

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILDREN

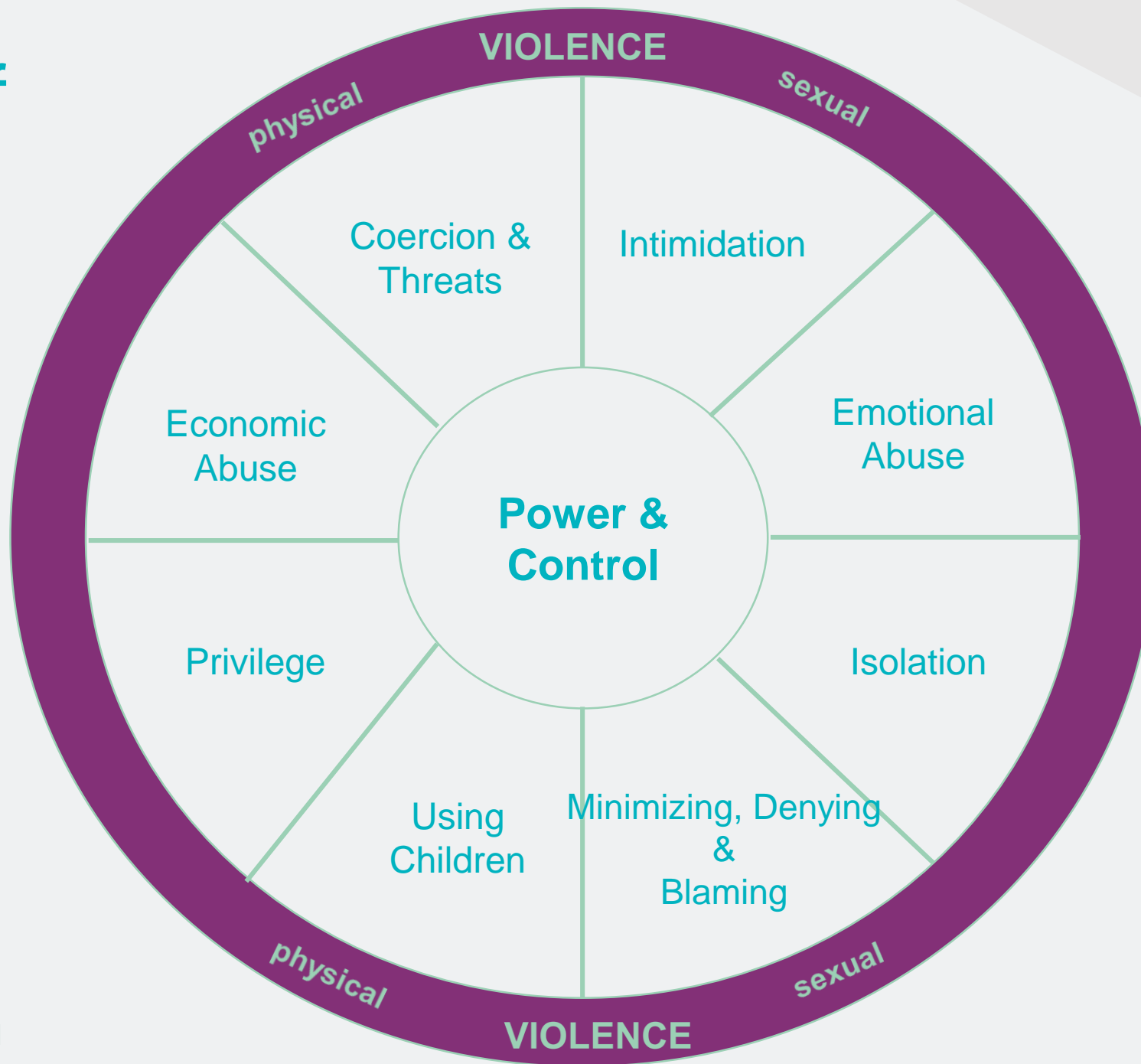


**Take care of
your needs**

What is Domestic Violence?

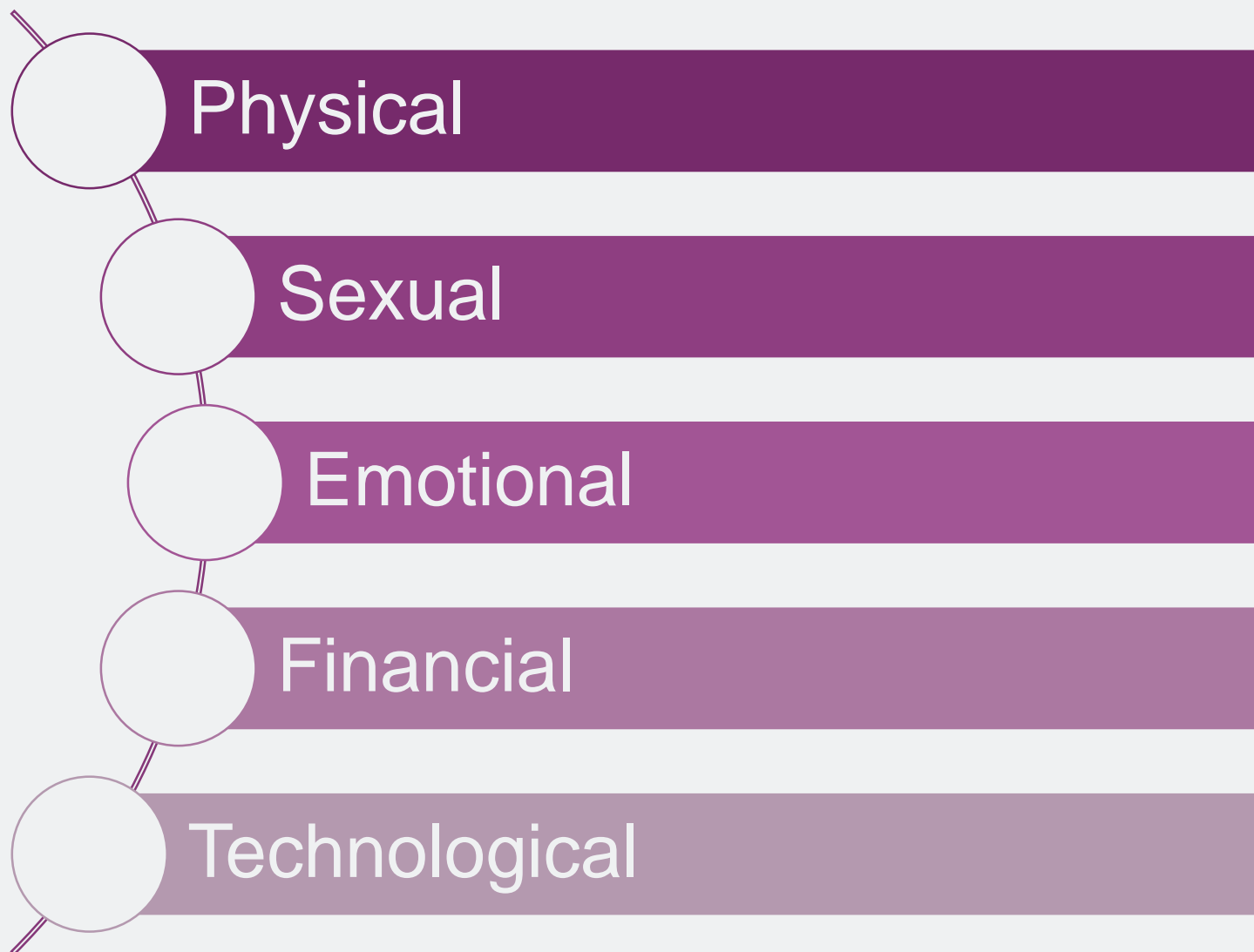
a pattern of coercive behavior used by one person to gain and maintain power and control over another in an intimate or familial relationship.

