


**The Intersectionality  
of Domestic Violence,  
Sexual Assault & Substance Use**



David J. H. Garvin MSW, LMSW,  
Vice President, Programs & Facilities  
Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County

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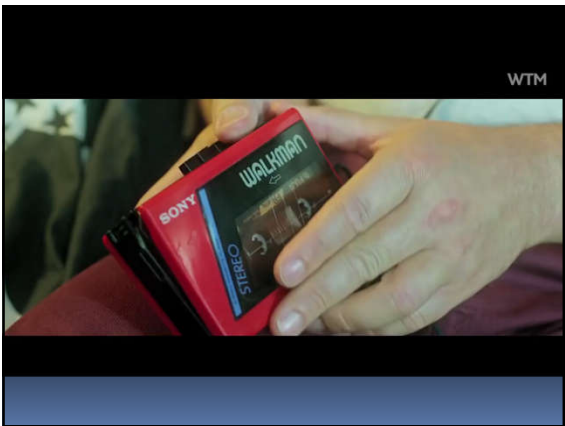
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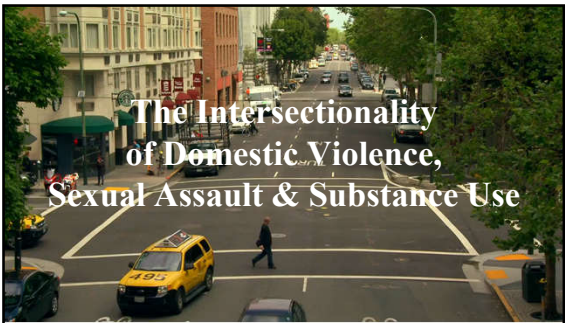
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*Presumption of competence  
and capacity to change*

**THIS I BELIEVE**

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**What is loss  
of control?**

1. Enuresis
2. Encopresis
3. Driving on ice
4. My dog broke the leash
5. A sneeze
6. ...

**Perpetrators of domestic violence do not lose control of their behavior**

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**GO ON. GET  
YOUR CELL  
PHONES OUT.**

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Requesting your participation today!

Participate!

Pollev.com/davidgarvin248

Enter this URL

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Web voting

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What word comes to mind when you think about the perpetrator of domestic violence?

When poll is active, respond at [Pollev.com/davidgarvin248](https://pollev.com/davidgarvin248)

Text DAVIDGARVIN248 to 37607 once to join

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PARENTS  
DEDICATION  
FAITH  
DREAMS  
RELIGION  
HOPE  
FAMILY  
LOVE

Marriage  
Happiness  
Growing old  
Together

What about these parts of the survivor you are working with?

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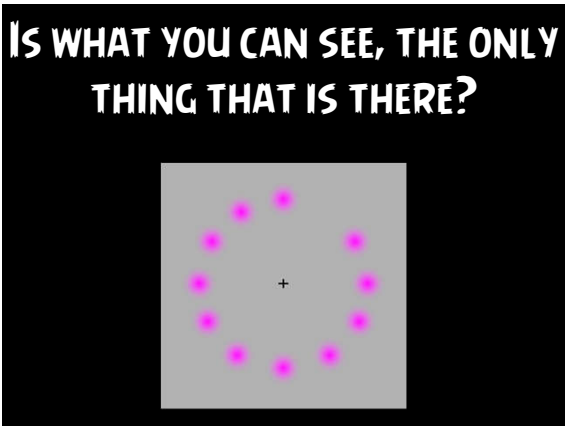
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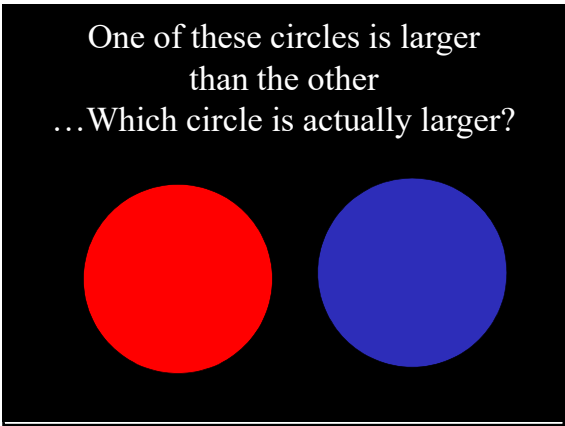
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**WHAT IF,**  
Someone told a lie...

