just so angry."

"I couldn't help myself."

"I just snapped!"

A person causing harm specifically target their partner or family as the recipient of their violence.

Most people who cause harm are high-functioning & social in other parts of their life; behind closed doors, they terrorize their partner.

People who cause harm choose whom to abuse.



Why do  
people  
experiencing  
harm stay  
in abusive  
relationships?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IU50HksugZk>



# Barriers to Leaving

- Relationship with the abuser
- Children
- Economic Issues
- External pressures
- Past experiences
- Physical or logistical challenges
- Other considerations







# Better Question...

## Why Do People Abuse?



# The Person Causing Harm in Domestic Violence



- Domestic abusers come from all age, racial, economic, educational, occupational, religious and social groups.
- Their actions are strategic, methodical and goal-oriented.
- A person causing harm may seem 'healthier' than the person experiencing the harm.
- Many perpetrators do not see their behavior as wrong in any way.

# The Person Causing Harm in Domestic Violence

- Person causing harm tends to view 'partner' as inferior adversary, not as equal.
- Abusive behavior to gain compliance from, or control over, the person experiencing harm.



# Common traits found in a person causing harm include...



- Controlling
- Violence
- Jealous
- Isolates Partner
- Contradictory Personality
- Claims to be the person that is experiencing harm
- Blames others for problems, feelings and actions
- Unrealistic Expectations
- Quick Romance Involvement
- Often believes in rigid gender roles
- Verbally and emotionally abusive
- Uses intimidating tactics
- Use of playful force
- Use of force in an argument
- Promises
- Stalking
- Forced sex
- Use of others



- Person causing harm believe they are entitled to the use of power and control tactics and violence against their partners and/or other family members.
- Without sanctions for the use of violence, a person causing harm will continue to use it as an effective means of maintaining control over the person experiencing harm.
- They continue to use it because it works.



Some of the most dangerous abusers appear

- ✓ stable,
- ✓ rational,
- ✓ charming.



## Domestic Violence Victims

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Person causing harm  
responses to domestic  
violence are varied, with  
some people who experience  
harm might feel they will  
have extreme consequences  
and others surviving  
relatively unscathed.



# Effects commonly experienced by those who experience domestic violence include:



- Physical injuries
- Sense of hopelessness
- Numbness
- Lack of sense of self
- Denial of the seriousness of the violence
- Living in fear
- Self-blame & feelings of guilt
- Self-blame and feelings of guilt
- Feelings of anger
- Depression and/or suicidal thoughts
- Physical problems and illnesses related to stress or other injuries
- Post-traumatic stress disorder



# True or False?

- People experiencing abuse provoke their partners' violence.
- Children are generally neither aware of, nor affected by, their mother's abuse.
- Approximately half of all Abuse against older adults is thought to be domestic violence "grown old". Older people experiencing abuse are less likely to seek and receive help.
- Since domestic violence is a problem in the relationship, marriage or couple-focused pastoral counseling is key to restoring tranquility in the family or relationship

# Questions