Tactics of Abuse



Adapted from the Domestic
Abuse Intervention Programs
Duluth Model Power & Control
Wheel

Methods of Control



Children and Domestic Violence

**15.5
million**

children in the U.S. live in families in which intimate partner violence occurred *at least once* during the year

1 in 4

will experience some form of family violence during their lifetime.

**7
million**

children in the U.S. live in families with severe, ongoing domestic violence

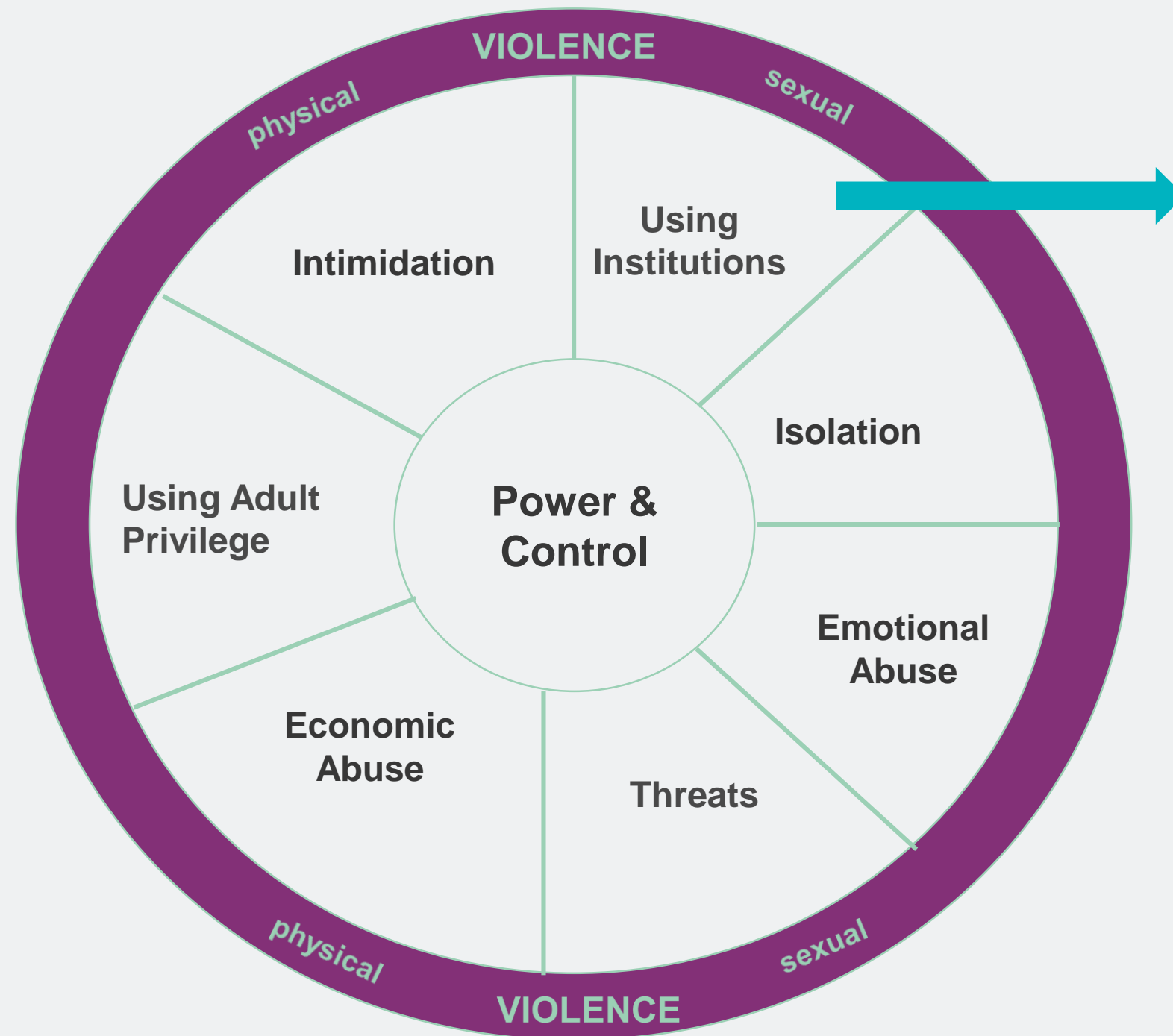


Children and DV

Can Include

- Physical abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Threats
- Intimidation