**That Alcohol or Other Drugs caused Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault?**

**Who would *benefit* from this misinformation?**  
**Who would be *harmed* by this information?**

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**WANT TO MAKE A LIE SEEM TRUE?**  
**SAY IT AGAIN. AND AGAIN. ...AND AGAIN**

- *YOU ONLY USE 10 percent of your brain.*
- *Eating carrots improves your eyesight.*
- *Vitamin C cures the common cold.*
- *Crime in the United States is at an all-time high.*
- *...None of these things are true.*

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**BATTERING IS:**

**Instrumental, strategic, and purposeful behavior designed to bring about an outcome.**

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## Sexual Assault and Substance Use

Women with substance use/abuse problems are more likely to have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives, with as many as **60% of women and 20% of men** undergoing substance abuse treatment reporting having survived physical, sexual or emotional abuse as a child



~(National Center for PTSD)

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### What is the most common drug to facilitate sexual assault?

- ☐ #1 Roofies/Rohypnol
- ☐ #2 Alcohol
- ☐ #3 Marijuana
- ☐ #4 Cocaine

pop?  
quiz

Correct Answer

**Alcohol is the most common drug used to facilitate sexual assaults.** Unlike some other drugs, alcohol is legal, readily available, and socially acceptable (Scalzo) if not socially encouraged in some settings.




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### Strategic use of Alcohol

- Perpetrators may get drunk or high in order to justify their actions, or may deliberately get victims drunk or high to facilitate sexual assault (Frost; Lisak; United Educators, 2003).
- Perpetrators may not need to be as physically forceful with an extremely intoxicated individual in order to subdue her/him (Lisak; United Educators; Scalzo).
  - In other words, alcohol or drugs may be used as an excuse and **are a part of a plan.**




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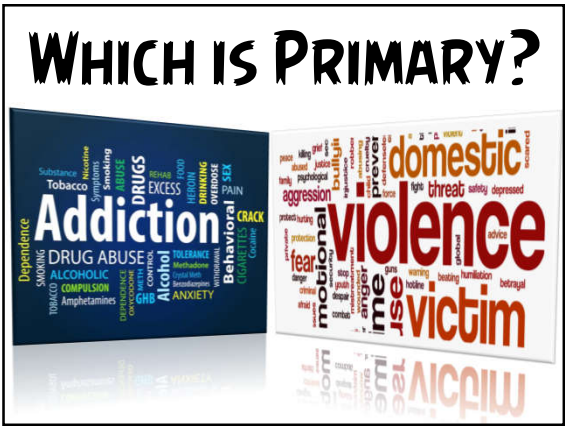
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# OLDER BELIEFS ABOUT THE CAUSES OF VARIOUS CONDITIONS

In the 1930's techniques used on mental health patients included:

- Insulin-induced comas
- Lobotomies
- Malarial infections
- Electroshock therapy

*This continued into the 1940's and 1950's but fell out of favor...*




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## Ice cream consumption and murder rates are highly correlated

*Does ice cream incite murder, or does murder increase the demand for ice cream?*




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## BLACK OUT VS. PASSING OUT

**Black Out**

- Full functioning
- Others can not discern
- Not doing anything that goes against your moral code
- Don't remember what happened after the black out
- Can be a few seconds or days

**Passing Out**

- You are unconscious



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### ISSUES WE ENCOUNTER WORKING WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL AFFECTED MEN WHO ABUSE



- Their lives seem to be in more chaos than the non-drug/alcohol affected men who abuse.
- They, and their (ex)partners, tend to blame the drug/alcohol for the battering.
- Their overall denial seems higher.
- They are better at lying and manipulating.
- "I didn't come here for my drinking" is a major impediment to getting these men to work on their drug/alcohol issues while involved in battering intervention, sometimes the courts do not see this as something they want to take on and monitor
- The concept of "codependency" is a popular framework in the industry, even though it has serious conceptual and ethical problems when applied to real people's lives. When applied to survivors of a drug/alcohol affected batterer, the term blames the victim for her victimhood. *A better term for this condition would be "captive dependent" or "hostage."*
- Drug/alcohol affected men who are engaged in accountably dealing with both issues will be spending a good deal of time away from family, work, etc.

