

## GETTING STARTED:

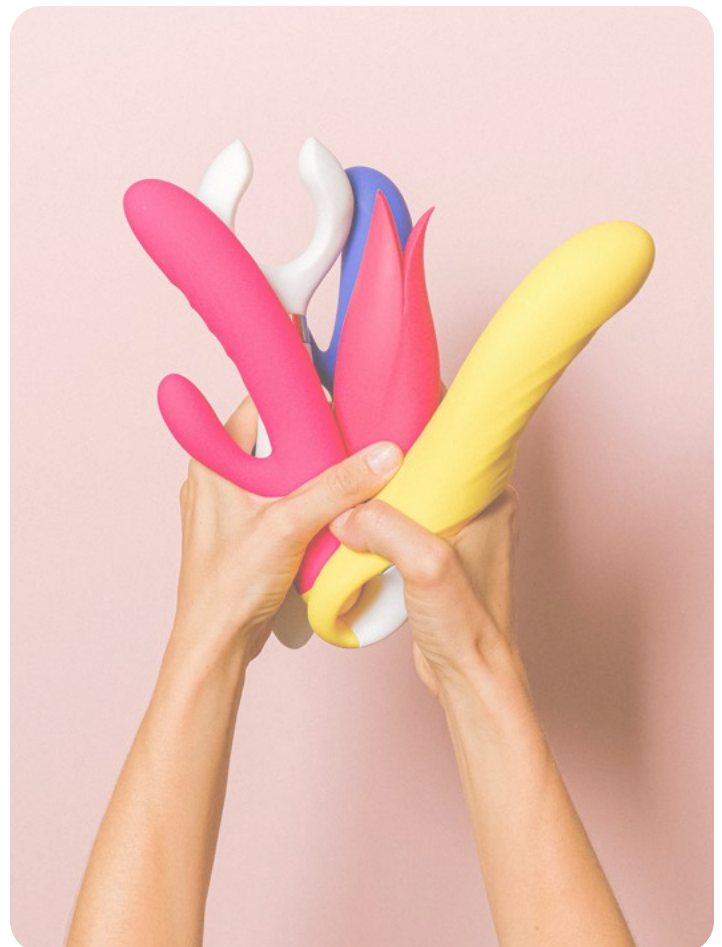
# TIPS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

In order to provide a more holistic set of services, it is critical that domestic violence service providers acknowledge the need to enhance their understanding of the intersection of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. Service providers can implement programming that can better support survivors who are living with HIV or who are interested in taking control over their sexual health.

Below are a few steps that your organization can take to better address the intersection of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence:

## TALK ABOUT HIV/AIDS & SEX/SEXUALITY

- Display posters and brochures about HIV/AIDS and sexual health throughout your organization so that all program participants can see the information. See the **brochure** and **posters** in the *Positively Safe Toolkit*.
- Incorporate discussions about reproductive coercion and sexual health advocacy in individual counseling, support groups, and other supportive environments with all survivors.
- Have resources easily accessible that provide information about local HIV/AIDS service providers and testing centers and refer survivors to organizations you have a relationship with and trust to provide quality care.
- Additionally, consider having educational packets including how to use condoms, lube and insertive/female and external/male condoms in communal areas.



## PARTNER WITH A LOCAL HIV/AIDS SERVICE PROVIDER

- Create a relationship with a local provider with whom your organization can cross-train staff and keep your organization up-to-date with best practices in working with anyone living with or who may acquire HIV/AIDS. For more information on creating a successful partnership, please review the **Successful Partnerships handout** and **Collaboration Action Plan Template** resources in the *Positively Safe Toolkit*.
- Utilize Release to Share/Obtain information forms for survivors that are willing to give consent to your organization to receive request follow up information after referrals are given.
- Create a referral process between the organizations to support individuals who disclose their HIV/AIDS status. Referral processes can also be used to support individuals who would like to receive STI testing, including HIV, and learn more about taking control over their sexual health, including HIV prevention.
- Provide resources on sexual health advocacy, PrEP, getting tested for STIs, Hepatitis A, B, C, and HIV throughout your program. A local HIV program or health department may be able to provide those to you.

## SEXUAL SAFETY PLANNING

- Discuss sex and sexuality in the context of Safety Planning with all survivors. For more information on safety planning, please review the **Safety Planning Guide** resource in the *Positively Safe Toolkit*.
- Consider incorporating information on PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) a medication that is able to prevent acquiring HIV by 99% and PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis) a medication that can prevent HIV transmission if taken within 72 hours of exposure, into your sexual safety planning. A local HIV organization can provide advocates and program participants at your organization training and more information and resources on PrEP and PEP.
- Make sexual Safety Planning a core service offered.
- The *Positively Safe* toolkit also has information on PrEP and PEP and their benefits for survivors of domestic violence that are available online and are free to download and print out. Review **Get PrEP'ed (postcard)** and **PrEP Yourself for Safety (postcard)** resources in the *Positively Safe Toolkit*.



## CHANGE ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- Add HIV/AIDS to the core services you provide for all survivors, giving everyone the information that they need to prevent HIV, find out their status, and know what resources are available.
- Train and prepare all staff to be comfortable, non-judgmental, and confident when discussing HIV/AIDS, sex, and sexual health. Language that focuses on risk when discussing sexual health should be avoided as much as possible in order to reduce the impact of shame and stigma that many persons connect to sexual practices that increase the likelihood of HIV and STI transmission. An alternative is to focus on prevention options and highlight the reasons why prevention practices are beneficial to sexual health.
- Review and incorporate HIV/AIDS disclosure responses, medication storage options, and confidentiality standards around HIV in your organization's policies and procedures. To learn more about **discussing HIV with victims of domestic violence, medication storage, and linkage to and retention in care** review NNEDV's additional resources in the *Positively Safe Toolkit*.



For more information about how your organization can receive individualized training on the intersection of HIV/AIDS & domestic violence, please contact the Positively Safe team at the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) at [DVHIV@NNEDV.org](mailto:DVHIV@NNEDV.org).