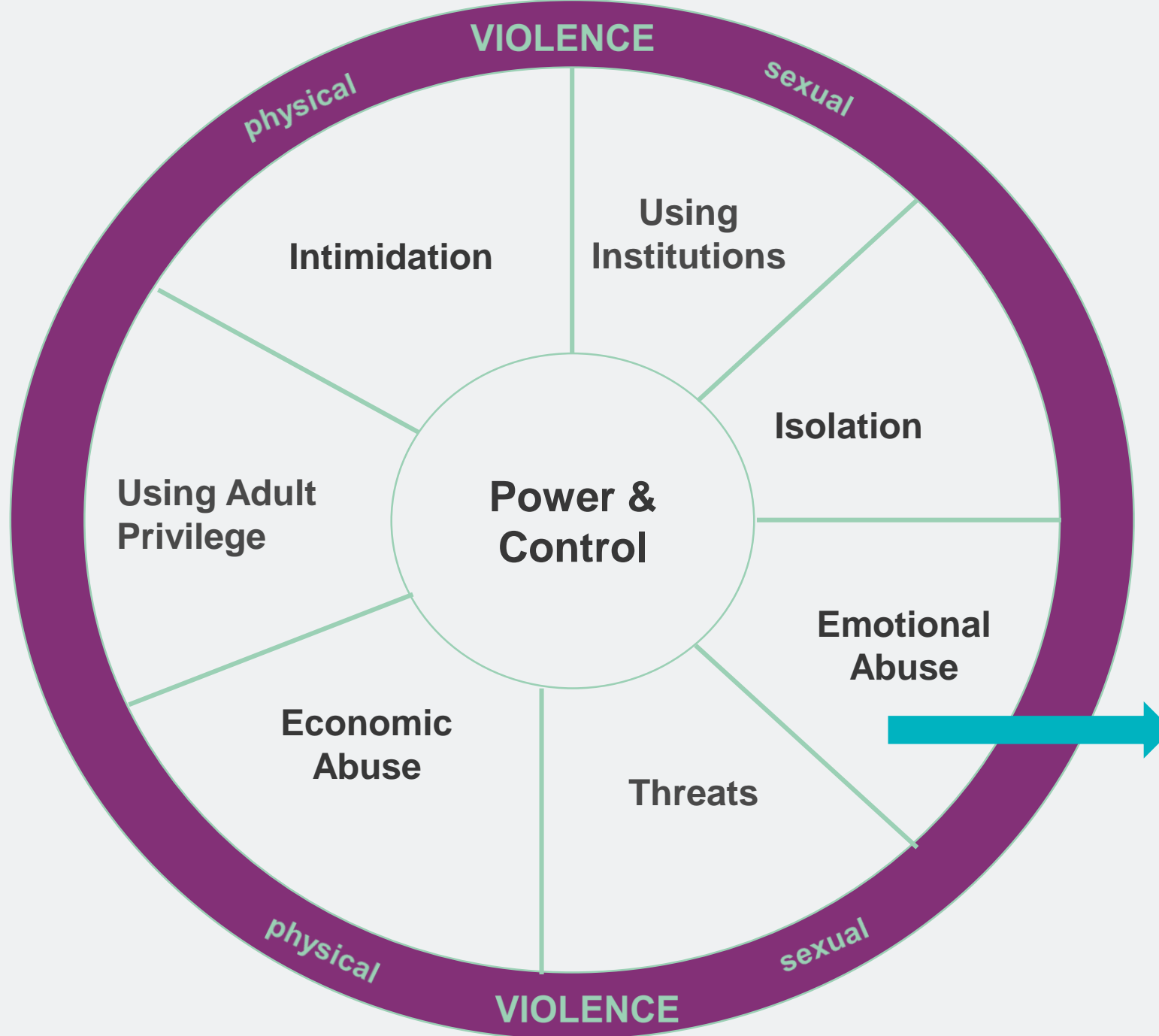




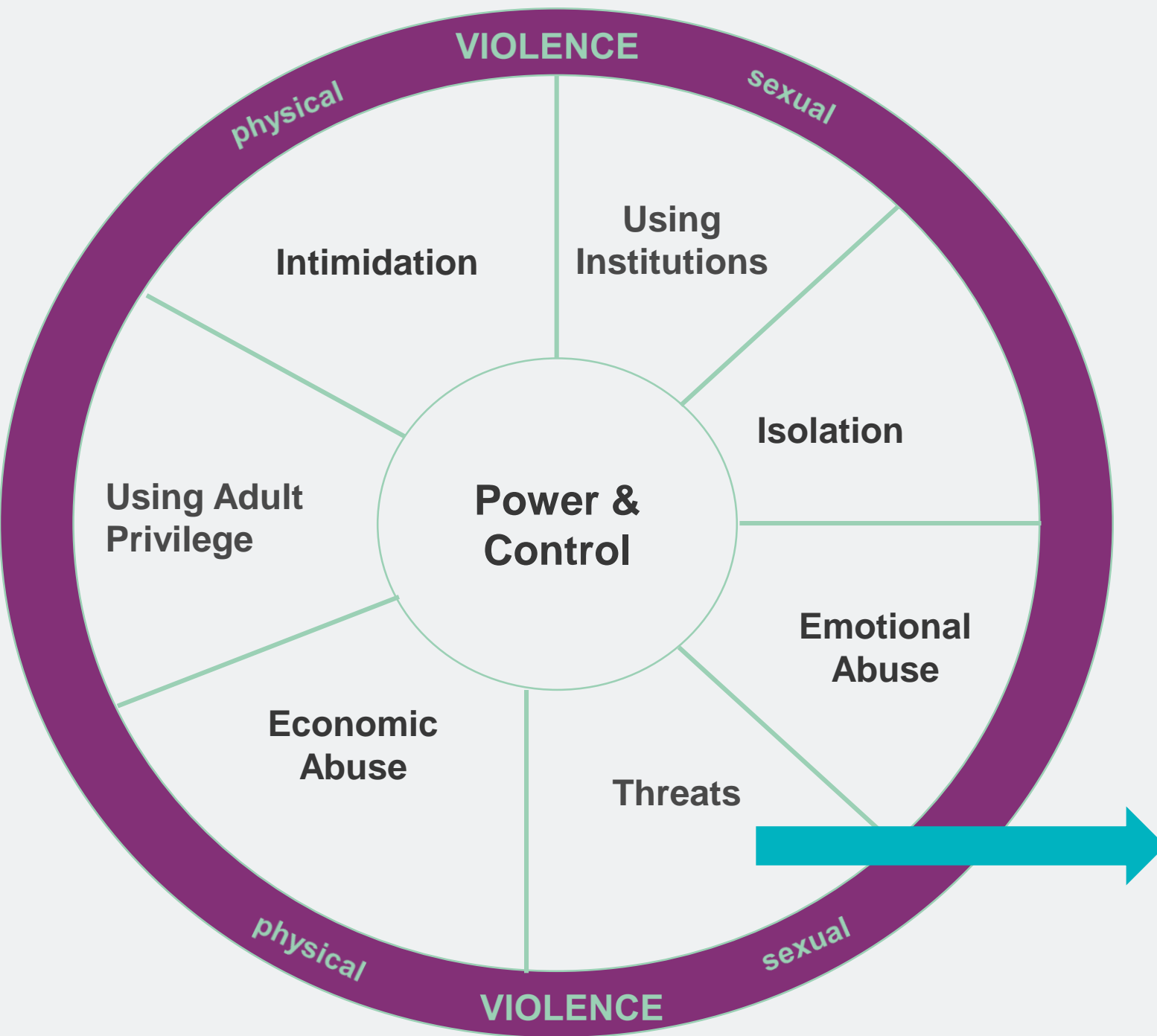
- Threatening punishment from a spiritual entity
- Manipulating the court system
- Threatening law enforcement involvement
- Accessing information



- Controlling access to peers, adults, siblings, and other caregivers
- Prohibiting the child from accessing peaceful places
- Surveilling social media accounts
- Refusal to seek medical treatment