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### THERE IS A LINK...



- Over **50%** of men in BIPs have SA issues and are 8 times as likely to batter on a day in which they have been drinking.
- **Half** of partnered men entering SA treatment have battered in the past year and are 11 times as likely to batter on a day in which they have been drinking.
- **25%-50%** of the women receiving services for DV have SA problems.
- Between **55% and 99%** of women who have SA issues have been victimized at some point in their life and between **67% and 80%** of women in SA treatment are DV victims.

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### HARM FACING BATTERED WOMEN USING DRUGS

- **Impairs** her ability to leave
- **Reduces** her ability to protect herself and her children
- If illegal drugs, puts her in **harm's way**
- Effects of SA **prevent her** from accurately assessing the level of danger posed by the perpetrator
- **Erroneously** believes she can defend herself against physical assaults
- If getting high is a "couple thing" her non-use may **threaten her** perpetrators access




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- Impaired cognition makes safety planning **more difficult**
- **Reluctant** to seek assistance or contact police for fear of arrest, deportation or referral to a child protection agency
- Compulsive use/withdrawal symptoms make it **difficult** for SA survivors to access shelter, advocacy, or other forms of help
- A recovering woman may find the stress of securing safety leads to **relapse**
- If she is using or has used in the past, she may **not be believed**

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est. 1874

**Title:** Pleading with a Saloonist

**Description:** An illustration depicting a group of women praying in the street and trying to persuade a saloon keeper to stop selling alcoholic beverages, ca. 1873-1874.

The caption reads "Pleading with a Saloonist."




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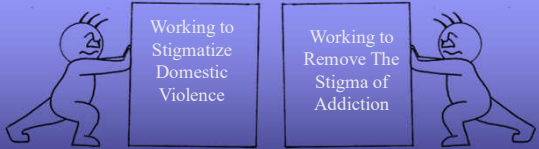
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# What's the Rub?



Domestic Violence Movement      Addictions Field

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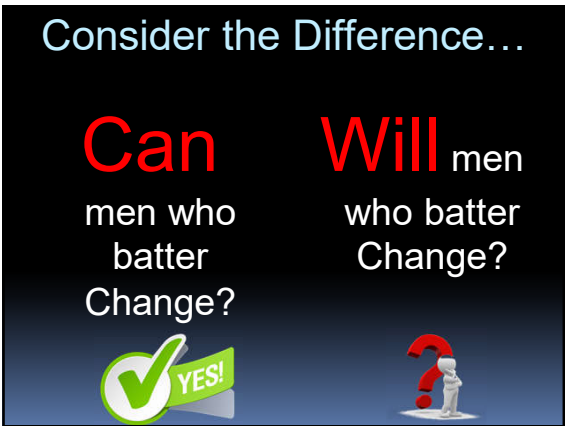
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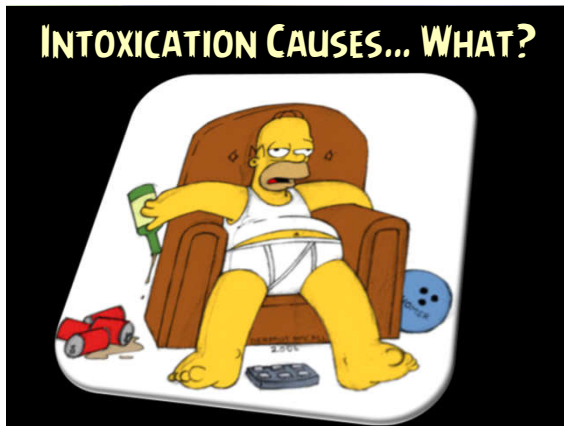
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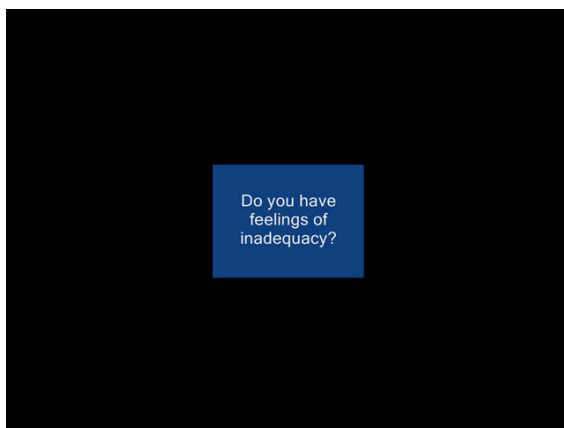
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**AN ABSURD EQUATION**

