



SUBSTANCE USE COERCION

THE ACTIVE USE OF SUBSTANCE USE ISSUES AGAINST A PARTNER AS A TACTIC OF CONTROL

Among people who experience DV, substance use is **2 - 6x as high**

47% - 90% of women in SU disorder treatment have experienced DV in their lifetime

90% of women attending a methadone clinic experienced DV

60% of participants in the Substance Abuse Coercion Study report their partners had tried to interfere with their treatment

SUBSTANCE USE COERCION MECHANISMS OF CONTROL



INTRODUCING PARTNER TO OPIOIDS; FORCING USE



FORCING PARTNER INTO WITHDRAWAL; USING ADDICTION TO CONTROL



COERCING PARTNER TO ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL ACTS



USING OPIOID HISTORY AS A THREAT



ISOLATING PARTNER FROM RECOVERY RESOURCES



SABOTAGING RECOVERY EFFORTS; TREATMENT INTERFERENCE

TALKING ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE COERCION

Create a safe space.

Discuss Substance Use Coercion as part of your conversations about DV.

Incorporate into a Substance Use history.

"Sometimes, people who are being hurt by someone in their life or have been hurt in the past, use alcohol or other drugs to help them cope. Do you ever use alcohol or drugs to numb the effects of abuse?"

"Has your partner ever made you use alcohol or other drugs, made you use more than you wanted, or threatened to harm you if you didn't? Has your partner ever tried to stop you from cutting down on your drinking or drug use?"

"It is never your fault when someone harms you if you are drinking or using. You deserve to be treated with dignity and respect."

"Your partner might find other people to agree that your substance use gives them a right to control or abuse you. Undermining your credibility with other people makes it difficult for you to get support, be believed, and trust your own perceptions."

Strategize safe ways to access treatment and services.

Discuss coping strategies and emotional safety.

Ask specifics about coercion during substance use assessments and screenings.



Citations

Edmund, D.S. & Bland, P.J. (2011). Real Tools: Responding to Multi-Abuse Trauma. Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Warshaw, C. & Tinnon, E. (2018). Coercion Related to Mental Health and Substance Use in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence: A Toolkit for Screening, Assessment, and Brief Counseling in Primary Care and Behavioral Health Settings. National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health.