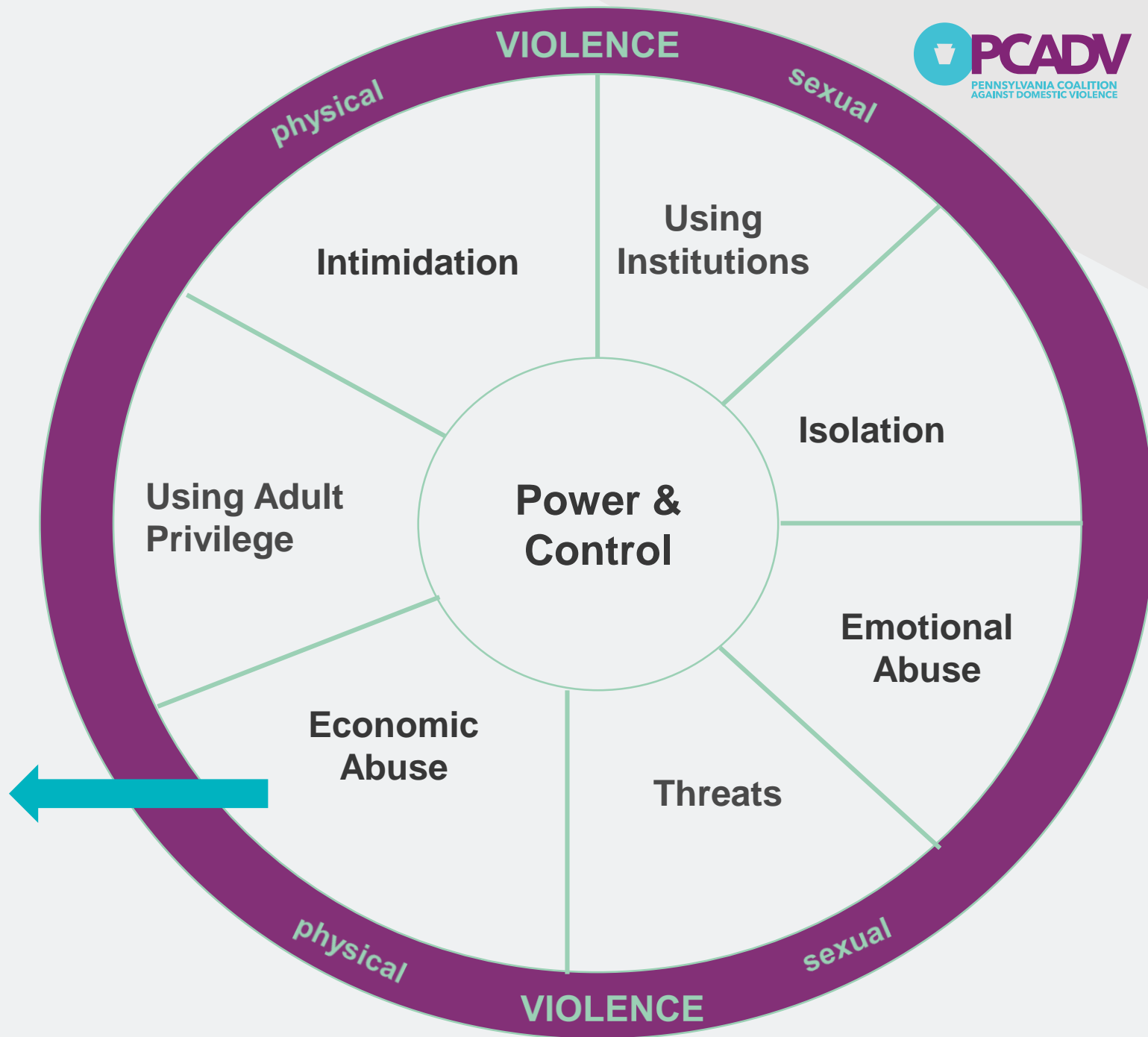


- Put downs and name calling
- Dead-naming and mispronouncing
- Using child as a confidant
- Pressuring
- Intentionally speaking in a language that the child does not understand



- Coercion
- Threatening abandonment
- Threatening harm
- Threatening homicide/suicide
- Threats of confinement

- Withholding basic needs
- Misusing household or support funds
- Withholding child support
- Using children as an economic bargaining tool



- Forced labor
- Severe punishment
- Denying input in custody and visitation decisions
- Denying agency of the child
- Infantilizing the child



- Instilling fear through looks, actions, gestures
- Property destruction
- Using body stature to intimidate
- Intentionally creating unsafe spaces




The image features a central clock face with a black rim and a white dial. The dial has black tick marks for minutes and hours. In the center of the clock face, the text "10 minute break" is written in a red, sans-serif font. Surrounding the central clock are numerous smaller, tilted clock hands, some black and some red, scattered across the white background, creating a sense of motion and time passing.

10
minute
break

Children's experience of domestic violence may include



The background of the slide features a close-up, macro shot of numerous water droplets of varying sizes on a dark, reflective surface. The lighting creates bright highlights on the droplets, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. In the center of the slide, there is a large, rounded rectangular box with a solid pink color. Inside this box, the text is written in a dark gray, sans-serif font, centered and arranged in four lines.

Experiencing domestic violence
is a kind of traumatic stressor
that compromises children's sources of
safety and protection

Abuser tactics that involve children may include:

Emotional
Manipulation

Undermining

Threats

Harming
and/or
abducting

Protective Strategies:

Parents Experiencing Domestic Violence

May:

- Agree with their partner to placate them, comply with their demands
- Discipline the children severely
- Stay with or return to their partner

In order to:

- Avoid angering the partner and “provoking” assault against themselves or their children
- Avoid worse punishment or abuse by the partner
- Avoid stalking and escalation of the violence if they are living apart.

Domestic violence survivors' efforts to protect their children can be misunderstood as poor parenting.

Impact on the Non-abusive Partner and their Parenting

May internalize blame, criticism from abusive partner as “not good enough” as a parent

View of self and trust in others may be affected

Stress response system may become dysregulated or altered

Faith in their capacity to keep their children safe may be compromised

Guide for Engaging & Supporting Parents Affected by Domestic Violence

Enhancing Parenting
Capacity & Strengthening
Parent-Child Bonds

Written by Susan Blumenfeld, MSW, LCSW
National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health

Guide for Engaging & Supporting Parents Affected by Domestic Violence

Children are exposed to a continuum of stressful experiences



Positive
Stress

The diagram consists of three overlapping, trapezoidal shapes arranged horizontally. Each shape is a different shade of red, with the leftmost being the darkest and the rightmost being the lightest. Each shape contains text representing a level of stress.