**“Wait until we get home”**  
**+ “I was out of control”**  
**= A very patient out of control person**



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 **DRUNK ! ?**

*How drunk would you have to be...*



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**The Drunk Exercise**



**Audience Participation**

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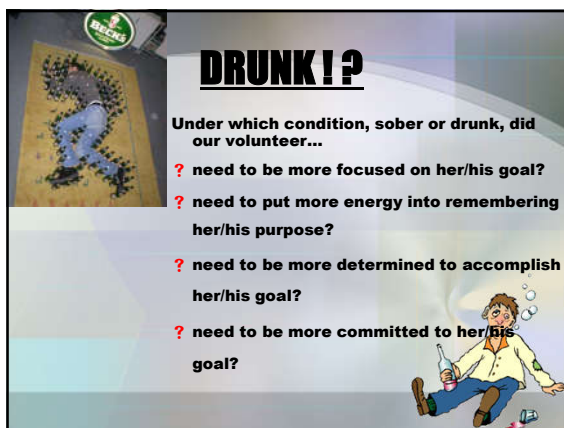
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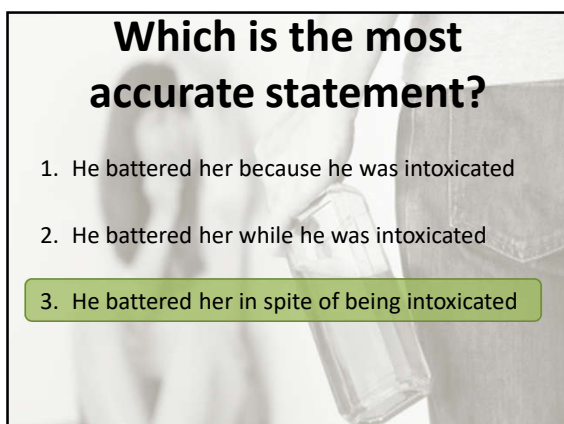
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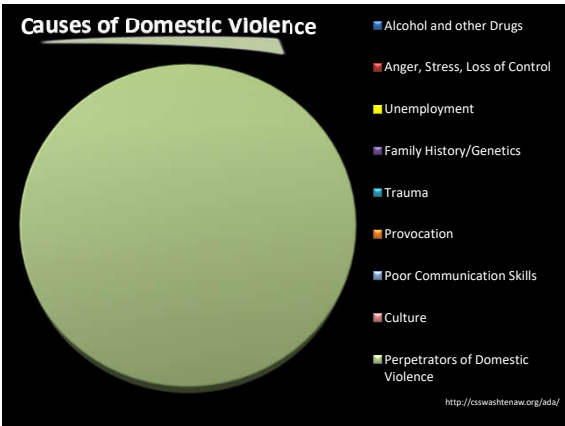
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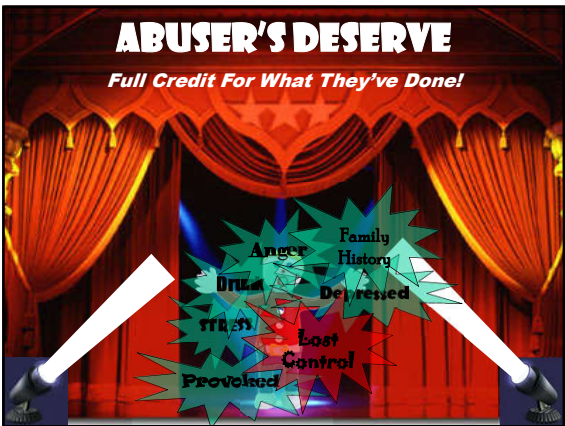
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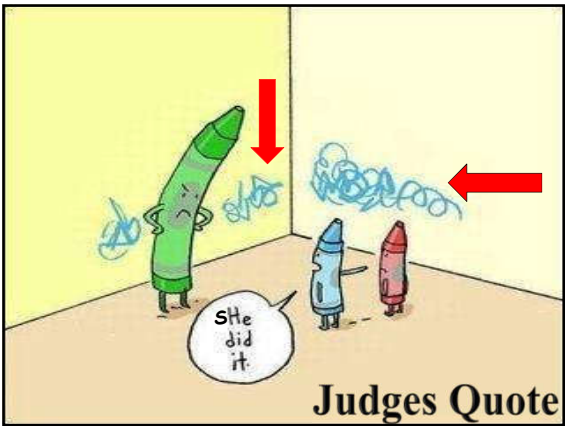
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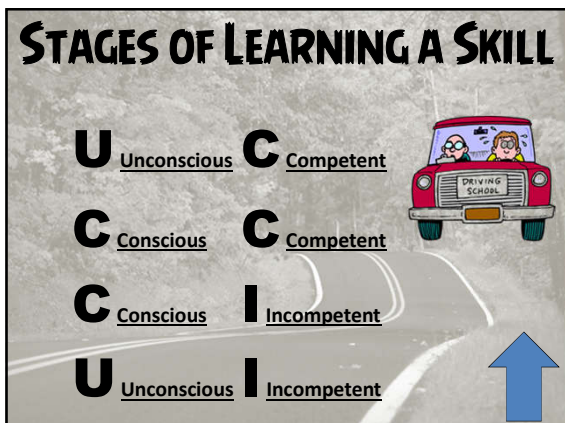
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**If I acted without thinking am I...**

