



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Parent, Family and Community Engagement



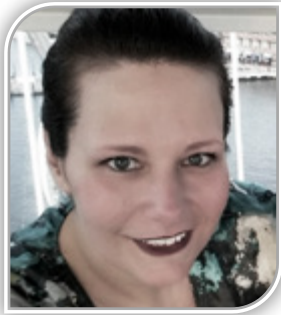
**Session 1**  
**Introduction to Addressing  
Domestic Violence in Head  
Start Programs**

## Webinar Series

1. Introduction to Addressing Domestic Violence in Head Start programs
2. Supporting Healing for Families Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence
3. Partnering with Parents to Prevent and Respond to Domestic Violence
4. Partnering with Parents Who Have Used Violence in Intimate Relationships
5. Building Collaborative Relationships with Community Partners

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## Presenters



**Brandi Black Thacker**

National Center on Parent, Family,  
and Community Engagement



**Mie Fukuda**

Futures Without Violence

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## Learning Objectives

**As a result of this session, participants will be better able to:**

- Define domestic violence
- Recognize the impact of domestic violence on families
- Apply the Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework to prevent and respond to domestic violence

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Positive & Goal-Oriented Relationships Equity, Inclusiveness, Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness			
PROGRAM FOUNDATIONS	PROGRAM IMPACT AREAS	FAMILY OUTCOMES	CHILD OUTCOMES
Program Leadership Professional Development Continuous Learning and Quality Improvement	Program Environment Family Partnerships Teaching and Learning Community Partnerships Access and Continuity	<b>Family Well-being</b> Positive Parent-Child Relationships Families as Lifelong Educators Families as Learners Family Engagement in Transitions Family Connections to Peers and Community Families as Advocates and Leaders	Children are: Safe Healthy and well Learning and developing Engaged in positive relationships with family members, caregivers, and other children Ready for school Successful in school and life

## Family Well-being means

Families are safe, healthy, have opportunities for educational advancement and economic mobility, and have access to physical and mental health services, housing and food assistance, and other family support services.

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## Build Positive Goal-Oriented Relationships

A mutually respectful and intentional partnership with a family focused on promoting family and child outcomes.

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## Explore Your “Attitude”



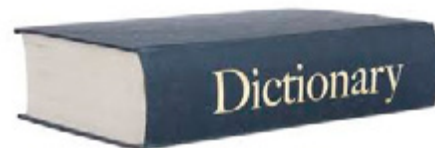
- A frame of mind towards another person
- A way of thinking about others based on our values, beliefs, and experiences that is reflected in our behavior.

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## Violence

Violence is a form of abuse including emotional, financial, psychological, physical, and sexual.

- Domestic violence
- Family violence
- Community violence
- School violence
- Hate violence
- Child abuse and neglect



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## Strengths-based Attitudes



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## Use Relationship-based Practices

- Describe observations of the child's behavior to open communication with the family
- Reflect on the family's perspective
- Support parental competence
- Focus on the family-child relationship
- Value a family's passion
- Reflect on your own perspective



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• <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/article/building-partnerships-families-series>

• <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/article/parent-family-community-engagement-simulation-boosting-school-readiness-through-effective-family>

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## What is Trauma?

Trauma occurs when frightening events or situations overwhelm a child’s or adult’s ability to cope or deal with what has happened.



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## Examples of Trauma

There are many types of childhood adversities including:

- Violence
- Bullying
- Poverty
- Racism
- Structural violence
- Historical trauma
- Natural disasters
- Terrorism

These all affect health and well-being.



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## Domestic Violence

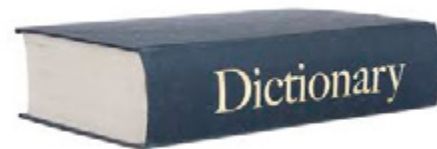
Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive controlling behavior that is used by a person to gain or maintain power and control over their intimate partner.

It can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions, that influence another person.

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## Terms We Use

- Person who uses domestic violence
- Person experiencing domestic violence
- Child experiencing domestic violence



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## What About Men?

### The Question is Always Asked!

- Need to use gender neutral language
- People who use domestic violence are overwhelmingly men, but most men do not use domestic violence
- Many men who use domestic violence have experienced it themselves
- Research historically has focused on women as victims
- More information on child sexual abuse of boys

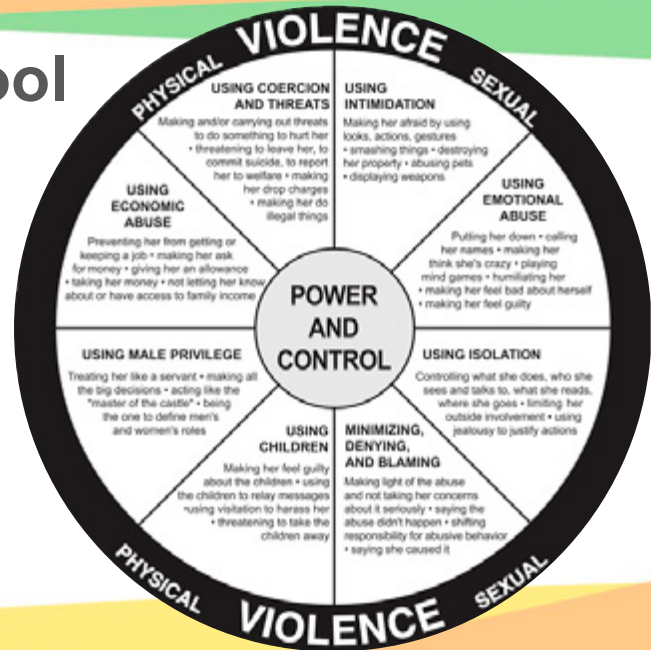


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# Commonly Used Tool

## Power and Control Wheel



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# How Common is Domestic Violence?

- **1 in 3 women in the US**
  - Highest risk ages 18-24
  - High percentage of mothers
- **1 in 9 men in the US**
- **Cuts across all race, class, sexual orientation/gender identity, but some groups more at risk**
  - Black, indigenous, and other people of color
  - Transgender/non-binary/GNC people

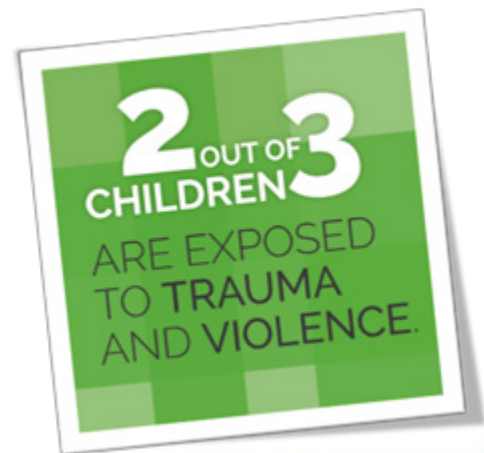
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs-statereportbook.pdf>



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## Violence Is Common in Lives of Children

- Over 60% of children birth-17 years are exposed to some form of violence in the past year
- 38.7% reported multiple exposures
- 40-60% of children who live in homes where there is domestic violence are also experiencing child abuse including child sexual abuse

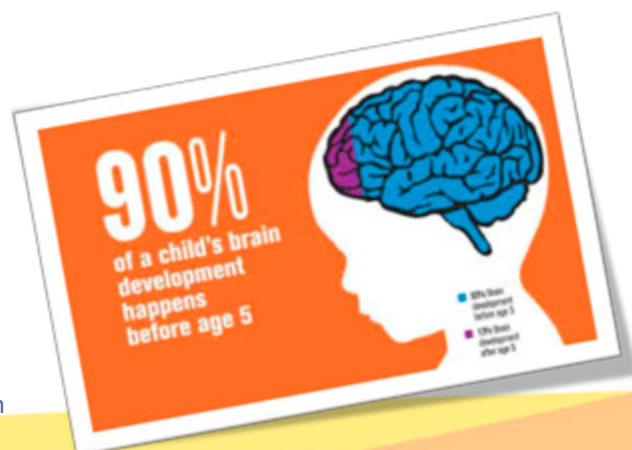


<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2344705https>

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## Impact of Experiencing Domestic Violence on Brain Development in Children

- Chronic exposure to domestic violence is associated with physical changes in the brain and altered brain chemistry
- Can impact a child's ability to self-regulate, focus, and learn



<https://www.unitedwaytv.org/brain-development-children>

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## Possible Effects of Trauma

- Failure to thrive
- Poor control of chronic disease
- Aggression
- Poor impulse control
- Sleep disturbance
- Weight gain or loss
- Developmental regression



Symptoms and behaviors are the tip of the trauma iceberg.

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## Experiencing Domestic Violence and Children's Health

Multiple additional studies show children more likely to:

- Develop asthma
- Develop diabetes
- Become obese
- Have frequent infections
- Suffer from poor mental health



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## Domestic Violence and Parenting

Parents' past and recent traumatic experiences increase the risk of

- Child neglect
- Child protective services reports
- Physical punishment

**Social support and taking care of one's own needs are protective factors that reduce likelihood of these outcomes**



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## Reality Check: Parents Experiencing Domestic Violence as Parents

Yes, parenting can be compromised...

**AND**

- Many parents experiencing domestic violence are excellent parents
- Attachments may be even stronger
- Protective behaviors are misunderstood



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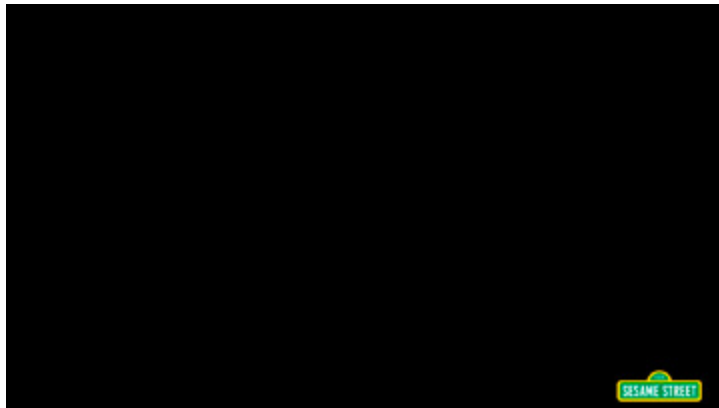
# Resilience

*“The human capacity to face, overcome,  
and be strengthened by adversity.”*

- Ann Brickson, Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic  
Violence



## Not the End of the Story



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Multiple research studies have shown that the #1 factor for supporting resilience is the presence of loving, caring adults.



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## Wrap Up

- Domestic Violence is prevalent in the lives of the families we partner with.
- Not all people are impacted equally. Healing is possible.
- Loving, nurturing and consistent adults can help support healing and resiliency for children.



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# Resources About Domestic Violence



## Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/preventing-responding-domestic-violence>

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THANK YOU

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in Head Start Programs