Tolerable
Stress

Toxic
Stress

Stress responses are survival reflexes

Fight
Flight
Freeze
Fawn



Trauma, Resilience, and Healing

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Types of ACEs

Abuse

Emotional abuse

Physical abuse

Sexual abuse

Household Challenges

Intimate Partner Violence

Substance Abuse

Mental Illness

Separation/Divorce

Incarcerated household member

Neglect

Emotional

Physical

Philadelphia ACEs Additional Measurement

Neighborhood
safety and trust

Bullying

Witness Violence

Racism

Foster care

As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for negative health outcomes

0 ACEs

1 ACE

2 ACEs

3 ACEs

4+ ACEs

Low Risk

High Risk

Lasting Impacts/Possible Risk Outcomes



INJURY

- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Fractures
- Burns



CHRONIC DISEASE

- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Heart disease



INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- HIV
- STDs



MENTAL HEALTH

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Suicide attempts
- PTSD



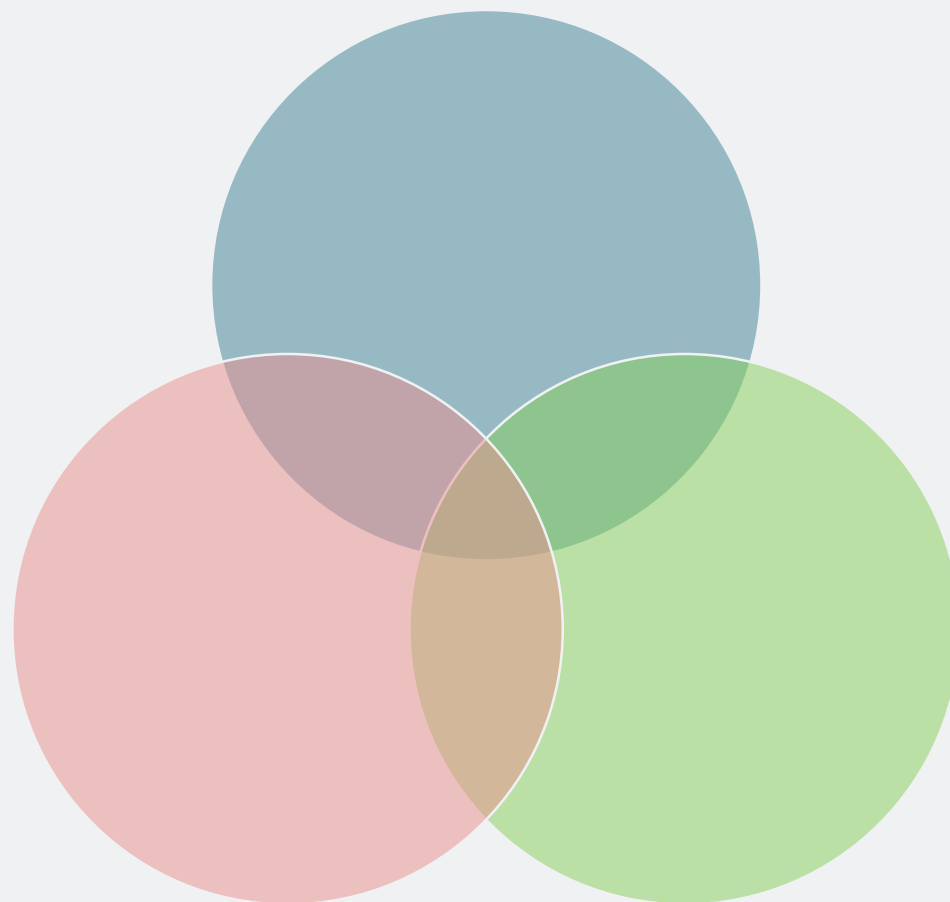
MATERNAL HEALTH

- Unintended pregnancy
- Pregnancy complications
- Fetal death



RISKY BEHAVIORS

- Alcohol Abuse
- Substance Abuse
- Unsafe Sex

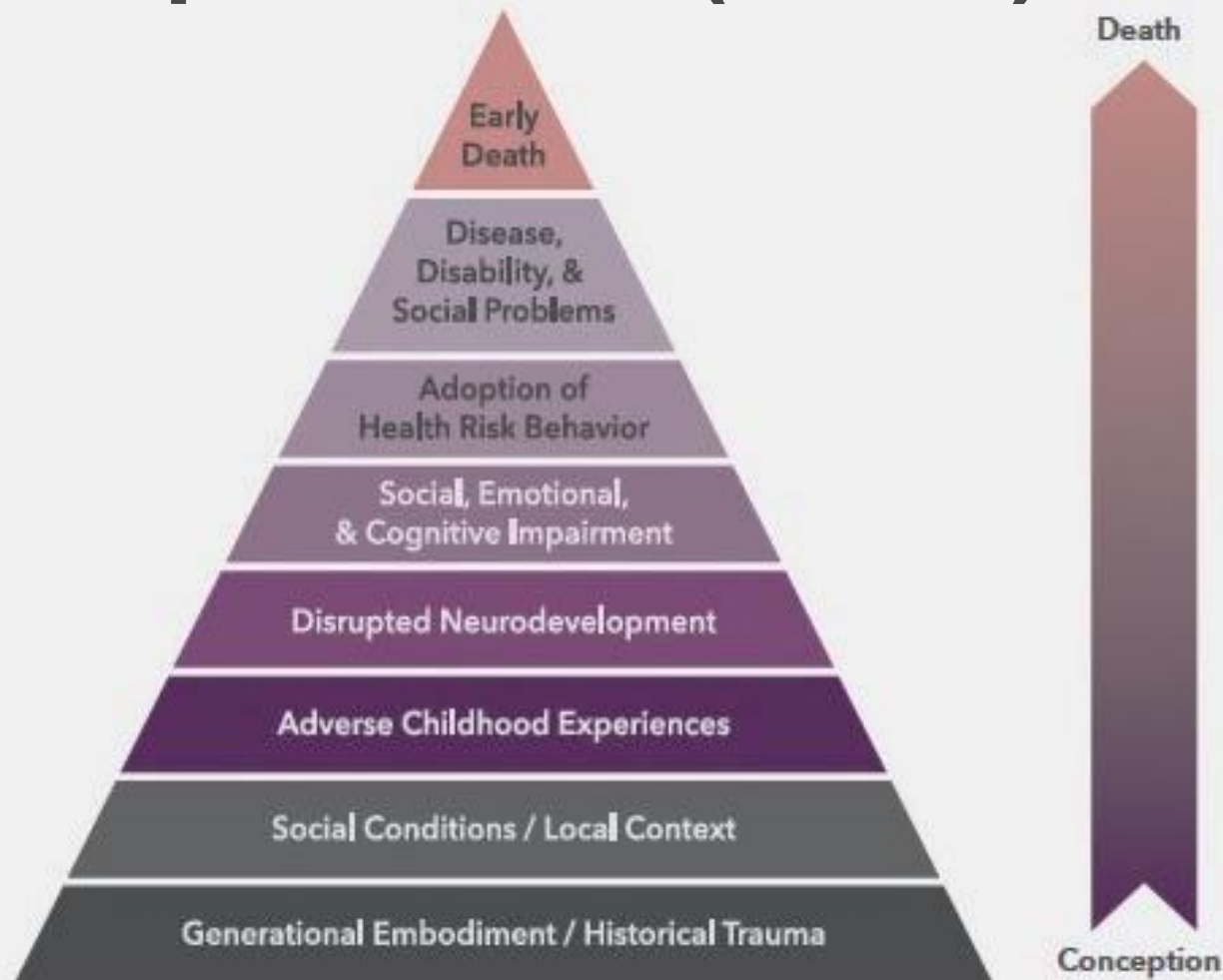


Domestic violence may occur at the same time as
other stressful and traumatic experiences in
children's lives

Children experiencing DV are at greater risk of being abused

- Between 45-70% of children experiencing DV are at increased risk of being physically abused.
- More than 1/3 of children experiencing domestic violence reported being maltreated within the past year (compared to 9% of peers who did not experience DV).