**Spontaneous?**

**Impetuous?**

**Impulsive?**

**Qualified & Practiced**




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**REMEMBER: HE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA!**

Men who batter and abuse are not all that different than the rest of us...similar, **but turned up**

1. I **want** what I **want**, when I **want** it and I am willing to get it at another's expense!
2. Who has not thought about hitting another person...men who batter, have the same thought, **but think it is a good idea!**
3. ... and Justifications abound!




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### FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AOD

- Rates of domestic violence were almost **15 times higher** in households where husbands were described as often drunk as opposed to never drunk.<sup>2</sup>
- Women who have been victims of violence have a **higher risk** of alcohol and other drug problems.<sup>5</sup>




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### FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AOD



- Alcohol is present in more than **50%** of all incidents of domestic violence.<sup>3</sup>
- **76%** of physically abusive incidents occur in the absence of alcohol use.<sup>4</sup>




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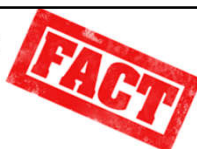
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### Facts about Domestic Violence and AOD



- Battered women often report that, in addition to medicating the emotional and physical pain of trauma, chemical use helped to reduce or eliminate their feelings of fear and became part of their day-to-day safety strategies.<sup>11</sup>
- Battered women are disproportionately represented in chemical dependency treatment populations.<sup>7, 8 & 9</sup>




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## FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND AOD

- Chemically involved battered women are less likely to be believed or taken seriously by others; they are more likely to be blamed for the violence.<sup>6</sup>
- Many chemically dependent battered women are addicted to drugs that were prescribed by the health care providers from whom they sought help.<sup>10</sup>




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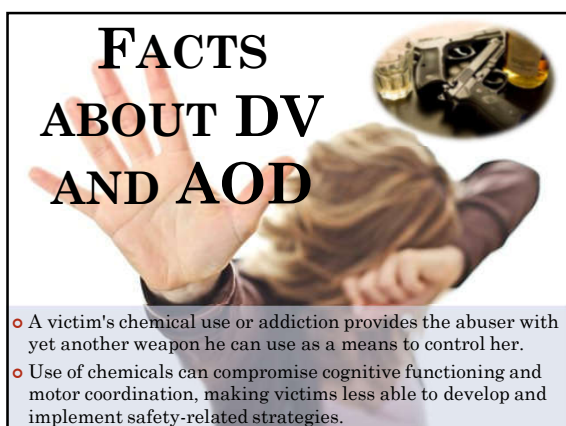
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## FACTS ABOUT DV AND AOD



- A victim's chemical use or addiction provides the abuser with yet another weapon he can use as a means to control her.
- Use of chemicals can compromise cognitive functioning and motor coordination, making victims less able to develop and implement safety-related strategies.

