

Veterans Health Administration

VA Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program

IPV & VETERANS



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

IPVAP: Definitions

- **Domestic Violence:** Though this term has historically referred to as intimate partner violence, it more accurately refers to *any* violence or abuse that occurs within the “domestic sphere” or “at home.” DV may include child abuse, elder abuse, and other types of interpersonal violence (Wallace 2004).
- **Intimate Partner Violence:** “describes physical, sexual, or psychological harm or stalking behavior by a current or former partner that occurs on a **continuum of frequency and severity** ranging from emotional abuse to chronic, severe battering or even death. It can occur in heterosexual or same-sex relationships and **does not require sexual intimacy or cohabitation.**” (CDC 2016).



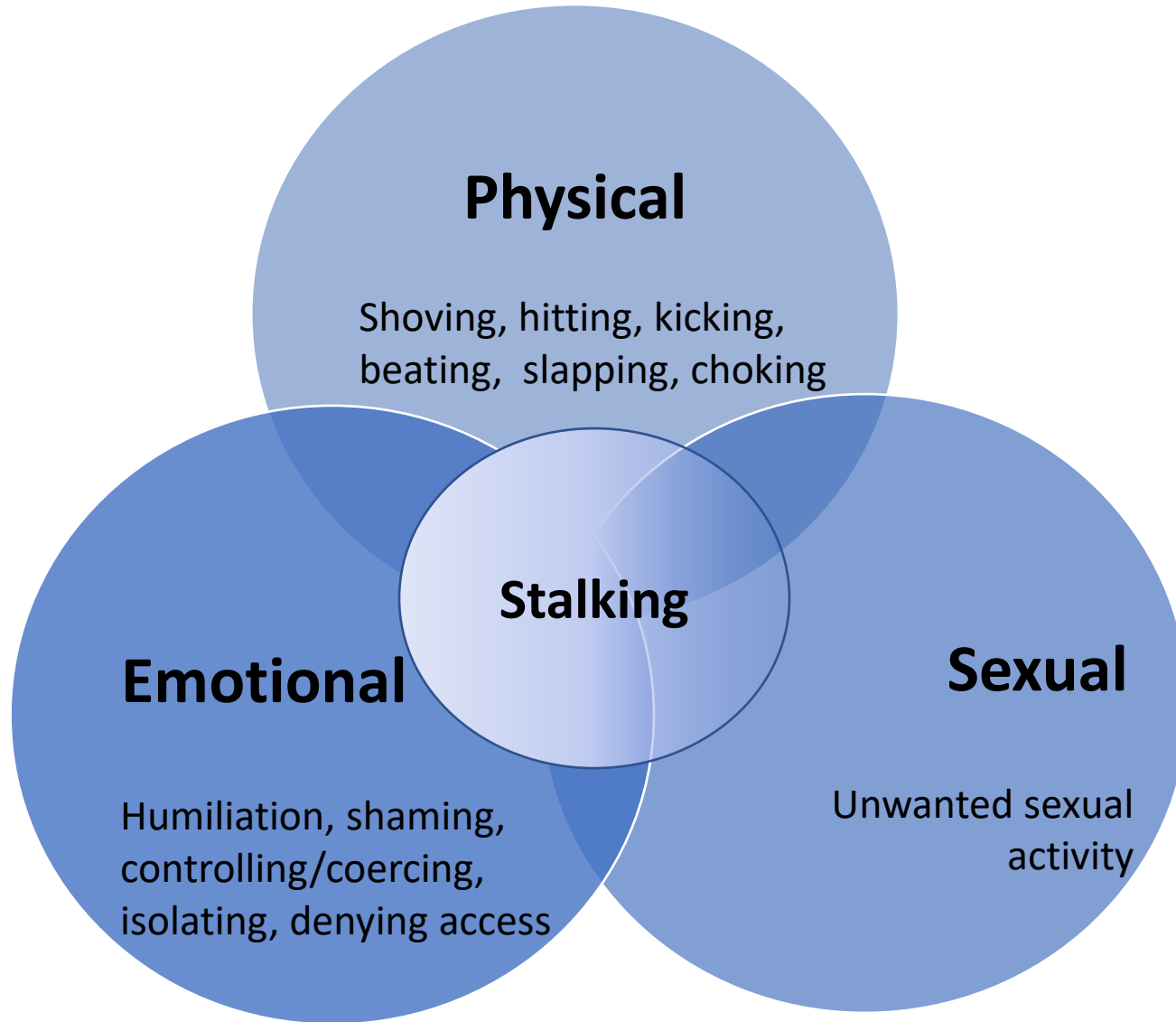
Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

