

# Impact of Lifetime Trauma, Abuse and Violence on Women Living with HIV (WLHIV)

Building a Trauma-Informed Nation

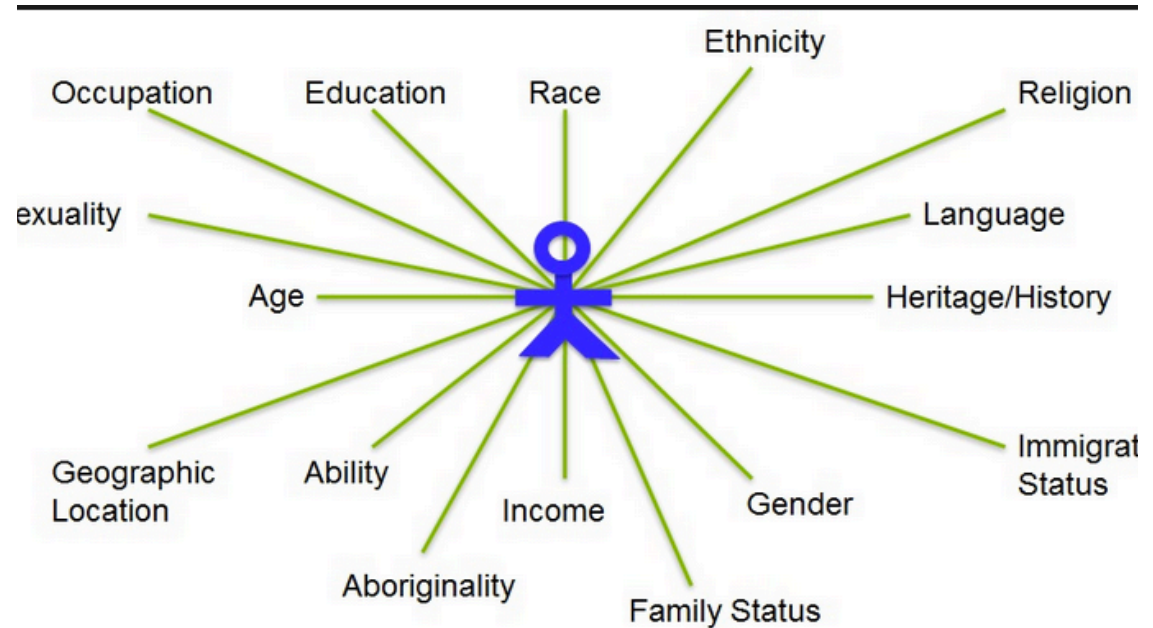
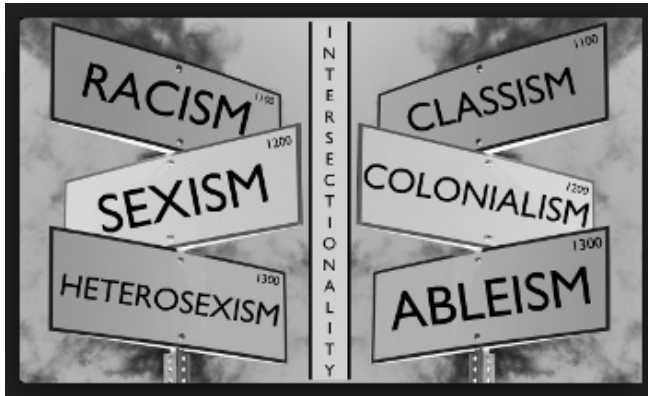
September 30, 2015