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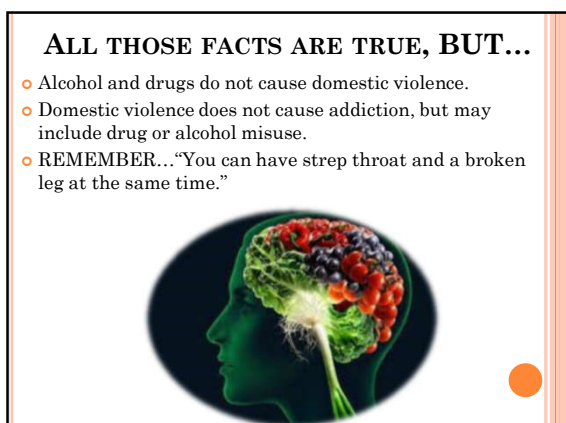
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## ALL THOSE FACTS ARE TRUE, BUT...

- Alcohol and drugs do not cause domestic violence.
- Domestic violence does not cause addiction, but may include drug or alcohol misuse.
- REMEMBER... "You can have strep throat and a broken leg at the same time."




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**SOME PEOPLE STILL  
DON'T GET IT...**

- Addiction to "Power and Control"
- Addicted to Facebook
- Addicted to Chaos
- Addicted to Tanning
- Addicted to Work
- Addicted to Shoes




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**A Culture of  
Accountability**

*A culture of accountability is the only thing that  
will end domestic violence and sexual assault.*




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**Survivor safety**

The most essential consideration is the safety of domestic violence survivors.

The interventions must account for the safety of victims whether they are in domestic violence programs or in substance abuse treatment.

Ask Yourself:

**How is what I am doing enhancing survivor safety?**

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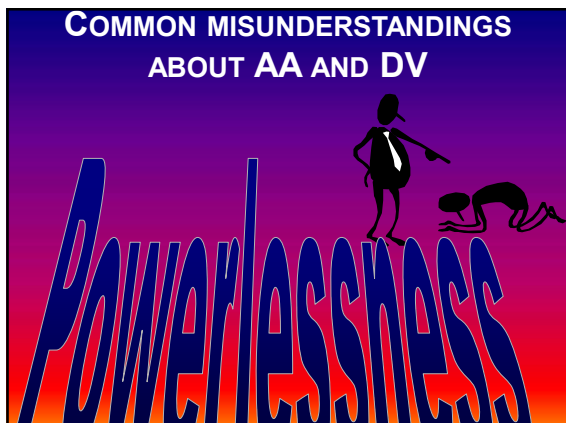
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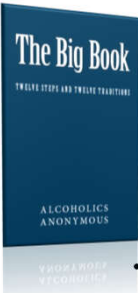
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**What is step #1 of the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous?**



**“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol-- that our lives had become unmanageable”**

• Does this read like you though it did?

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### THEORETICAL COMPARISONS

<u>MEN BATTER</u>	<u>ALCOHOLICS/ADDICTS USE</u>
✓ Because they can and <b>we</b> let them.	○ Because it is a <b>disease</b> .
✓ Because it is effective.	○ Because they have <b>lost the power</b> to choose.
✓ Because they <b>want</b> what they <b>want</b> when they <b>want</b> it.	○ Because it's their <b>best friend</b> .
✓ To <b>stop</b> her from doing something, to <b>get</b> her to do something, or simply to revel in <b>dominance over her</b> .	○ Because they can't imagine life <b>with it or without it</b> .
	○ Because they have a <b>different physiological reaction</b> to it than non alcoholics or addicts.

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## Does Safety = Sobriety? Does Sobriety = Safety?




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### *Safety and sobriety are interconnected*

Lack of sobriety, either in victims or in offenders, increases the risk for further violence against victims.

Lack of victim safety threatens the sobriety of both victim and offender.

