

**Working with Children & Families  
Affected by Trauma:  
Special Focus on Domestic Violence**

---

Presented by:

Interface Children & Family Services



# Your Webinar Team

**Rachel Navarro**

---

Program Manager  
Family Violence Intervention  
Shelter Services &  
Response Team



**Ruth Rodriguez**

---

Program Manager  
Family Violence Prevention  
Services



# OVERVIEW

- Domestic Violence (DV) 101
- What is a DV Shelter?
- Impact on Children
- Tips for working with youth affected by trauma
- Question/Answer



# DEFINITION

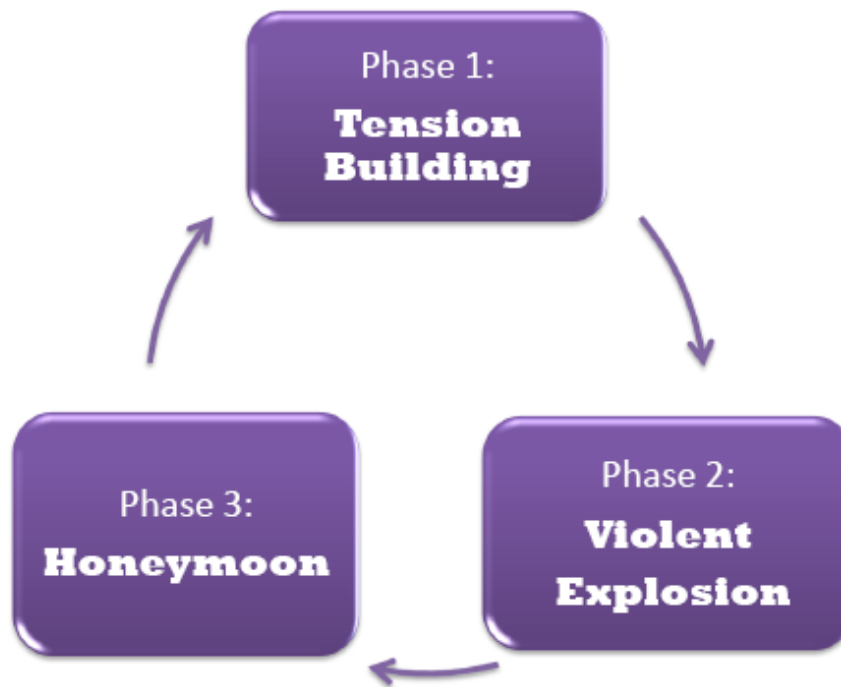
**Domestic Violence or intimate partner violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors including:**

- Inflicted physical injury
- Psychological abuse
- Sexual assault
- Progressive social isolation
- Stalking
- Deprivation
- Intimidation and threats

**Handout: Power and Control and Equality Wheels**

# Handout: Cycle of Violence

## Cycle of Violence



### Phase 1: Tension Building

*Abuser:*

- ☐ Yells
- ☐ Criticizes
- ☐ Threatens
- ☐ Humiliates

Victims describe as “walking on eggshells”

### Phase 2: Violent Explosion

*Abuser:*

- ☐ Abuses victim physically, emotionally and/or sexually.

### Phase 3: Honeymoon

*Abuser:*

- ☐ Acts like nothing ever happened
- ☐ Makes promises
- ☐ Pleads for forgiveness
- ☐ Cries
- ☐ Buys gifts

# Homeless Shelter vs. DV Shelter

## Differences:

- **Confidentiality** – the least amount of people that know the location the better!
- **Safety of Clients** – someone is probably looking for them!

# Question for the Participants

In a single day in 2007, how many children were living in a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing facility?

Approximately.....

A. 5,000

B. 8,000

C. 13,000

**Please type your answer in the chat box.**

# Answer:

C. In a single day in 2007,  
**13, 485 children**  
were living in a domestic  
violence shelter or  
transitional housing  
facility.





# The Continuum of Exposure



# Question for the Participants

In what ways do you think domestic violence affects a child's health and school performance?



- A. School failure
- B. Tired and lethargic
- C. Bullying
- D. Short attention span
- E. A and C
- F. All of the above.

Please, select your answer.