Types of IPV



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

IPVAP Overview

Comparison of IPV prevalence across populations

Population	IPV Perpetration		IPV Victimization		IPV Victimization	
	12-month		12-month		lifetime	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Active Duty	29%	18%	26%	31%		
Veterans	22%	15%-60%	7%-12%		35%	
Community	16%	15%	6%	5%	36%	29%

2. Gierisch JM, Shapiro A, Grant NN, King HA, McDuffie JR, Williams JW. Intimate Partner Violence: Prevalence Among U.S. Military Veterans and Active Duty Servicemembers and a Review of Intervention Approaches. VA-ESP Project #09-010; 2013.

40% Women Veterans who Report Experiencing IPV
VA IPVAP Screening Data

27% Men who Report Experiencing IPV
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

IPVAP Overview



General Population



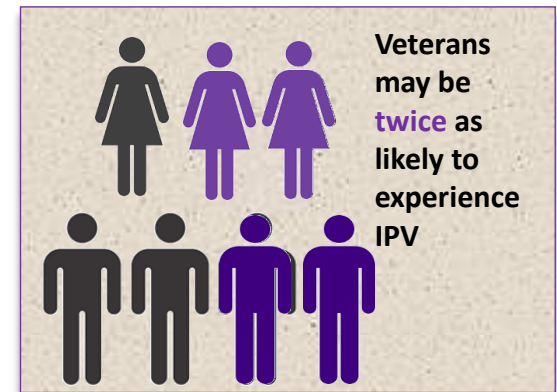
VETERAN-CENTRIC FACTORS:

- Post-Traumatic Stress
- Military Family Life Stress
- Separation & Isolation
- Mental Health Concerns
- Alcohol and/or Drug Use
- Loss of Trust/Moral Distress
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Increased Anger
- Decreased Frustration Tolerance

May lead to Increased Risk of:

- Divorce/Broken families
 - Loss of support
 - Homelessness
 - Joblessness
 - Poverty
- Increased healthcare needs
 - Justice involvement
- Suicide and/or Homicide

Veteran Population



SOURCE: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2016

National Center for PTSD, 2016

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration



Choose **VA**

VA



IPVAP Overview

- **Vision**

Veterans, their families and Caregivers who receive care from VHA and VHA employees will not experience or use violence or abuse and will be free from the negative consequences resulting from such violence.

- **Mission**

To implement a comprehensive person-centered, recovery-oriented assistance program for Veterans, their families and Caregivers and VHA employees who use or experience intimate partner violence.

- **Brief Timeline**

- May 2012 – VA Chartered the DV/IPV Task Force
- December 2013 – The *VHA Plan for Implementation of the DV/IPV Assistance Program* was finalized (14 recommendations)
- January 2014 – National DV/IPV Program was published
- Summer 2015 – Pilot stage begins, 6 sites: Baltimore, VA, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Portland, OR
- January 2017 – New National IPV Program Manager, Dr. Bruce
- Summer 2017- Conclusion of Pilot
- April 2018 – Program was funded by SR 115-130



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

IPVAP – How we differ...



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

Comprehensive/Integrated

Raising Awareness

- IPV campaigns, awareness events, materials
- Staff training & education

Building Community Partnerships

- Out-reach events
- Building partnerships & resources

Serving those who experience IPV

- Implementing routine screening
- Establishing intervention plan & resources

Serving those who use IPV

- Implementing screening/identification plan
- Establishing intervention plan & resources

Serving VA Staff

- Building internal collaborations with Employee Assistance, Workplace Safety, etc.



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

IPV in Healthcare

- Patients believe healthcare providers should screen for DV/IPV (Burge et al 2005)
- Providers can discuss abuse and violence in the context of health care to help patients understand the connection between abuse and their physical/mental health and well-being. (de Boinville 2013)
- Universal screening and education for IPV in the healthcare setting is supported by:
 - VHA DV/IPV Task Force Recommendations
 - Health Resources and Services Administration
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - United States Preventative Services Task Force
- Senate Report 115-130
- Other VHA Directives such as Women's Health & MST
- Pending VHA Directive 1198

Why IPV in
Healthcare?