*Abstinence and sobriety  
are not sufficient  
conditions for safety.*




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### **Al-Anon on Domestic Violence**

- *No one has to accept violence...we all deserve to be safe*
- *Al-Anon doesn't advocate any particular course of action. We are not urged to either stay or go...All of us deserve to remain safe long enough to discover this for ourselves.*
- *These decisions are best left to each individual member*




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**DRUNK!?**

*There are three major theories about the relationship between domestic violence and intoxication*



**Disinhibition**  
**Social Learning**  
**Deviance Disavowal**

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**Disinhibition notes:**

- No such inhibition center has ever been located in the brain.
- If disinhibition explained the relationship between substance abuse and woman abuse we would expect assailants/perpetrators who were substance abusers to be non-violent when their substance use was terminated...this is not the case




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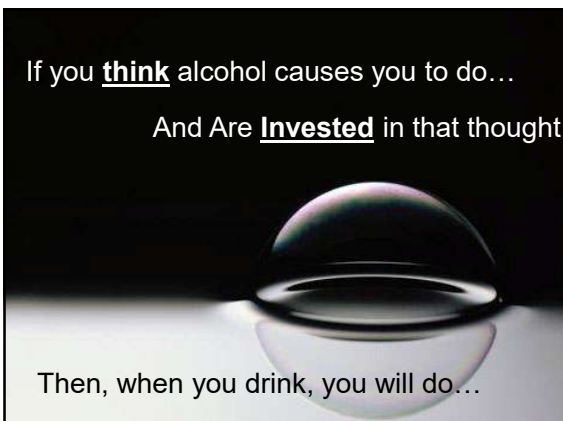
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If you think alcohol causes you to do...  
 And Are Invested in that thought



Then, when you drink, you will do...

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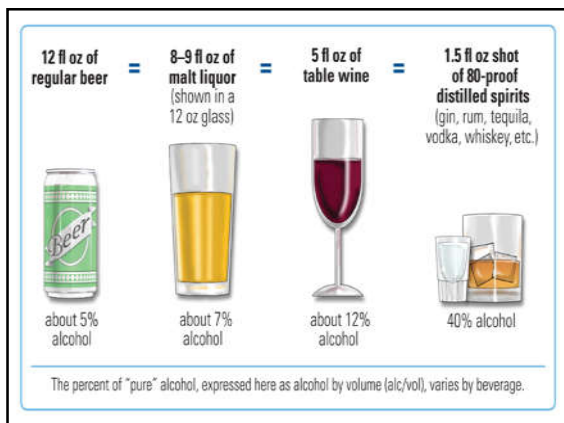
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### I'm/He's Only Violent when Drinking

- Barley, Wheat, Hops make Beer
- Grapes make Wine
- Potatoes make Vodka
- Sugarcane make's Rum
- Agave make's Tequila
- Apples make Cider
- Juniper Berries make Gin

The active ingredient in alcoholic beverages is **ethanol**, a molecule that directly affects the stomach, brain, heart, gall bladder and liver.

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## IMPORTANT FACTORS:

1. **His** growing up in a violent and substance-abusing family
2. **His** believing that violence against women is sometimes acceptable
3. **His** believing that alcohol or drugs can make people violent.
4. **His** personal desire for personal power and a willingness to get what he wants at the expense of another.

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**Training**  
Knowledge...  
useful abilities...  
backbone of...  
quired for...

**TRAINING**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNSELORS

- Give priority to safety and explore safety-related options;
- Provide referral information to the local domestic violence service provider as a resource designed primarily to assist with safety-related needs;
- Provide complete and accurate information about the purposes of twelve-step groups and codependency groups and the potential limitations of these forums as sources of help regarding safety-related concerns;
- Provide referral information to Al-Anon and other resources designed to provide help for family members of substance abusers; and
- Offer opportunities to become educated about chemical dependency independent of her partner.

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#### SURVIVORS WITH CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT PARTNERS <sup>12</sup>

- Codependency and Effects of Victimization
- Implications of Codependency Treatment for Survivors
- Recommendations for Substance Abuse Treatment Counselors
- Relational Model (Self-in-Relation Model)

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CODEPENDENCY TREATMENT

When victims of domestic violence are encouraged to stop the behaviors associated with codependency—enabling, caretaking, over-responsibility for a partner's behavior, not setting limits or defining personal boundaries—they are, in essence, being asked to stop doing the very things that may be keeping them and their children most safe. These behaviors are not symptomatic of some underlying "dysfunction," but are the life-saving skills necessary to protect them and their children from further harm.



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