

RDDAP

Rape/Domestic Abuse Program



Trauma, Domestic Violence & Traumatic Brain Injury

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Incarcerated Victim Advocate

Objectives

- ▶ Be able to....
- ▶ Recognize the relationship between domestic violence and TBI
- ▶ Understanding dynamics of domestic violence and power and control
- ▶ Recognize the opportunity to screen for TBI in survivors of domestic violence in order to offer more trauma informed care and programming

What Is Trauma?

- ▶ Trauma is defined as the response to a deeply distressing or disturbing event that overwhelms an individual's ability to cope, causing feelings of helplessness, diminishing their sense of self and their ability to feel the full range of emotions and experiences.
- ▶ Trauma does not discriminate and it is pervasive throughout the world

National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Domestic Violence

Did you know?

- ▶ “Wife beating” was made illegal in all states by 1920. Modern attention to DV began in the women’s movement of the 1970’s, particularly within feminism and women’s rights, as concern about wives being beaten by their husbands gained attention.
- ▶ Remember....men can also be victims to domestic violence

Domestic Violence

- ▶ Women exposed to domestic violence are.....
 - ▶ 16% more likely to have low birth weight pregnancies
 - ▶ 1.5 times more likely to acquire STDS or HIV
 - ▶ More likely to experience depression
 - ▶ More likely to use alcohol or drugs
 - ▶ More likely to be victims of homicide

Domestic Violence

- ▶ Physical and visible conditions and injuries that can result from trauma and/or domestic violence
 - Strangulation marks
 - Healing issues- scars, physical or mental

Domestic Violence and Brain Injury

- ▶ Domestic violence and brain injury are very similar in the way they present themselves
- ▶ Similarities are and will include
 - ▶ Problems with memory, vision, fatigue, headache and migraines
 - ▶ Sensitivity to light, sound and motion
 - ▶ Night terrors or explosive anger
 - ▶ Slowed thoughts, word recall and reaction times

Results of TBI (2016) Shelter Residents

Positive HELP Brain Injury Screenings

Location, Number of screenings, Number (and percentage) of screenings positive for brain injury

- ▶ Friendship Home (Lincoln)- 57 -38 (66.7%)
- ▶ The Bridge (Fremont) -15 - 3 (20.0%)
- ▶ Center for Survivors (Columbus)- 9 - 7 (77.8%)
- ▶ Rape/Domestic Abuse Program (North Platte) -12 - 8 (66.7%)
- ▶ Overall - 93 - 56 (60.2%)

Results of TBI for Rape/Domestic Abuse Program (2016)

- ▶ [..\Desktop\TBI2.pdf](#)
- ▶ [TBIScreeningTool.pdf](#)


Results (2017)

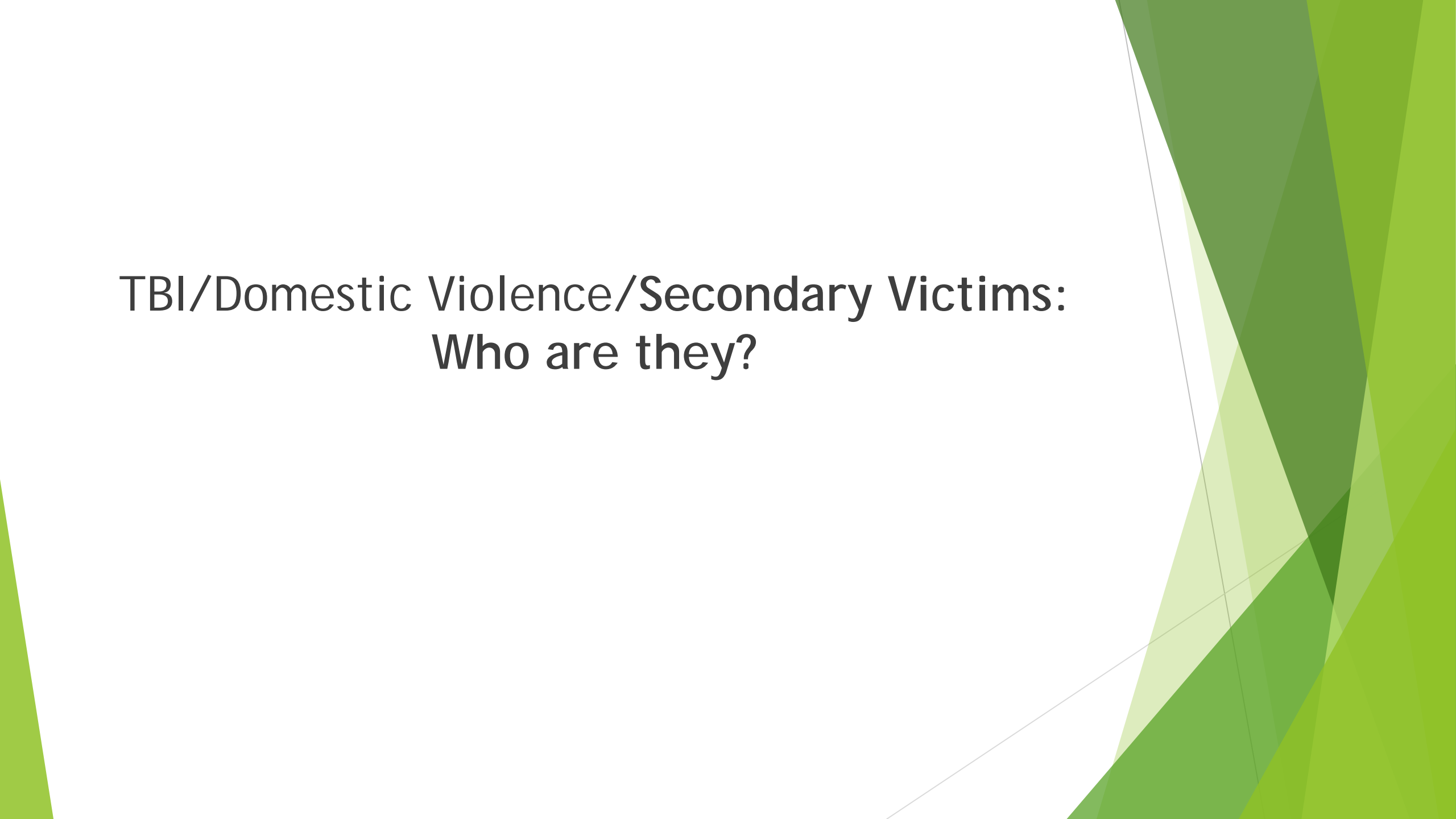
Incarcerated Victims

- ▶ In 2017 TBI screening results came to 41 total screenings completed, and 38 victims came back with a positive screen, making it equal to a 93% positivity rate among victims.

TBI

- ▶ TBI has gained public awareness thanks to advocates for athletes and veterans, but these groups are just the tip of the ice berg. A larger population which may be the most effected by TBI, remains largely ignored.
- ▶ It is MY experience that the secondary domestic violence victim: children, is much larger than anyone of us could imagine
- ▶ We need more information on the connection between domestic violence and TBI but even when the connection is clear, many are skeptical.....

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- ▶ While working as a shelter advocate I found that it was extremely hard to work with the victims that have suffered a trauma that, I say, is a traumatic brain injury.
 - ▶ The difficulty of having a conversation with the victim was so great, you couldn't. Whether it be drugs, alcohol or anything else, in the end, it is really about the trauma of the domestic violence.

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TBI/Domestic Violence/Secondary Victims: Who are they?