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

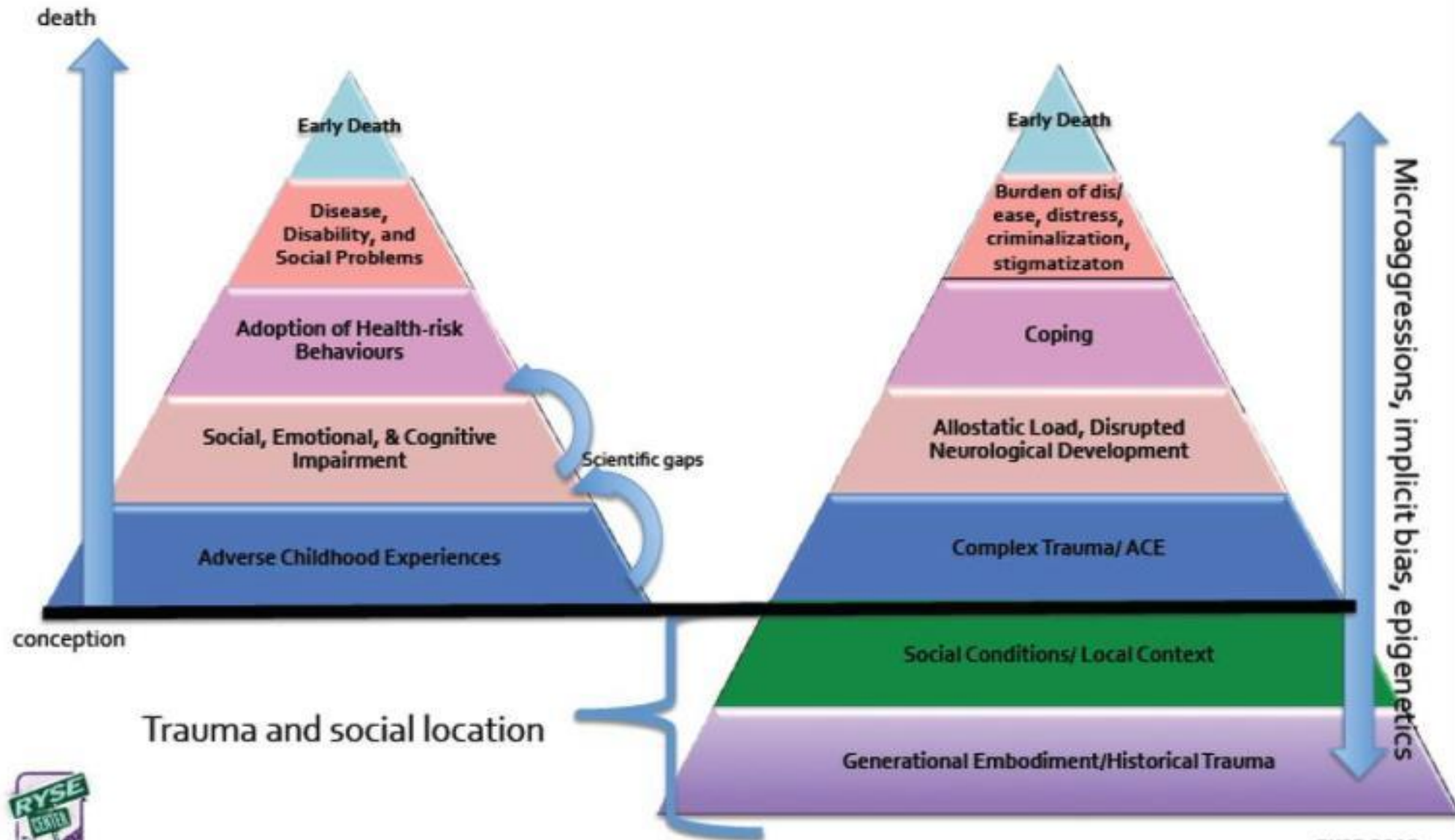


Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/cestudy/ace-graphics.html>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kaiser Permanente. The ACE Study Survey Data [Unpublished Data]. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2016.