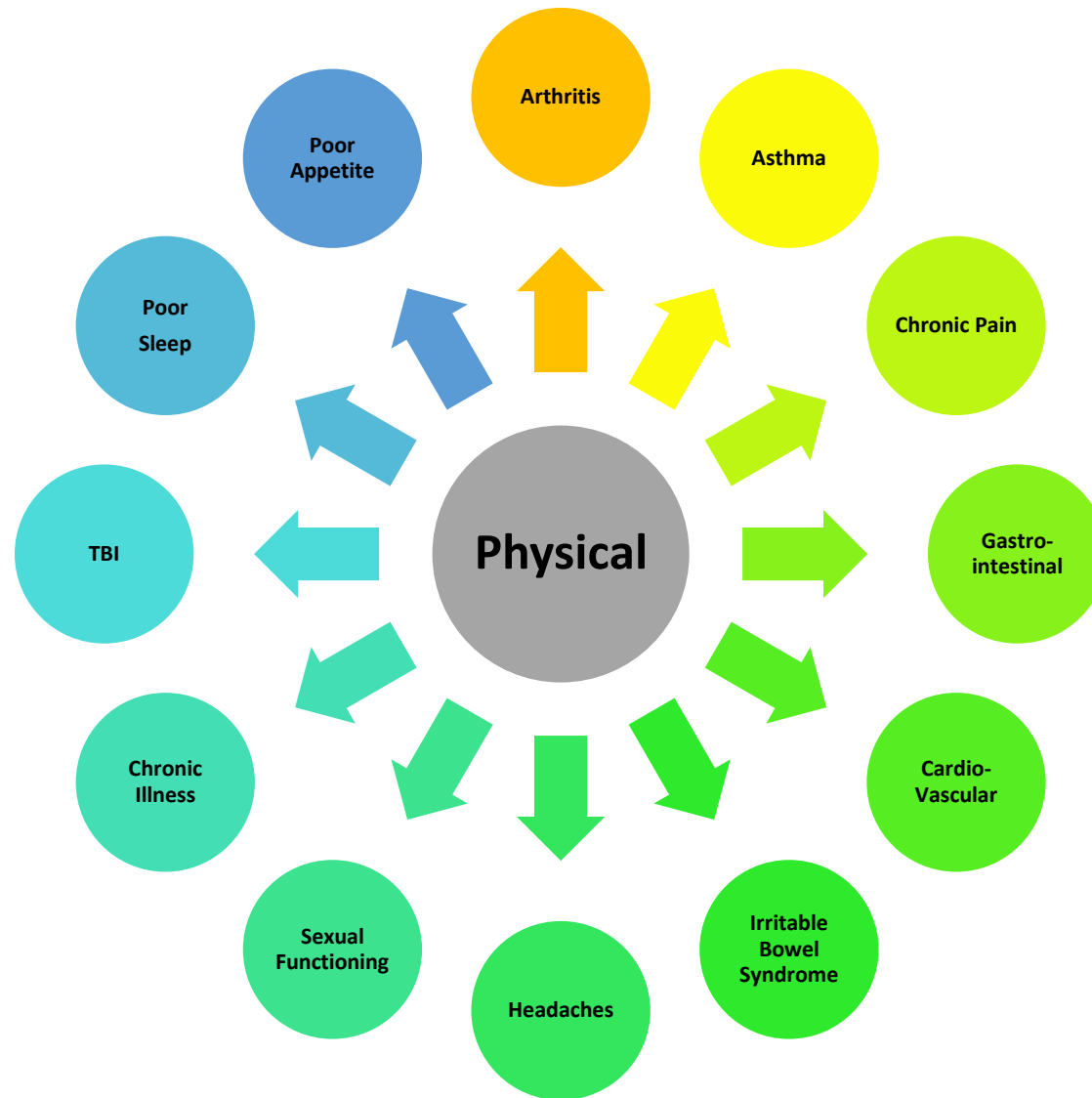
Choose **VA**

VA

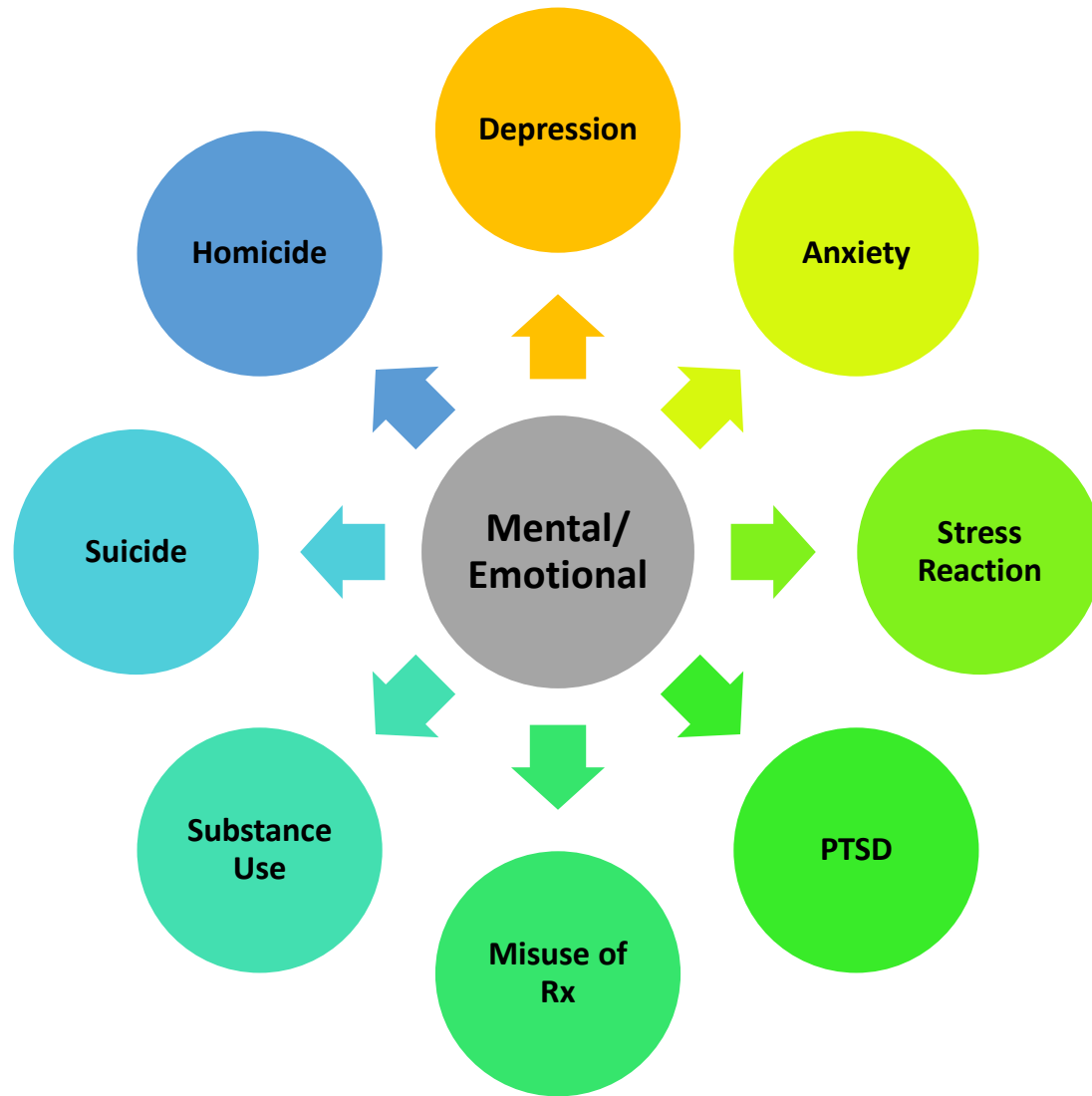


U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

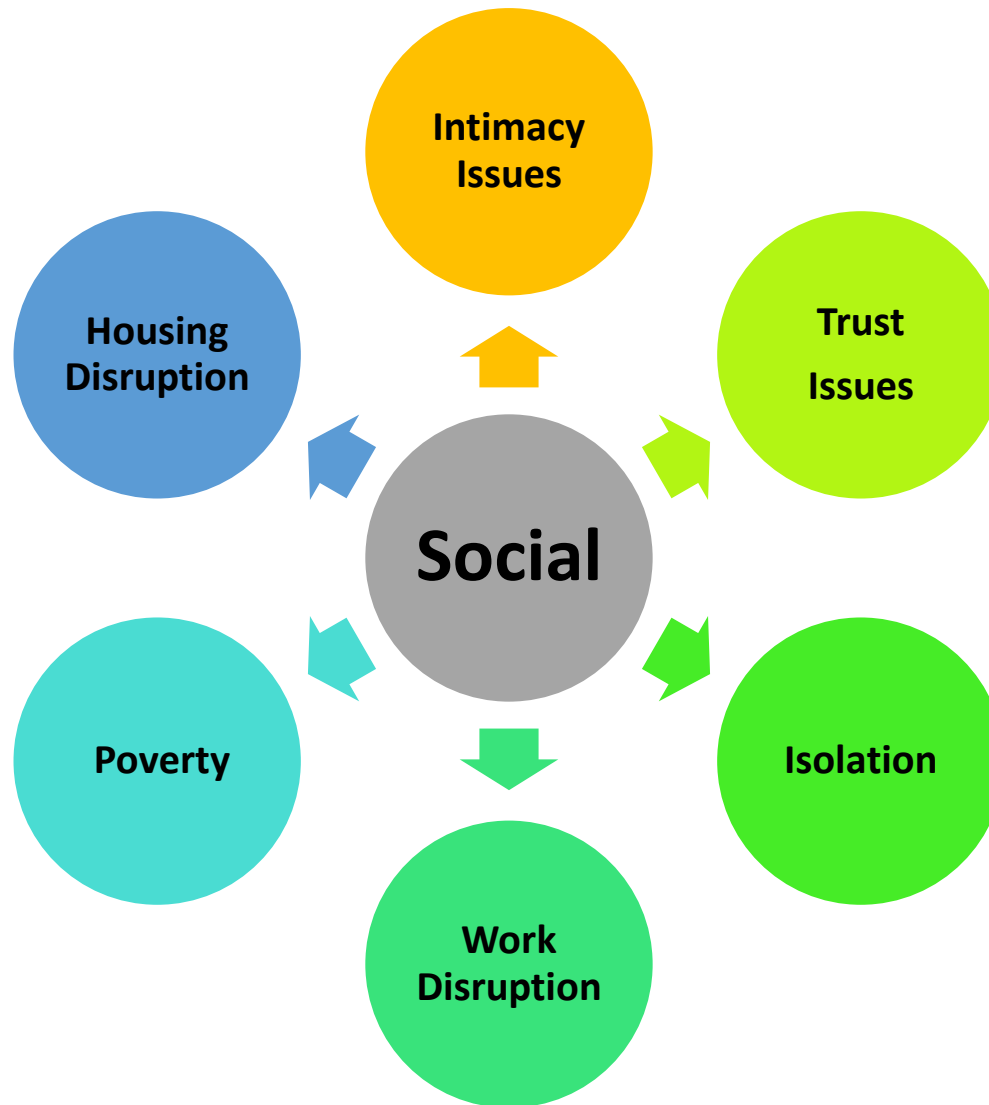
Related Medical Issues



Related Mental Health Issues



Related Social Issues



IPV & Substance Use

- Relationship between substance abuse and IPV is substantial
 - Approximately 50% of men in substance use treatment programs report using violence in their intimate relationships in the past year
 - 11 times more likely to use violence when they have been using substances
 - Approximately 50% of men batterer intervention programs report using IPV in the past year
 - 8 times more likely to use violence when they have been using substances
 - Between 65% and 80% of women in substance use treatment report experiencing IPV
 - Research among male Veterans with substance use and IPV finds similar patterns
 - Increase with other mental health issues

IPVAP: Strength at Home

Strength at home is an evidence-based, trauma-informed group treatment program.

