

Are You In Network? How to Support Survivors in a Healthcare Setting?



TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT

All Texans should live safely in hope, not fear.

800.374.HOPE

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Legal
Disclaimer

Pronoun
Disclaimer



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Who We Are

Texas Advocacy Project is a statewide organization that provides **FREE** legal services to survivors of:

- ▶ Intimate Partner Violence
- ▶ Sexual Assault
- ▶ Stalking
- ▶ Human Trafficking
- ▶ Child Abuse

We believe prevention efforts are fundamental to our mission of helping all Texans live safely, and have a Training & Advocacy team dedicated to survivor services, outreach, and community education.



WHO WE HELP



Provided free legal services to 4,767 primary survivors in power-based abuse cases



Supported clients from ages 12 to 88 years old



Served 10,106 clients and children across the state



Our attorneys reached 64% of all counties in Texas



WHY WE HELP

THE STATISTICS ARE STAGGERING

74%* of all Texans
will experience
domestic violence
or will know
someone who has

1 in 10*
children have
seen one
parent assault
another

1 in 4*
women will
experience
sexual
violence

U.S. economy
loses \$8.3 billion
annually due
to domestic
violence*



Needs of Patients

You are already treating victims



Prevalence of Intimate-Partner Violence

1 in 3

**WOMEN WILL EXPERIENCE SOME
FORM OF INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME
WORLDWIDE**





**10
MILLION**

Kids are exposed to domestic violence each year, 90% of those are eyewitnesses to the abuse.

National Coalition for the Homeless



The percentage of physical assaults perpetrated against women that are reported to the police annually.

The Center for Women and Families



324,000

**PREGNANT WOMEN AFFECTED
BY INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE EACH YEAR IN THE
UNITED STATES**



Pregnancy & Intimate-Partner Violence

- ▶ Reproductive coercion is prevalent in 32% of pregnant survivors of intimate-partner violence.
- ▶ Reproductive coercion includes overt pregnancy coercion and direct interference with contraception.
 - ▶ Limiting a woman's access to contraception
 - ▶ Destroying birth control pills
 - ▶ Breaking condoms or diaphragms
 - ▶ Removing contraceptive rings or patches.



Racial Disparities in Pregnancy

NCHS

National Center
for Health Statistics

2018 MATERNAL MORTALITY STATISTICS HIGHLIGHT WIDE RACIAL AND ETHNIC GAPS



Death rate
(per 100,000 live births)

50
40
30
20
10
0

37.1

Non-Hispanic
black women

14.7

Non-Hispanic
white women

11.8

Hispanic women

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System.
For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/maternal-mortality/>.

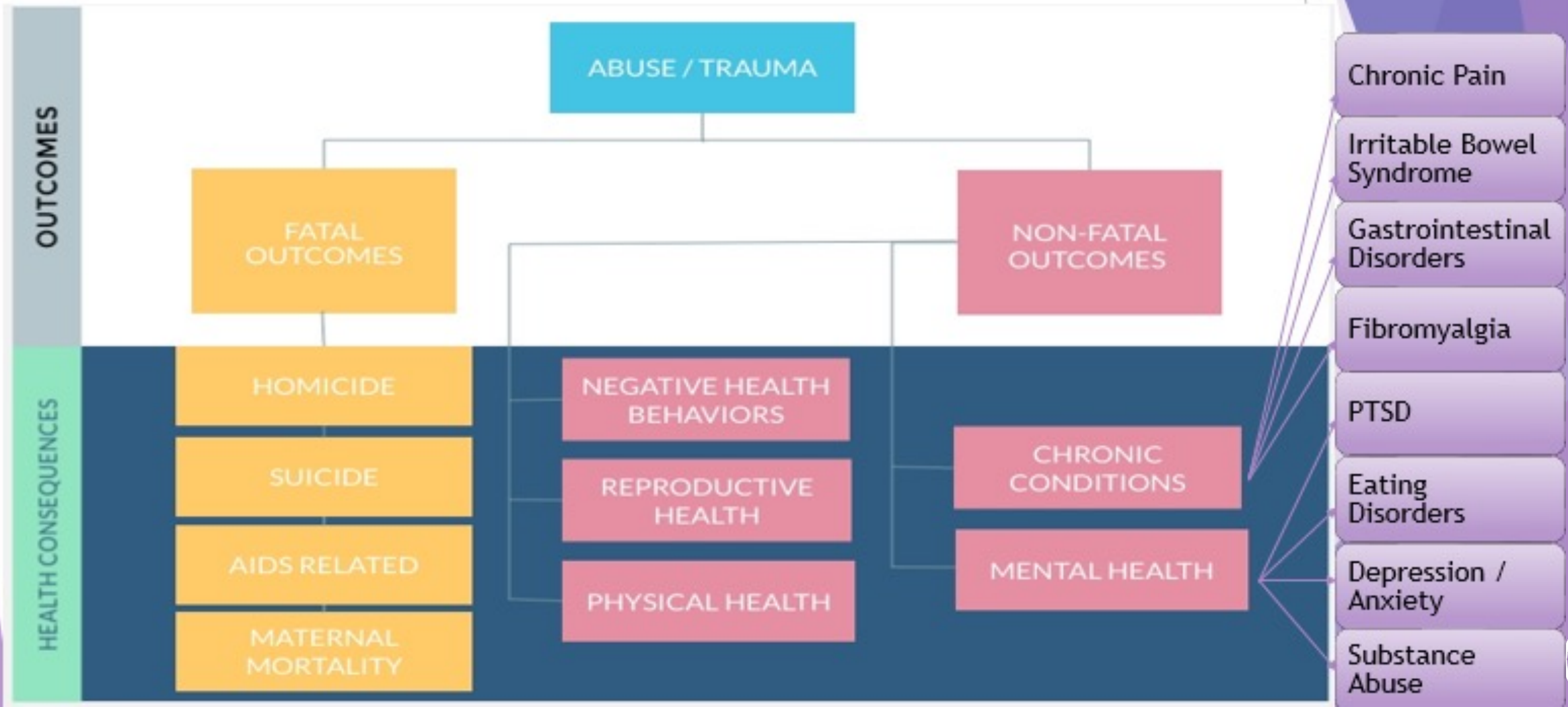
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Black mothers are **4x** more
likely to die than white mothers.