Washington, DC

#pwnspeaks

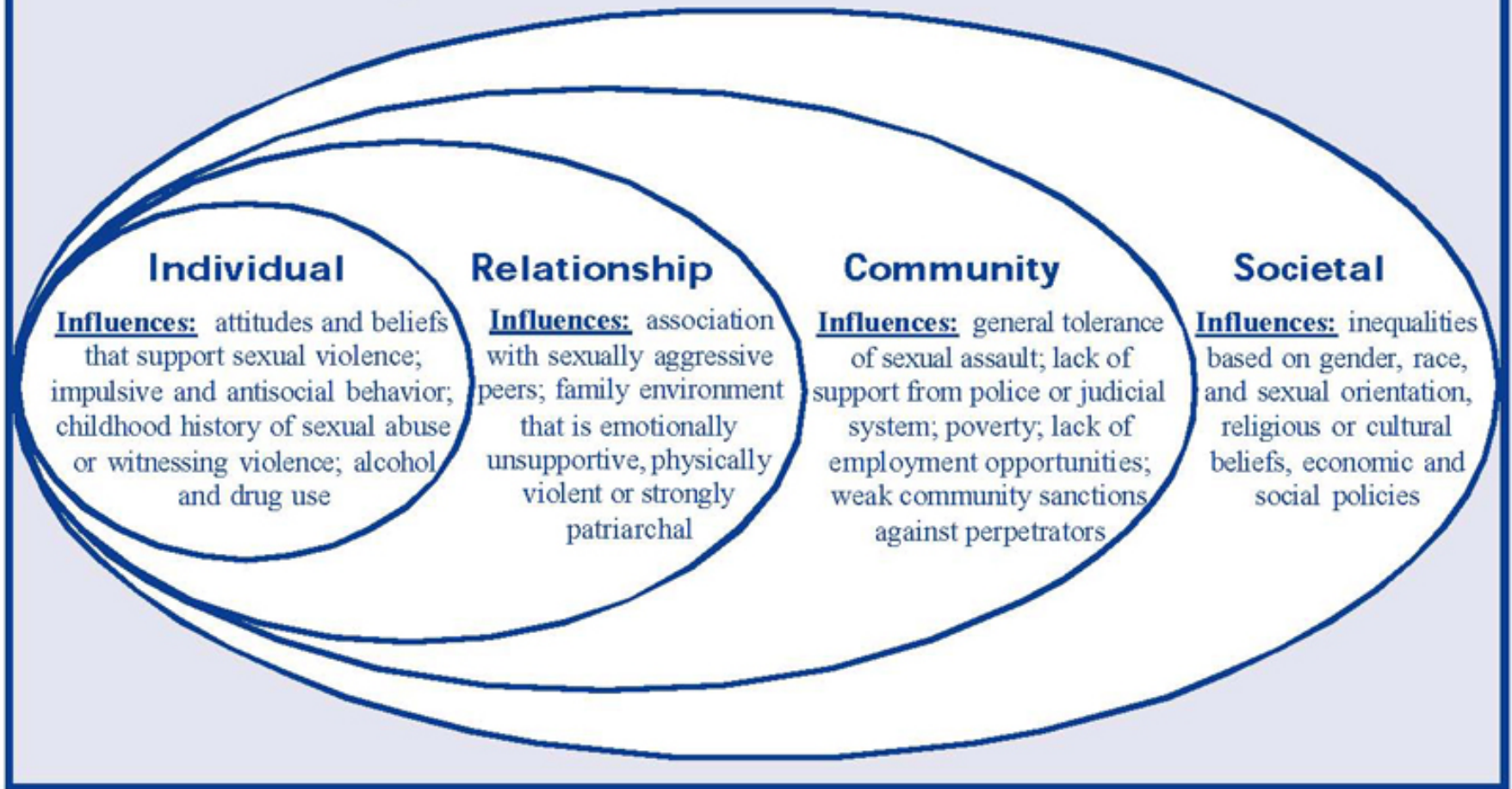


# Women's lives and experiences are intersectional



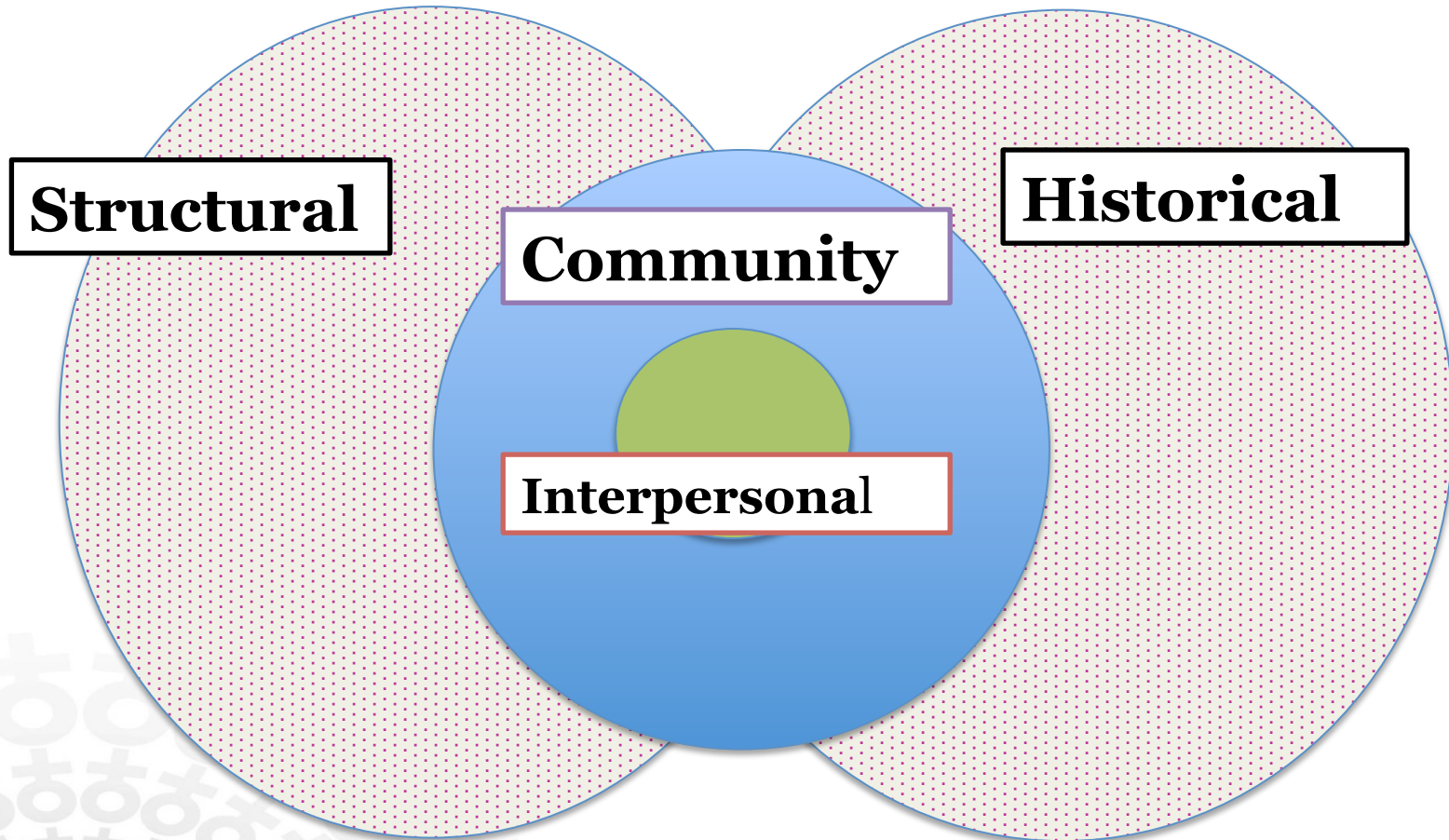
# Social – Ecological Model for Understanding Sexual Violence