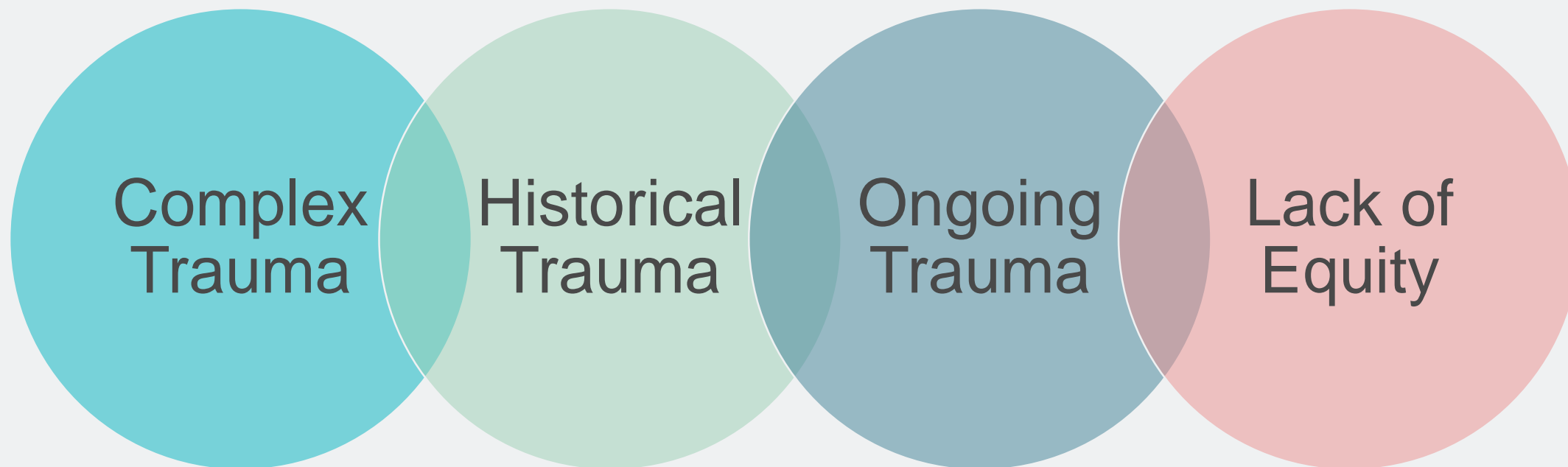
Trauma and Social Location

Adverse Childhood Experiences

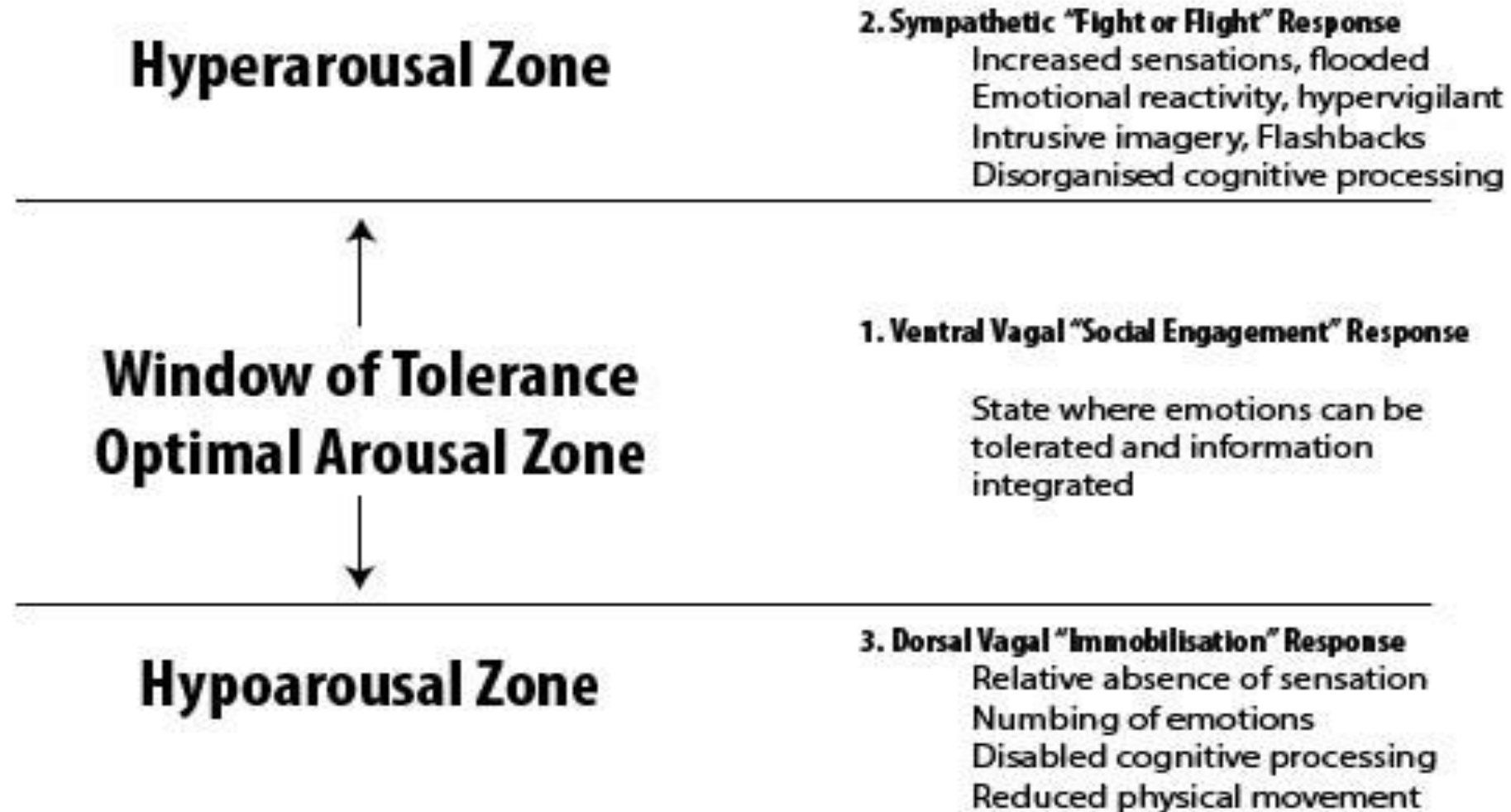
Historical Trauma/Embodiment




Effects of Intergenerational Trauma on Parenting Capacity



Window of Tolerance



Adapted from Ogden, Minton, & Pain, 2006, p. 27, 32; Corrigan, Fisher, & Nutt, 2010, p. 2



10
minute
break

Children's behavior has
meaning and can be
understood within the context of
their traumatic experiences

Commonly observed trauma-related responses

Children have
tantrums, cry
inconsolably,
become
emotionally
dysregulated

Children act
aggressively
towards others

Children seem
depressed,
withdrawn and
become socially
isolated

How We Can Help Young Children: Supporting Parents and Caregivers

Help regulating, soothing, and calming

Provide reassurance

Establish
routines

Anticipate

Give choices

Respond



Breathing Techniques



Hills & Valleys



Pick a Flower,
Blow a Pinwheel

Children may blame themselves and feel responsible for what happened...

“It’s not your fault.”


Parents and caregivers can provide reassurance

What We Might See & How to Support



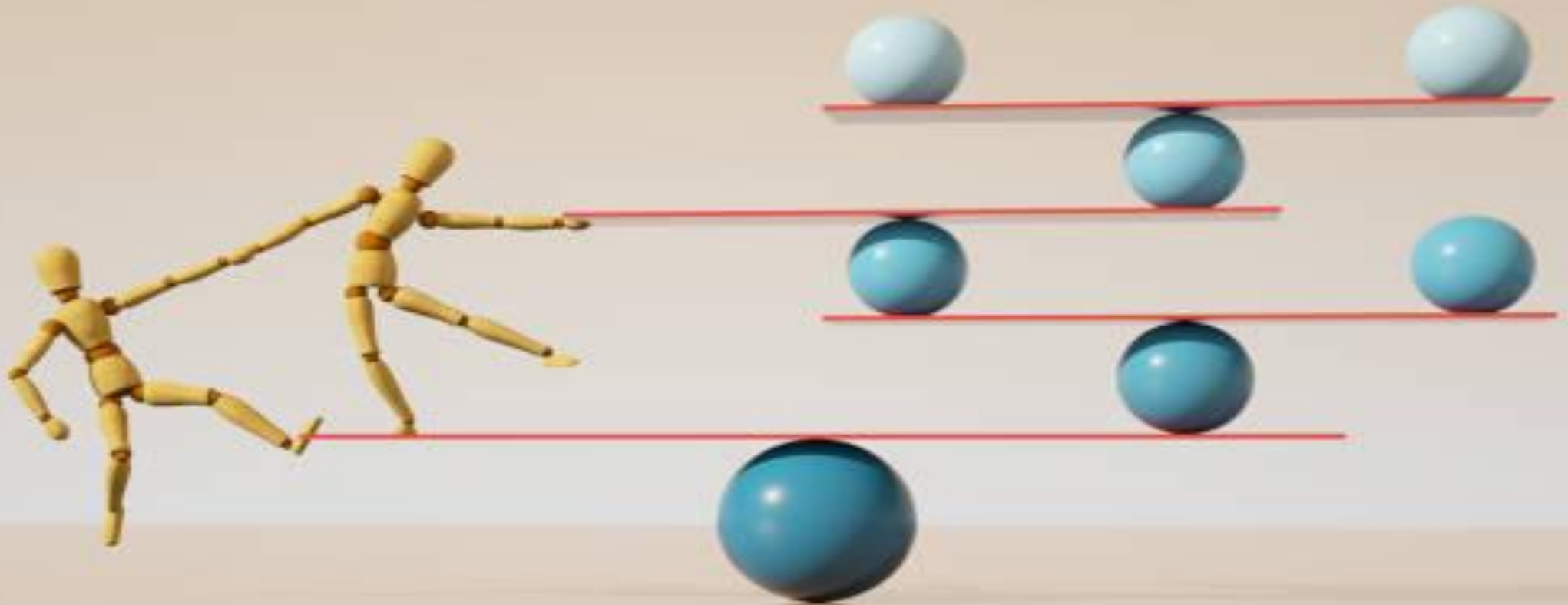
School Age
Children

Adolescents



Healing from exposure to interpersonal violence
begins by restoring a sense of safety and
protection within a consistently nurturing and
trustworthy relationship.

How do we hold the parent's needs and the child's needs in mind *at the same time*?



Using this approach
helps children affected
by DV and other trauma

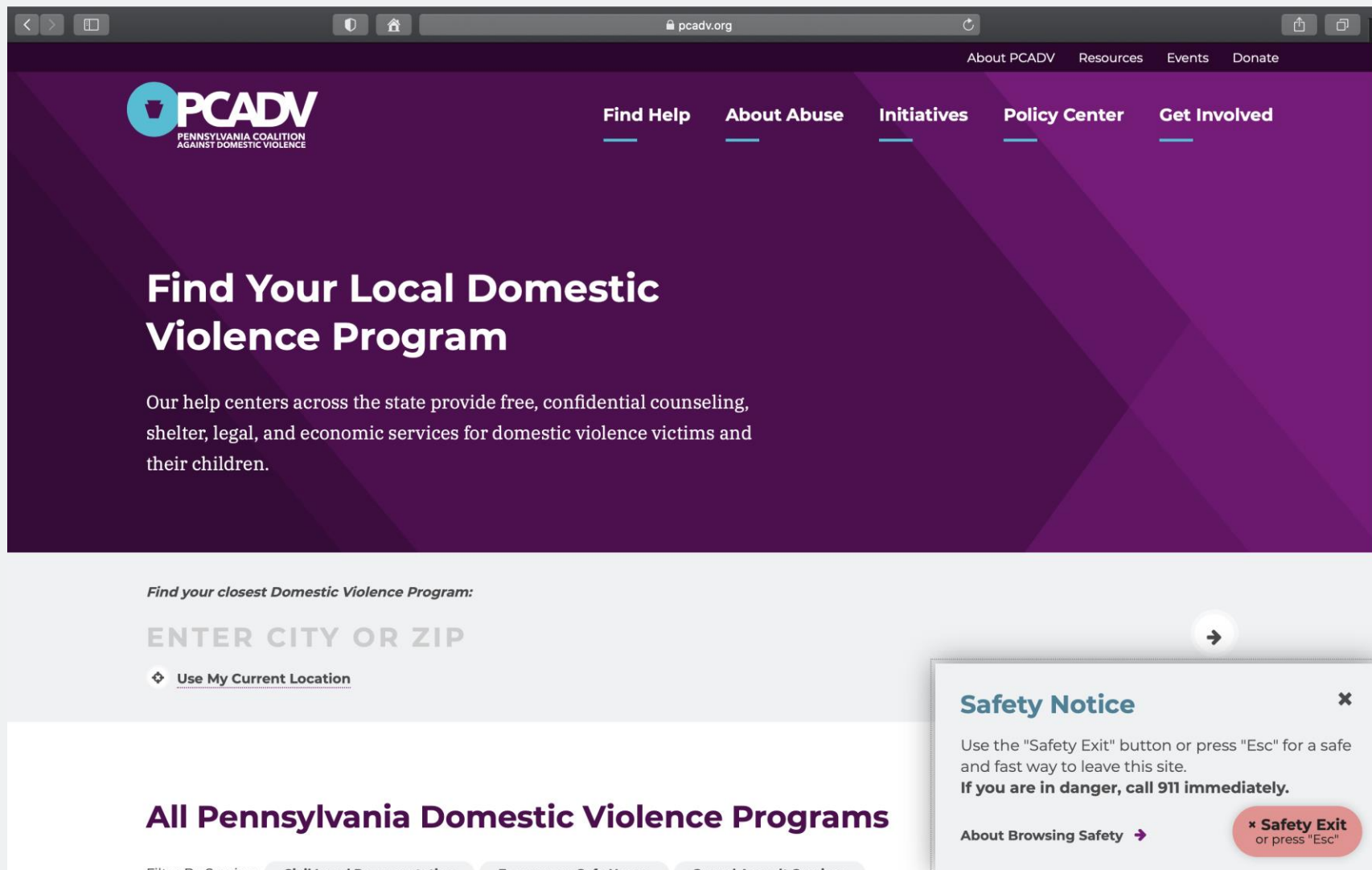
Develop supportive,
trustworthy relationships
with non-abusive
parents, other caring
adults, and peers

Gain more adaptive
ways of coping with the
traumatic effects of
experiencing DV

Alter negative views
about self, others, and
the world

Build richer self-
capacities

Find Your Local Domestic Violence Program



The screenshot shows the PCADV website with a dark purple header. The main navigation bar includes links for 'About PCADV', 'Resources', 'Events', and 'Donate'. Below this, a secondary navigation bar features 'Find Help', 'About Abuse', 'Initiatives', 'Policy Center', and 'Get Involved'. The main content area has a large heading 'Find Your Local Domestic Violence Program' and a subheading 'Our help centers across the state provide free, confidential counseling, shelter, legal, and economic services for domestic violence victims and their children.' Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Find your closest Domestic Violence Program:' and a button 'ENTER CITY OR ZIP'. A link 'Use My Current Location' is also present. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'All Pennsylvania Domestic Violence Programs' with a list of categories: 'Filter By Category', 'Child and Adolescent', 'Emergency Safe Haven', and 'Sexual Assault Centers'. A 'Safety Notice' pop-up is visible on the right side of the page.

Find your closest Domestic Violence Program:

ENTER CITY OR ZIP

[Use My Current Location](#)

All Pennsylvania Domestic Violence Programs

Filter By Category: [Child and Adolescent](#) [Emergency Safe Haven](#) [Sexual Assault Centers](#)

Safety Notice

Use the "Safety Exit" button or press "Esc" for a safe and fast way to leave this site.
If you are in danger, call 911 immediately.

[About Browsing Safety](#) →

Safety Exit
or press "Esc"



Questions?

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