# Answer:

In what ways to do you think domestic violence affects a child's health and school performance?

A. School failure

B. Tired and lethargic

C. Bullying

D. Short attention span

E. A and C

F. All of the above.

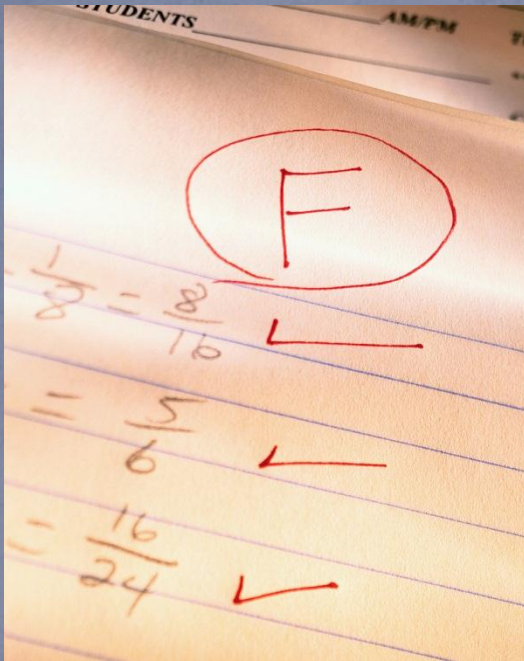
# Challenges for Children and Teens



- Social
- Emotional
- Psychological
- Behavioral
- Physical

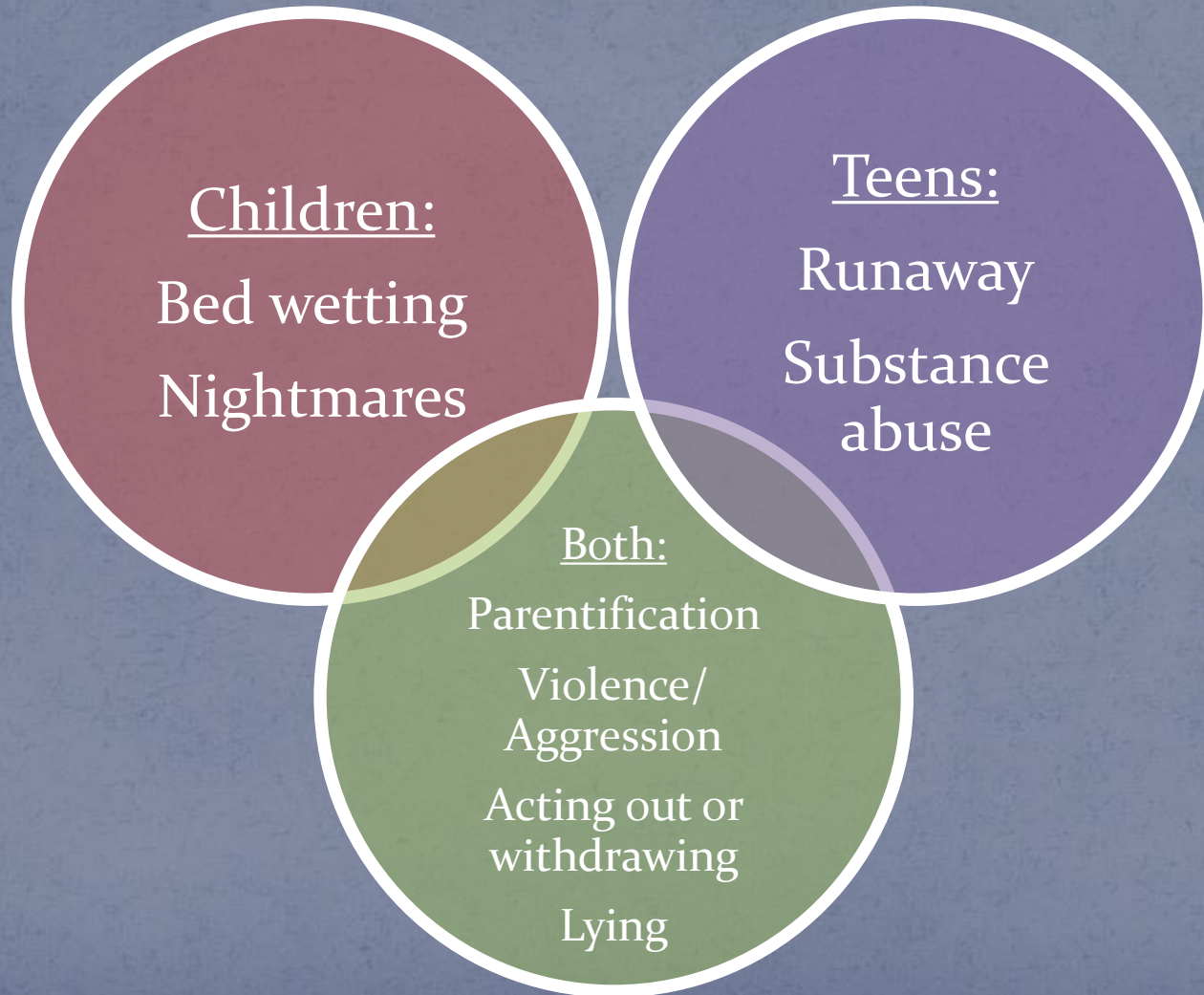


# Impact of DV on Health and School Performance



- School Failure
- Absenteeism
- More school nurse visits
- Referral to a school speech pathologist
- Lower grade point averages
- School suspension

# Childhood and Teen Challenges: Behavior

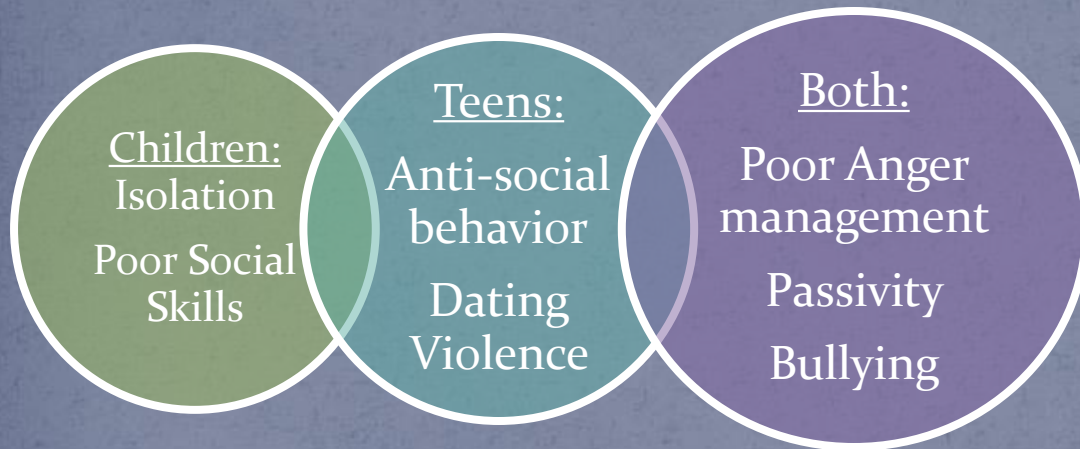


# Childhood and Teen Challenges: Physical



- Frequently Sick
- Somatic Complaints
- Nervous, anxious, short attention span
- Tired and lethargic
- Regression in development
- High risk play
- Self abuse

# Challenges for Children and Teens: Social





# Child and Teenage Challenges: Emotional/ Psychological

- Confusion and  
Conflicting Feelings  
Towards Parents
- Anger
- Embarrassment
- Suicide  
Ideation
- Depression
- Shame,  
Guilt, and  
Self Blame



# You make a difference!

"In every community there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart there is the power to do it."

- Marianne Williamson



# Tips for working with children affected by trauma

- Recognize bad days and have a transition activity.
- Learn each child's name and use it often.
- Be on time.
- Interact without judgment.
- Recognize that this is a temporary living situation.
- Don't take it personal.
- Take care of yourself!
  
- **Handout: School on Wheels Tip sheet**

# Questions from the Participants



# SOURCES

- Collaborative for Alternatives to Violence and Abuse
- California Medical Training Center
- Office of Emergency Services
- Advanced Training in Intimate Partner Violence for Healthcare Providers Participant Guide
- California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
- Futures without Violence