Table 1. The Ecological Model

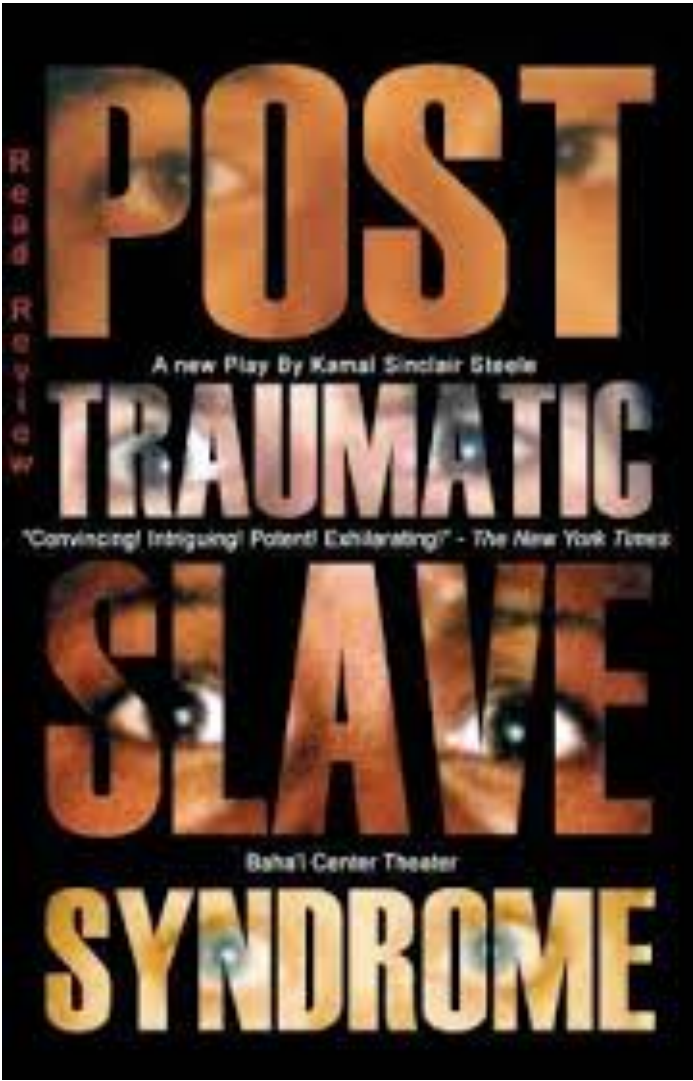


Dahlberg LL, Krug EG. Violence-a global public health problem. In: Krug E, Dahlberg LL, Mercy JA, Zwi AB, Lozano R, eds. World Report on Violence and Health. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2002:1–56.

# Trauma experiences



erasure conflict  
 history blighted renewal  
 uprooting sign-of-hope  
 decentering-neighborhoods remembrance  
 unhealthy-for-the-community exhumation  
 remnant recovery-of-memory  
 culture-of-respect resistance  
 memories bodies demise  
 buried space urban ghosts legacy



Joy DeGruy



# Structural Violence



# Employment & Economics

## Under Surveillance by Medicaid

by [ADMIN](#) on APRIL 19, 2012 · [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



By [Kat Griffith](#) in Peoria, IL

“But I also know that this woman actually has control over what ultimately is a life or death decision with the stroke of her pen. And clearly she is in a bad mood... What I have is a very expensive medical condition and no way to pay for it... it is that simple. I need help. **We as women living with HIV are driven into poverty and held there, and we are drowning.**”

### Can I Reach for the American Dream?

Posted on April 20, 2012 by pwnusa

#### Can I Reach for the American Dream?

by Sonia Rastogi



April 17th, 2012 was Tax Day as well as Equal Pay Day (read Teresa Sullivan's Wage Gap blog), a day established to bring attention to the pay gap for women in the U.S. For many women living with HIV, Tax Day brings home the truth that regardless of a woman's financial status, an HIV diagnosis is frequently a sentence to a lifetime of poverty.



# HIV CRIMINALIZATION

Are You At Risk?

when  
sex is a  
crime  
& spit a  
dangerous  
weapon:

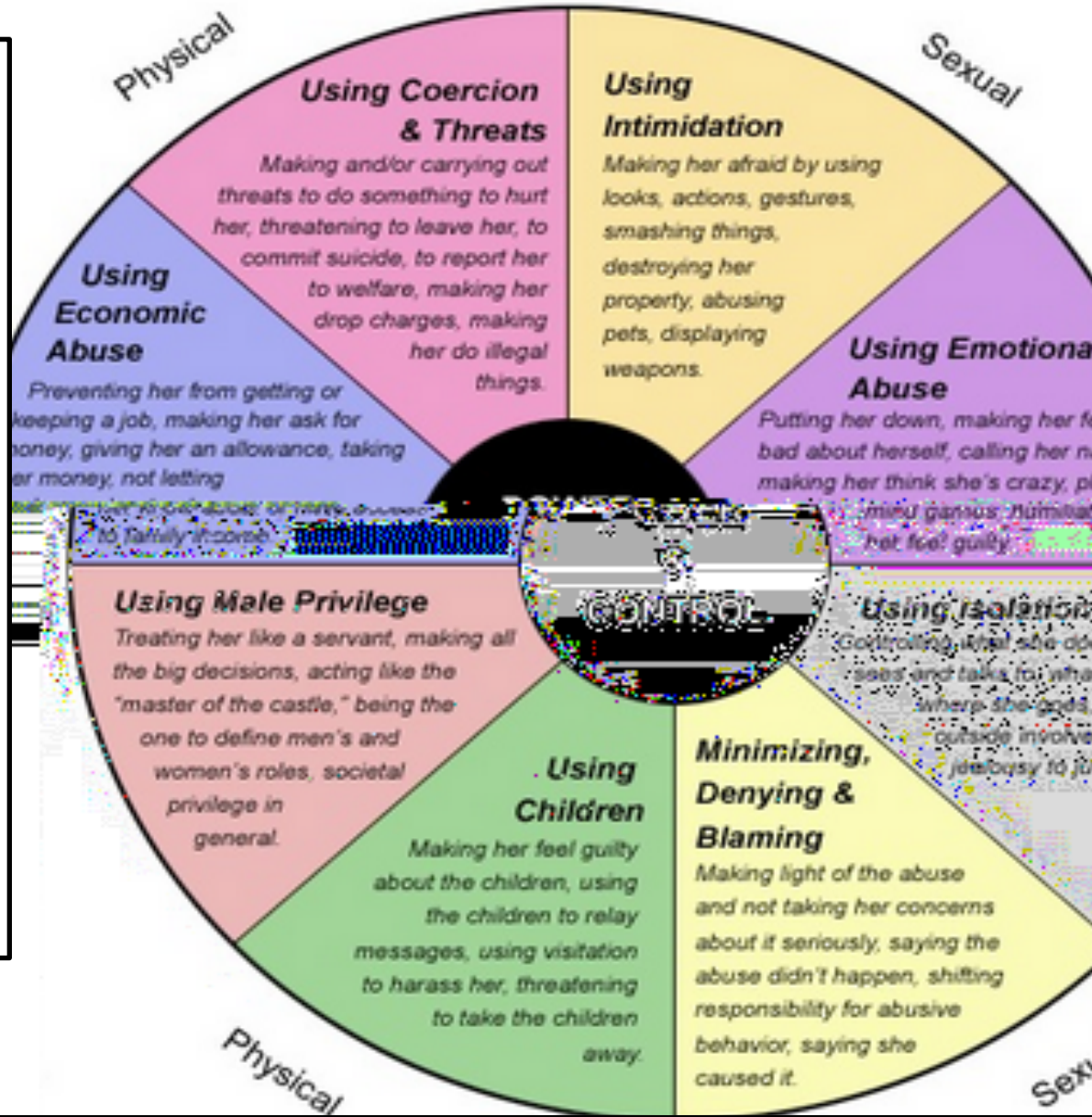


**Laws and policies criminalizing HIV exposure and mandating disclosure may increase potential for coercion and abuse, and can make it harder for WLHIV to leave violent, unhealthy or abusive relationships**





