



# Healthy, Wealthy & Wise

## Domestic Violence, Health & Healthcare

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# How to use this presentation



- Read and study all the slides
- Follow the links if you want to learn more
- Once you have read the entire presentation, take a quiz to test your knowledge and to complete Lesson 1 of this course
- Away you go!

# Lesson 1: Contents



- DV is a healthcare issue
- Current events
- Complex connections:  
How DV impacts health and healthcare
- DV Advocacy and healthcare
- Accessing healthcare
- Child support, medical support, and safety



DV is a healthcare issue

# DV is a healthcare issue



Survivors tell us that access to healthcare and health insurance (for themselves and their children) are some of the reasons they must stay in abusive relationships.

Sarah's story from *In Her Shoes: Economic Justice Edition* illustrates this point.





*In Sarah's story, she must return to her abusive husband Doug after he cancels her sick child's medical insurance. She is faced with the horrible reality that she cannot afford her son's medication and treatment on her small salary alone, and therefore has few options to escape the abuse.*

# DV is a healthcare issue

- Healthcare providers are in a unique position to help victims of abuse if they know how to detect DV and provide victims with referrals and support.
- Both Rayna's and Tiffany's stories from *In Her Shoes: Economic Justice Edition* illustrate this point.





*Rayna has very positive interactions with healthcare practitioners who are quick to spot Kenny's abusive behaviors and offer respite care and follow-up check-ins.*

Healthcare programs that are funded to address the spectrum of a patient's needs beyond the hospital visit benefit all potential patients, but could especially benefit survivors, who maybe returning home to partners who are less than supportive.





*Even though a nurse screens Tiffany for domestic violence, she does not disclose what is happening, for a variety of reasons. Nevertheless, it is important that Tiffany know that her doctor's office is a place where she could talk about abuse.*



What are some possible reasons that Tiffany does not disclose the abuse?

# Access to healthcare is a major factor in decision making for survivors



- Choices around healthcare are complicated, even without the difficult circumstances that DV poses.
- Monthly premiums can make the difference between having access to healthcare and deferring care completely or going to the ER for care.



# DV survivors need healthcare



- Survivors often have greater healthcare needs than those not in violent relationships.
- Women with a history of DV report considerably higher rates of all types of health problems than women without a history of abuse.

Jacquelyn Campbell et al. "Intimate partner violence and physical health consequences," *Archives of Internal Medicine* 162 (10), 2002.