- Developed specifically to address Veteran/ Servicemembers who use violence and aggression in intimate relationships.
- 12-week therapeutic group intervention with follow-up
- Use of Motivational Interviewing to enhance change process
- Randomized controlled trial: 135 male veterans/service members and 111 female partners
 - Results: SAH participants had greater reductions in physical and psychological IPV use
 - Reduced controlling behaviors involving isolation and monitoring their partners

Taft, CT, Macdonald A, Creech, SK, Monson, CM, Murphy, CM. A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial of the Strength at Home Men's Program for Partner Violence in Military Veterans, J Clin Psychiatry. 2016 Sep;77(9):1168-1175.



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

RISE

- Recovery from IPV through Strengths and Empowerment



- **Safety Planning**
- Ways to increase your safety, and that of any children and pets, in different situations, like in an argument or if you are thinking about leaving the relationship through a written worksheet.
- **The Health Effects and Warning Signs of IPV**
- Understanding the effects of trauma and IPV on different parts of your life (for example, your physical, mental, and social health, and the well-being of your children). Understanding Warning Signs of IPV, including red flags in partners and the difference between aggressive behavior and assertive behavior
- **Improving Coping and Self-Care**
- Learning about and practicing self-care strategies and ways to relax when you are stressed.
- **Enhancing Social Support**

Learn and practice how to approach friends or family and ask for support.

Making Difficult Decisions

A written exercise that may help you think about your options and make decisions if you are thinking about making a change in your relationship.

Resources and Moving Forward

Learning about resources available in the community for a variety of topics (like housing, employment, legal aid, and restraining orders). Reflect on things you've accomplished and plan ahead for life's ups and downs by identifying red flags to watch out for and ways to RISE up and cope.

Sexual Violence Over the Lifespan

Recognize different forms of sexual violence that are commonly experienced by individuals who experience IPV and make the connection between experiences of sexual violence and health.

Resources

Futures without Violence: <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>

Click to Empower provides online financial empowerment trainings for individuals experiencing DV/IPV: <http://www.clicktoempower.org/>

Danger Assessment Inventory: <http://www.dangerassessment.org/>

DomesticShelters.org national online database of DV/IPV shelters, community based counseling and legal services:
<https://www.domesticshelters.org/>

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: provides online safety planning tool and links to state coalitions: <http://www.ncadv.org/>

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) also lists contact information for State Coalitions and LGBT resources:
<http://www.thehotline.org/>

One Love Foundation download a free relationship assessment/safety planning app from this site: <http://www.joinonelove.org/>

STRENGTH AT HOME WEBSITE: <https://strengthathome.org/>



ChooseVA

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

VHA RESOURCES

- Enrollment
- <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/>
- <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply-for-health-care-form-10-10ez/introduction>
- <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/VA%20Form%2010-10EZ.pdf>
- DD214
- Clerk of Court in area that Veteran located to upon discharge
- <https://dma.mt.gov/MVAD/MVAD-Office-Contacts.pdf>
- <https://dma.mt.gov/mva/d/veterans-benefits>

More VHA resources

- Housing
- <https://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp>
- Suicide Prevention:
- <https://www.va.gov/mental-health-care/health-services/suicide-prevention/>
- Suicide Prevention Hotline: 988, press 1
- Mental Health, Caregiver, Women Health:
- <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/get-help/index.asp>
- <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp>

References

- Burge S. et al., (2005) Patients' Advice to Physicians About Intervening in Family Conflict, *Annals of Family Medicine*, (3), 248-54.
- Cambridge D. et al., (2005). *Community of Practice Design Guide* Retrieved 2014, March 11 from <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/nli0531.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014, March 11). *Intimate Partner Violence: Definitions*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html>
- De Boinville, M., (2013) *APSE Policy Brief: Screenings for Domestic Violence in Health Care Settings*. Retrieved from http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/13/dv/pb_screeningdomestic.cfm
- Hennessy, C. et al., (2013). *Toolkit: Developing a Community of Practice*. Kings College London. Retrieved 2014, March 11 from <http://www.revolving-doors.org.uk/documents/toolkit-for-developing-a-community-of-practice/>
- Wallace, H. (2004). *Family Violence: Legal, Medical and Social Perspectives*. Allyn & Bacon.
- Wenger-Trayner Website (2014 March 11) Retrieved from <http://wengertrayner.com/resources/what-is-a-community-of-practice>



Questions?

IPV Assistance Program Point of Contact

Ronda Erlewine-Belgarde

Program/Cell: 406 439-1786



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration