



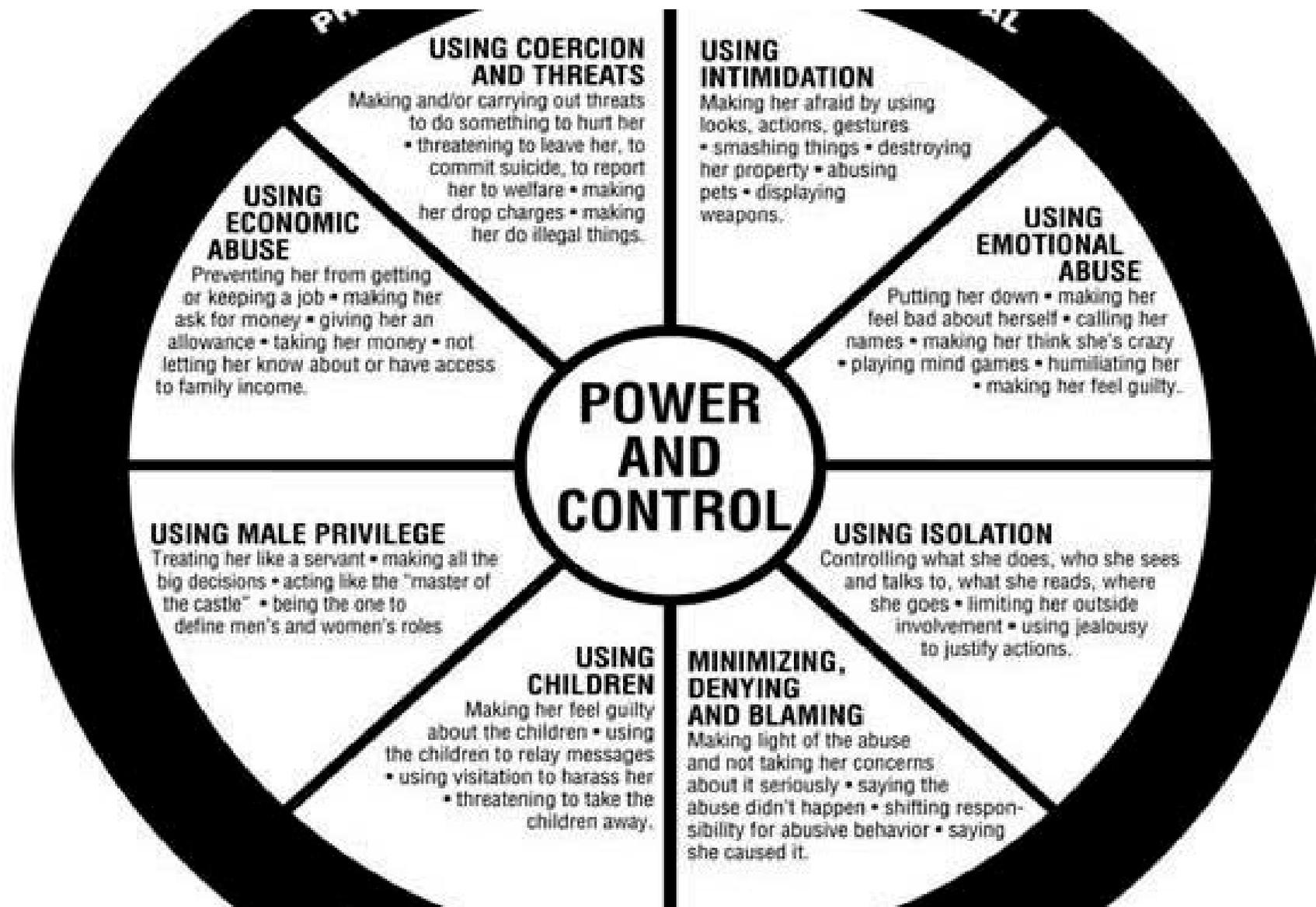
ECHO COVID - TALKS

IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEFINED

- Domestic Violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behavior used to gain and maintain power and control in an intimate relationship.
- Prevalence: 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men will experience some form of domestic violence during their lifetime.
- Domestic Violence is not limited to any particular race, class, education level, gender, religion or age group.
- How does it work?



CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Crisis Phase

- The blow up
- Worse than before
- Threats
- Destruction
- Fear for your or your child's safety
- Drug and/or alcohol abuse

The majority of IPV survivors
will leave an abusive partner

7-12 times

before they leave
for the last time

Calm Phase

- The person you fell in love with
- Never happen again
- I'll get help
- I love you

Tension Phase

- Walking on eggshells
- Everything has to be perfect
- Always worrying or in fear of what if
- Feeling "something" is about to happen

CHANGES WITH COVID - 19

Before Covid -19

- Victims could call Crisis Lines for assistance.
- Victims had more opportunity for leaving home.
- Victims could access safety and support services.
- Violent partners would go to work, school, etc.
- Children would go to school or day care.
- Victims would go to work.

During Covid - 19

- We are experiencing a large decrease in calls to our crisis line.
- We are sheltering less victims.
- There is a marked increase in the number of Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders being filed.
- There is an increase in Family Violence. Adolescents becoming violent.



- Access due to Isolation
- Inability to call for help
- Less services available

DECREASE IN...



Violence is more severe
Drugs & Alcohol as coping mechanisms
Family Violence

INCREASE IN...



BEGIN THE CONVERSATION

If you ask the question: “Are you a victim of Domestic Violence?” The answer will usually be “No.”

SERVICES AND OPTIONS

- Always separate the victim from the person who brought them to the clinic or hospital.
- Telehealth: Ask the victim if they can speak with you alone. If they say no, it may not be safe to inquire any further. Instead, schedule another appointment, or a test that they 'need' to come in for.
- DV cases always take time. If you contact a crisis line, an advocate can come to meet with your patient and provide support and services on site. Including transporting them to shelter if they choose to do so.
- Understand that when you are asking them to leave their abuser, you are asking them to step into the most dangerous time for a victim. The danger and risk escalate when the victim leaves or attempts to leave the abuser.

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- When Covid reared its ugly head in the US, our agency began critically thinking about the impact for victims and how our program could safely provide necessary services.
 - Shelters throughout MN are communal in nature. Separate sleeping areas with shared bathrooms kitchens, living rooms and meeting areas.
 - Staff also share small work-spaces and work closely with victims and children throughout their shifts.
 - Continue access to Community Services: Medical, Financial, Legal, Housing, Transportation, and Child Care.

DISASTER IMPACT ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

QUESTIONS

- Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.
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