Health Consequences of Family and Sexual Violence



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: HEALTH IMPACT

Women exposed to intimate partner violence are →

Mental Health

TWICE 
as likely to experience depression

**ALMOST
TWICE** 
as likely to have alcohol use disorders

Sexual and Reproductive Health

16% 
more likely to have a low
birth-weight baby

1.5 TIMES 
more likely to acquire HIV and 1.5 times
more likely to contract syphilis infection,
chlamydia or gonorrhoea

Death and Injury

42% 
of women who have experienced
physical or sexual violence at the
hands of a partner have
experienced injuries as a result

38% 
of all murders of women globally
were reported as being committed
by their intimate partners

What is Medical-Legal Partnership (“MLP”)?

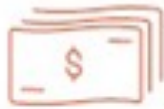


Social Determinants of Health

RESEARCH SHOWS:

1

60% of a person's health is determined by social factors, including:



Income & Health
Insurance



Housing
& Utilities



Education
& Employment



Legal Status



Personal & Family
Stability



Medical-Legal Partnership

A healthcare delivery model that integrates legal assistance as a vital component of patient care.



FIGURE 1: POSSIBLE STRUCTURAL MODELS OF MLPS

POSSIBLE MODEL 1: REFERRAL NETWORK



Fully-Integrated MLP

At these medical-legal partnerships, lawyers become an important part of the health care workforce, embedding in various care settings just like any other specialist.



The Medical-Legal Partnership Movement

Medical Legal Partnerships have been established in:



**333 health
organizations**



46 states



Studies show that when legal expertise and services are used to address social needs:



H

People with chronic illnesses are admitted to the hospital less frequently.



People more commonly take their medications as prescribed.



People report less stress and experience improvements in mental health.



\$

Less money is spent on health care services for the people who would otherwise frequently go to the hospital, and use of preventative health care increases.



Clinical services are more frequently reimbursed by public and private payers.



Benefits of Medical-Legal Partnership

In a 2016 survey of medical-legal partnership **clinicians** reported the following benefits of MLP services:

86%

reported **improved health outcomes** for patients;

64%

reported **improved patient compliance** with medical treatment; and

38%

reported improved ability to **perform** “at the top of their license.”



MLP Best Practices



Universal Screening & Universal Education Coast to Coast

Special thanks to our partners at the Stanford Law School Community Health Access Project for this legal research!

- ▶ **CALIFORNIA**- hospitals must have policies for detecting IPV, documenting, providing resources including legal
- ▶ **ILLINOIS**- hospitals must have policies for detecting IPV
- ▶ **OHIO**- hospitals must have policies for interviewing patients that experience IPV
- ▶ **TEXAS**- State must provide resources on best practices for verbally screening for IPV and regional resources (not mandated that these be implemented)
- ▶ **NEW YORK**- hospitals (with maternity/newborn services) must provide IPV info to all parents prior to mother's discharge



Recognizing Abuse in your clinic

According to The World Health Organization “WHO”

- ✓ Health-care providers are **trained**
- ✓ Standard operating **procedures** are in place
- ✓ Consultation takes place in a **private** setting
- ✓ **Confidentiality** is guaranteed
- ✓ A **referral system** is in place to ensure that patients can access related services
- ✓ Healthcare settings are equipped to provide a **comprehensive response**, Addressing both physical and mental consequences
- ✓ Healthcare providers gather forensic **evidence** when needed



CDC Screening Recommendations

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv/ipvandscreening.pdf>



Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence Victimization Assessment Instruments for Use in Healthcare Settings



How Health Providers Can Support a Survivor

According to The World Health Organization “WHO”



First-Line Response



Screen & Identify



Comprehensive care



IPV & Sexual Violence Training



Integrate IPV Services Into Existing Health Services



Document & Offer to Report



Safety-Planning

Recognition and **validation** of a survivor's experience is a critical first step in safety planning with a survivor.

Women who talked to their healthcare provider about abuse were:

2.6 times more likely
to exit the abusive
relationship



Our Medical-Legal Partnership Initiative

Where we are so far



Two Critical Parts

1. Outreach and Training

- Identifying partners that have survivors at increased risk
- Provide 6 pack of training

2. Individualized legal services

- Individualized referral form
- VIP TLC



Solutions to Health-Harming Legal Needs

- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Privacy
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Family law
- ▶ Criminal Justice
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Financial
- ▶ Civil legal liability



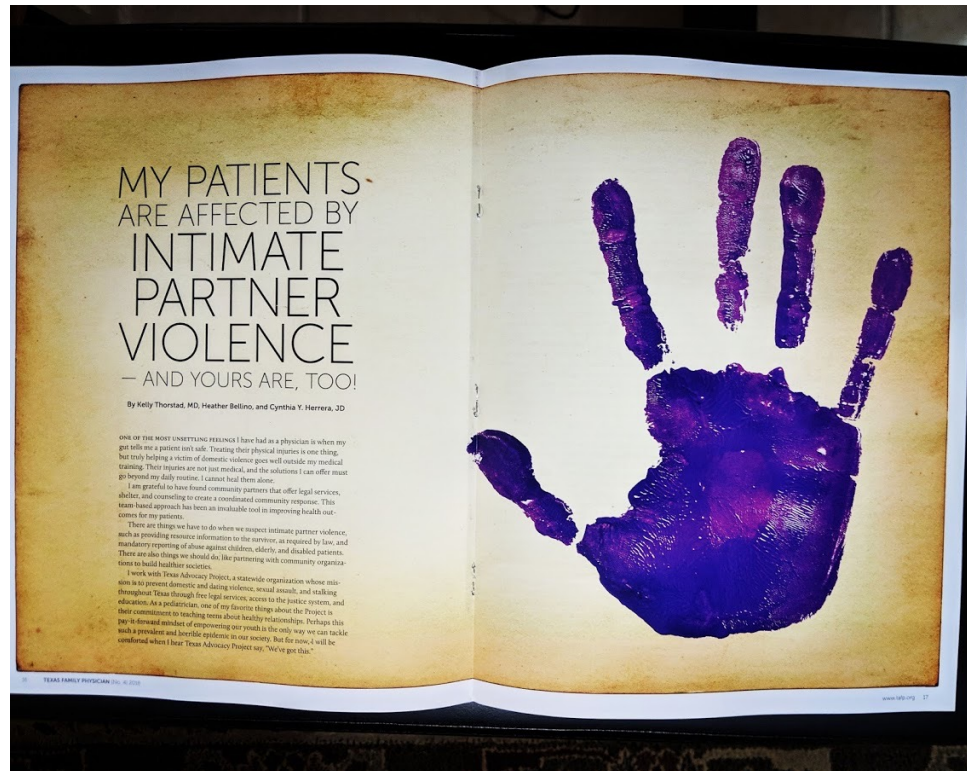
Legal Care = Improved Health

- ▶ How TAP legal solutions help improve health and wellness for survivors
 - ▶ Free legal assistance = Reduces stress
 - ▶ Divorce = Can provide closure / financial support
 - ▶ Protective Orders = Security
 - ▶ Safety-planning = Reduces risk of injury



Community Engagement

My Patients Are Affected by Intimate-Partner Violence - and Yours Are Too!, Co-author, Texas Family Physician, Vol. 69, No. 4 (2018).



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