# VIOLENCE



“I dated a guy who knew my HIV status, but when his family found out, he acted like he didn't know and pressed charges [on] me. I almost lost everything. It has taken me a long time to disclose to anyone since.”

“I have felt ashamed of my body and worthless. My ex would tell me that nobody else would ever want me, because of my HIV”

“My partner didn't want anyone else to know about my HIV status. He didn't even allow me to see my HIV doctor, because he was afraid of people finding out. So I basically had no support and was not getting care.”

I was in an abusive relationship for 4 years. When I attempted to leave, he threatened to come after me under HIV criminalization laws because I didn't disclose to him when we first got involved. He also threatened to have my kids taken

# WLHIV face internalized stigma

“There is a big black X from head to toe. I am diseased and unworthy of feeling good about my body again.”

“I feel dirty and ashamed.”

“It caused me to loose [sic] all hope as a woman where I felt ugly and that I had to settle for whatever man wanted to date me.”

“I have had a guy tell me that I should have told him before kissing him that I was positive. He was convinced HIV is transmitted through saliva. **He even threw in that he could prosecute me for murder.** Apparently there is grave misunderstanding about disclosure laws amongst the general public.”

**... these and other factors (*housing instability, economic insecurity*) may complicate leaving an abusive relationship**



## ... which is often not addressed by healthcare providers

In a survey conducted in 2013 and repeated in 2015, **nearly half of women living with HIV** had never been told by a provider that viral suppression was an effective HIV prevention strategy.





# Motherhood & partnership

- Increasingly “parenthood”
- For many WLHIV, motherhood may be the only socially valued identity available to them (Barnes, et al 2009)
- Critical for providers to understand motivation, including cultural factors related to conception, sexuality, and relationships for PLHIV



# Community violence disproportionately impacts transgender women of color

- Almost three-quarters of LGBTQ homicide victims in 2013 were transgender women. 67% were transgender women of color
- Transgender women were 6 times more likely to experience physical violence when interacting with the police than other LGBTQ survivors of violence
- Transgender people of color were 1.8 times more likely to experience violence in shelters than other LGBTQ survivors of violence

- *National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) Annual Report, 2014*



# Rates of trauma and PTSD in WLHIV are much higher than the general population

## Meta-analysis of all studies among US WLHIV

| Categories                       | Number of Studies | Pooled <i>n</i> | Prevalence (%) | 95% Confidence Interval | Reference Prevalence |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Intimate Partner Violence</b> | 8                 | 2285            | <b>55.3</b>    | 36.1 - 73.8             | <b>24.8</b>          |
| Childhood Sexual Abuse           | 7                 | 3013            | <b>39.3</b>    | 33.9 - 44.8             | <b>16.2</b>          |
| Childhood Physical Abuse         | 6                 | 1582            | <b>42.7</b>    | 31.5 - 54.4             | <b>22.9</b>          |
| Childhood Abuse Unspecified      | 2                 | 232             | <b>58.2</b>    | 36.0 - 78.8             | <b>31.9</b>          |
| Lifetime Sexual Abuse            | 8                 | 1182            | <b>61.1</b>    | 47.7 - 73.8             | <b>12.0</b>          |
| Lifetime Abuse Unspecified       | 6                 | 1065            | <b>71.6</b>    | 61.0 - 81.1             | <b>39.0</b>          |
| Recent PTSD                      | 6                 | 499             | <b>30.0</b>    | 18.8 - 42.7             | <b>5.2</b>           |

29 studies met our inclusion criteria, resulting in a sample of 5,930 individuals.

Machtiger EL, Wilson T, Haberer J, Weiss, D. **Psychological trauma in HIV-positive women: a meta-analysis.** *AiDS and Behavior.* January 17, 2012



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**Table 2 Heath-related Characteristics**

| Description   | Sample size | Number (percent) of participants with each characteristic |
|---|-------------|---|
| Mental health   | 111         |   |
| Depression  |             | 53 (47.7%)  |
| Bipolar   |             | 8 (7.2%)  |
| Anxiety   |             | 9 (8.1%)  |
| Schizophrenia/psychosis   |             | 3 (2.7%)  |
| Other   |             | 4 (3.6%)  |
| Low self efficacy   | 109         | 18 (16.5%)  |
| Trauma  |             |   |
| Abused, threatened, and/or victim of violence in the past 30 days | 110         | 19 (17.3%)  |
| Abused, threatened, and/or victim of violence in lifetime         | 110         | 79 (71.8%)  |
| Coerced to have sex in the past 30 days                           | 110         | 9 (8.2%)  |
| Coerced to have sex in lifetime                                   | 110         | 71 (64.5%)  |
| Median CD4 count (cells/μl) at survey                             | 93          | 387 (range 0 – 1363)                                      |
| Viral load (copies/ml) at survey                                  | 90          |   |
| <75   |             | 33 (36.7%)  |
| 75-9,999  |             | 30 (33.3%)  |
| 10,000+   |             | 27 (30.0%)  |
| Antiretroviral therapy  |             |   |
| On ART*   | 112         | 63 (56.2%)  |
| On ART and detectable viral load                                  | 90          | 17 (18.9%)  |
| Self-reported adherence < 90% by VAS**                            | 63          | 15 (23.8%)  |

\*ART = highly active antiretroviral therapy; \*\*VAS = visual analog scale

Machtiger EL, et al. **Recent trauma is associated with antiretroviral failure and transmission risk behavior among HIV-positive women and female-identified transgenders** AIDS and Behavior. March 12, 2012





## News

Women's HIV Program › News

- Resources Overview
- HIV Information & Community
- HIV Information
- A Girl Like Me Blog
- Join The Well Project Community
- Additional Resources
- Make an Appointment

# WHP establishes a formal partnership with Positive Women's Network-USA (PWN-USA), the largest membership and advocacy group of HIV-positive women in the United States

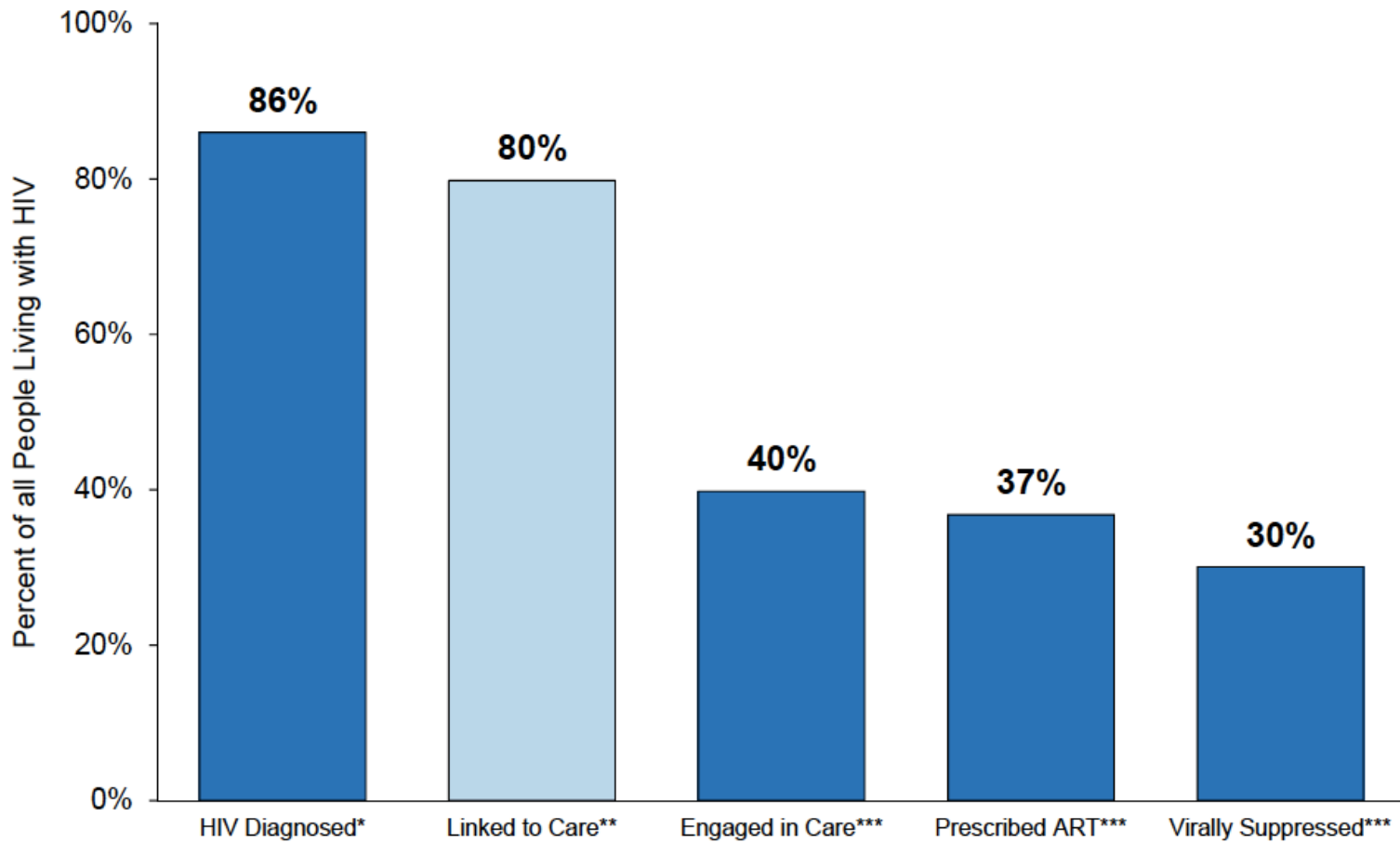
WHP and Positive Women's Network-USA (PWN-USA) have established a formal partnership to realize a new model of trauma informed primary care for US women living with HIV.

This partnership is exciting for many reasons because

PWN-USA has wide ranging influence, insight and credibility that will ensure that the new model of primary care is truly patient-centered and successful. PWN-USA is among the most effective advocacy organizations in the country. Its work is truly inspired, effective, and grounded in the inherent wisdom of its members.



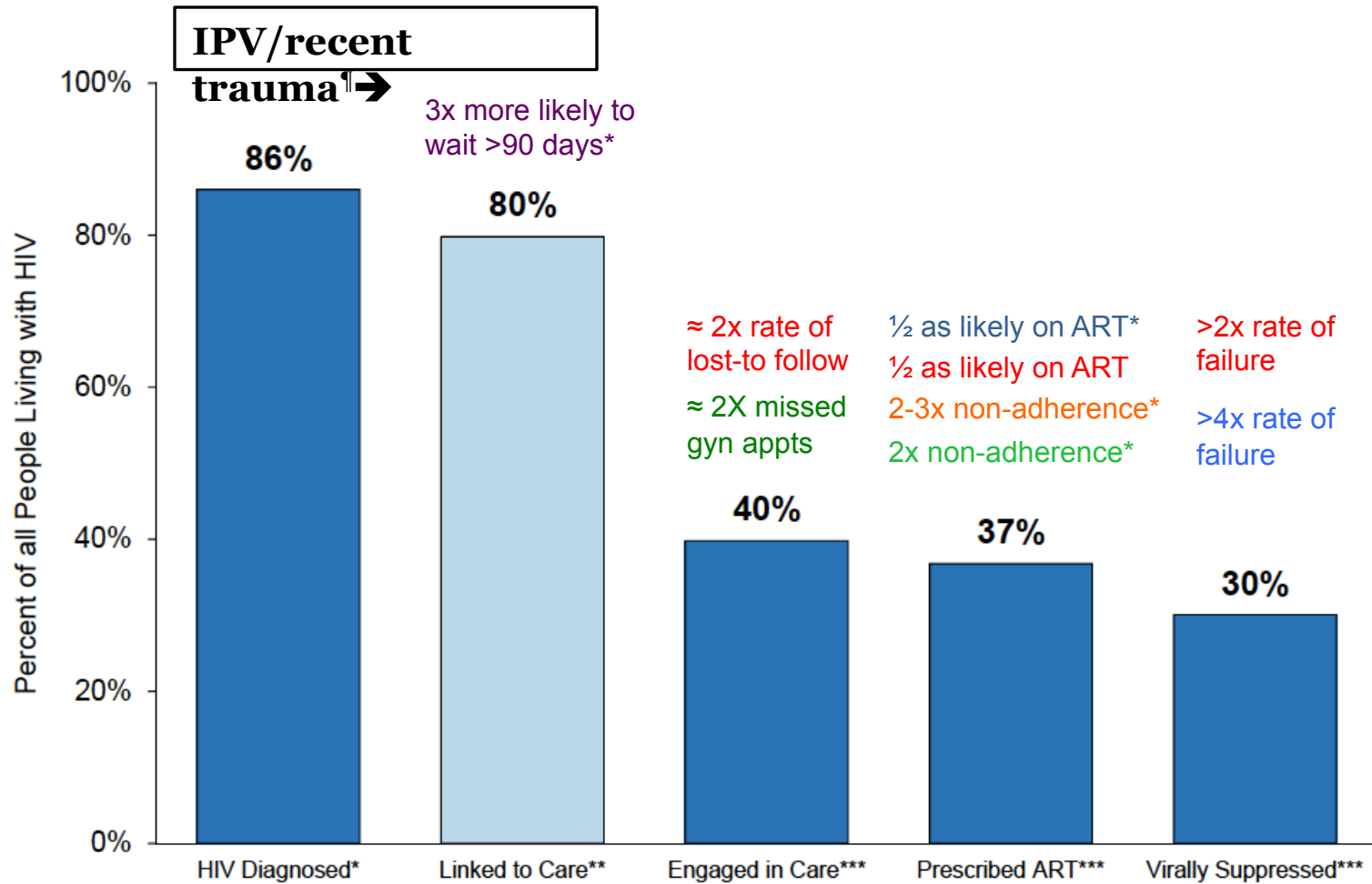
# The HIV Care Continuum in the United States, 2011.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Monitoring selected national HIV prevention and care objectives by using HIV surveillance data—United States and 6 dependent areas—2012. HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2014;19(No. 3). <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/reports/surveillance/>. Published November 2014. Accessed January 16, 2014



# The HIV Care Continuum in the United States, 2011.



Siemieniuk RA, et al. *AIDS Patient Care STDs*. 2010\*

Siemieniuk, RA, et al. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2013

Illangasekare, S., et al. *Women's Health Issues*. 2012

Kalokhe, A.S., et al. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*. 2012\*

Isserman, J, et al. *AIDS PATIENT CARE and STDs*. 2008\*

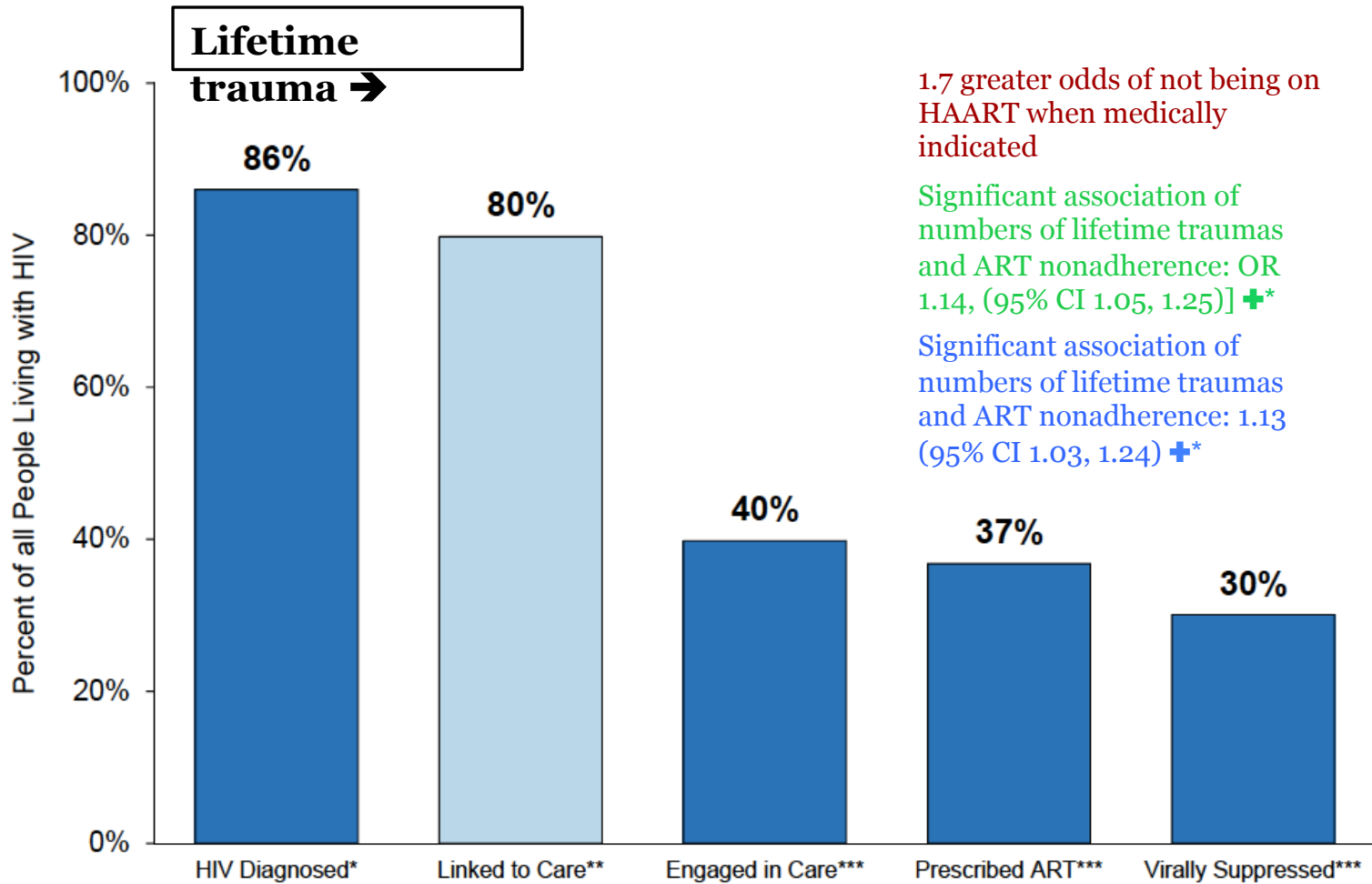
Wagner, WJ, et al. *Psychosomatic Medicine*. 2009.\*

Machinger EL, et al. *AIDS and Behavior*. 2012

\* Includes both men and women

† Includes "Stressful Life Events"

# The HIV Care Continuum in the United States, 2011.



Cohen, MH, et al. Medically Eligible Women Who Do Not Use HAART: The Importance of Abuse, Drug Use, and Race. *Am J Public Health*.2004;94:1147-1151

Mugavero M, et al. Barriers to antiretroviral adherence: the importance of depression, abuse, and other traumatic events. *AIDS patient care and STDs*. 2006 Jun;20\*

Pence BW, et al. Childhood trauma and health outcomes in HIV-infected patients: an exploration of causal pathways. *Journal of acquired immune deficiency syndromes*. 2012 Apr 1;59(4):489-99.

- \* Includes both men and women
- † bivariate data; association also significant on multivariate analysis

# Impact of trauma on other HIV-specific outcomes

## Recent or lifetime trauma associated with:

- **HIV risk factors/HIV incidence**

Maman S, Campbell J, Sweat MD, Gielen AC. The intersections of HIV and violence: directions for future research and interventions. *Soc Sci Med.* 2000;50:459–78.\*

Jewkes RK, Dunkle K, Nduna M, et al. Intimate partner violence, relationship power inequity, and incidence of HIV infection in young women in South Africa: a cohort study. *Lancet.* 2010;376:41–8.

- **Faster disease progression**

Pence BW, et al. Childhood trauma and health outcomes in HIV-infected patients: an exploration of causal pathways. *Journal of acquired immune deficiency syndromes.* 2012 Apr 1;59(4):409-16\*

Mugavero, MJ, et al. Predictors of AIDS-related morbidity and mortality in a southern U.S. Cohort. *AIDS Patient Care STDS* 2007 Sep;21(9):681-90.] \*

Leserman, J, et al. Progression to AIDS, a clinical AIDS condition and mortality: psychosocial and physiological predictors. *Psychol Med* Aug;32(6):1059-73.\*

- **More hospitalizations**

Pence BW, et al. Childhood trauma and health outcomes in HIV-infected patients: an exploration of causal pathways. *Journal of acquired immune deficiency syndromes.* 2012 Apr 1;59(4):409-16\*.

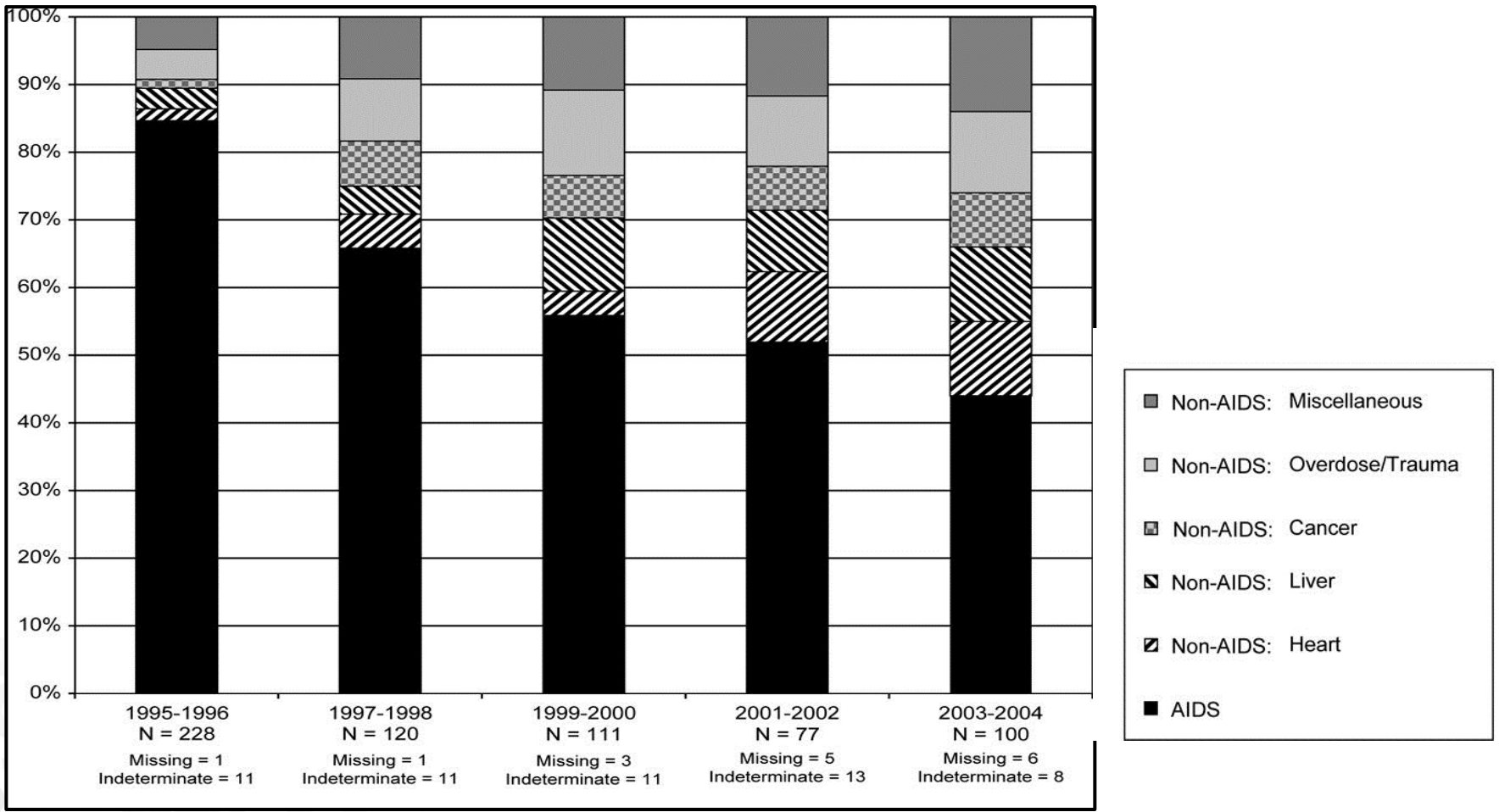
- **Almost twice the rate of death\***

Weber, K., et al. The effect of gender based violence (GBV) on mortality: a longitudinal study of US women with and at risk for HIV. *International AIDS Conference 2012.* \* = bivariate analysis

\* Study included both men and women



# Predictors of Mortality in WLHIV over time



French AL, Gaweel SH, Hershov R, Benning L, Hessol NA, Levine AM, et al. Trends in mortality and causes of death among women with HIV in the United States: a 10-year study. Journal of acquired immune deficiency syndromes. 2009 Aug 1;51(4):399-406.



# 'She Killed Me, So I Killed Her': Man Allegedly Stabs Girlfriend to Death after She Tells Him She's HIV Positive

Cicely Bolden's children discovered their mother's body after she was allegedly killed by a boyfriend, angered after she told him she had the virus.

By Madison Gray @madisonjgray | Sept. 12, 2012 | 32 Comments

## Dallas Woman Killed By Boyfriend For Admitting To Having HIV [VIDEO]



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Clear

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## California Man Convicted For Murder Of Woman He Thought Gave Him HIV

We're not saying he was right, but we understand. Word to Chris Rock...

Man arrested in San Antonio suspected of killing woman because she had HIV

BY ALIA MALIK, SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS : JUNE 17, 2014 : Updated: June 17, 2014





# Federal Response

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For Immediate Release

March 30, 2012

## **Presidential Memorandum -- Establishing a Working Group on the Intersection of HIV/AIDS, Violence Against Women and Girls, and Gender-related Health Disparities**

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Establishing a Working Group on the Intersection of HIV/AIDS, Violence Against Women and Girls, and Gender-related Health Disparities



# Federal Interagency Workgroup: Next Steps (Oct 2014)

- Increased screening for both HIV and IPV in primary care clinics
- Scale up effective interventions to help HIV-negative and HIV-positive women who have experienced violence
- Expand outreach and prevention in communities with high rates of HIV, including economic empowerment



# Trauma-Informed Care from a Social Justice Perspective

"Social ideals of equality cannot be pursued in relations that promote inequality. The way we do things is not just a means to an end, but an end in itself."

Prilleltensky, I., & Nelson, G. (2002). *Doing psychology critically: Making a difference in diverse settings*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (p. 29).



## News

## Positive Women's Network Releases New Model for Trauma Awareness

Tuesday May 26, 2015

[PRINT](#) [EMAIL](#) [COMMENTS \(0\)](#)[T](#) [T](#) [T](#)

Positive Women's Network - USA, a national membership body of women with HIV, is proud to announce the release of a new model for bringing trauma awareness and healing into primary healthcare settings.

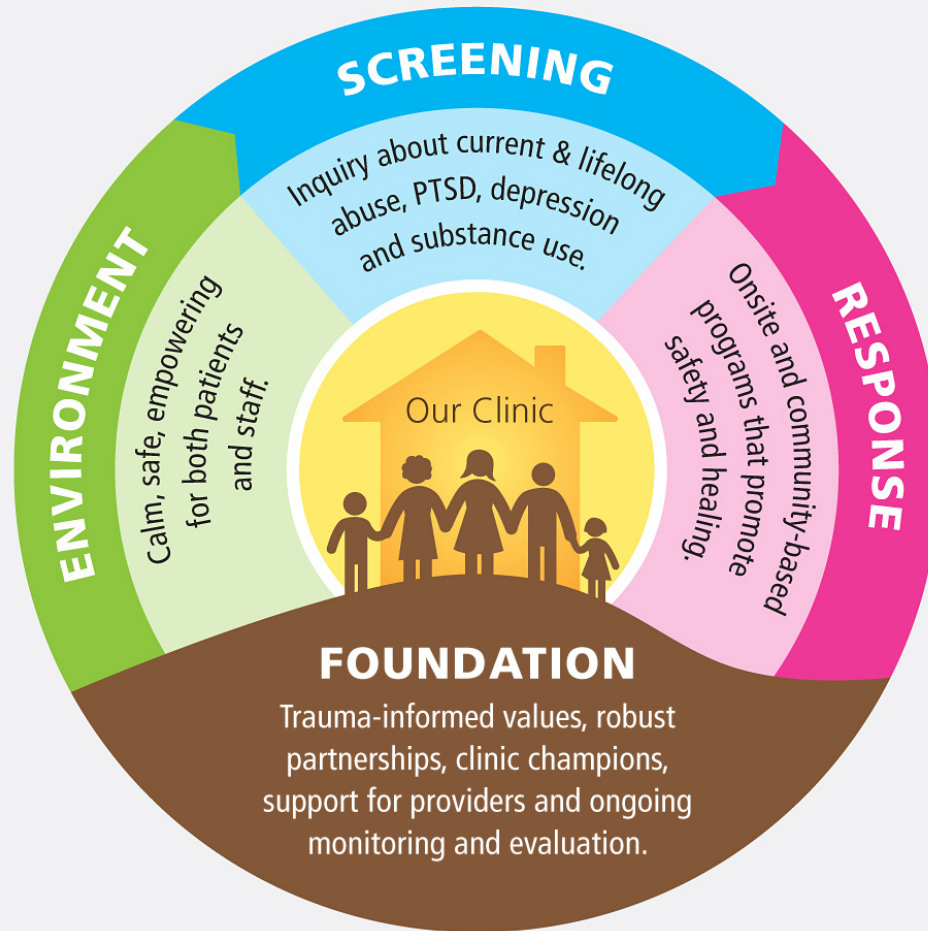
The conceptual framework, developed in partnership with University of California - San Francisco (UCSF) clinician-researchers, provides a practical guide to help providers incorporate trauma-informed care into clinical practice.

"Trauma-informed care is the missing ingredient to engage women with HIV in care successfully and to ensure good health

outcomes," said Naina Khanna, Executive Director of PWN-USA, who co-authored the paper presenting the new model.



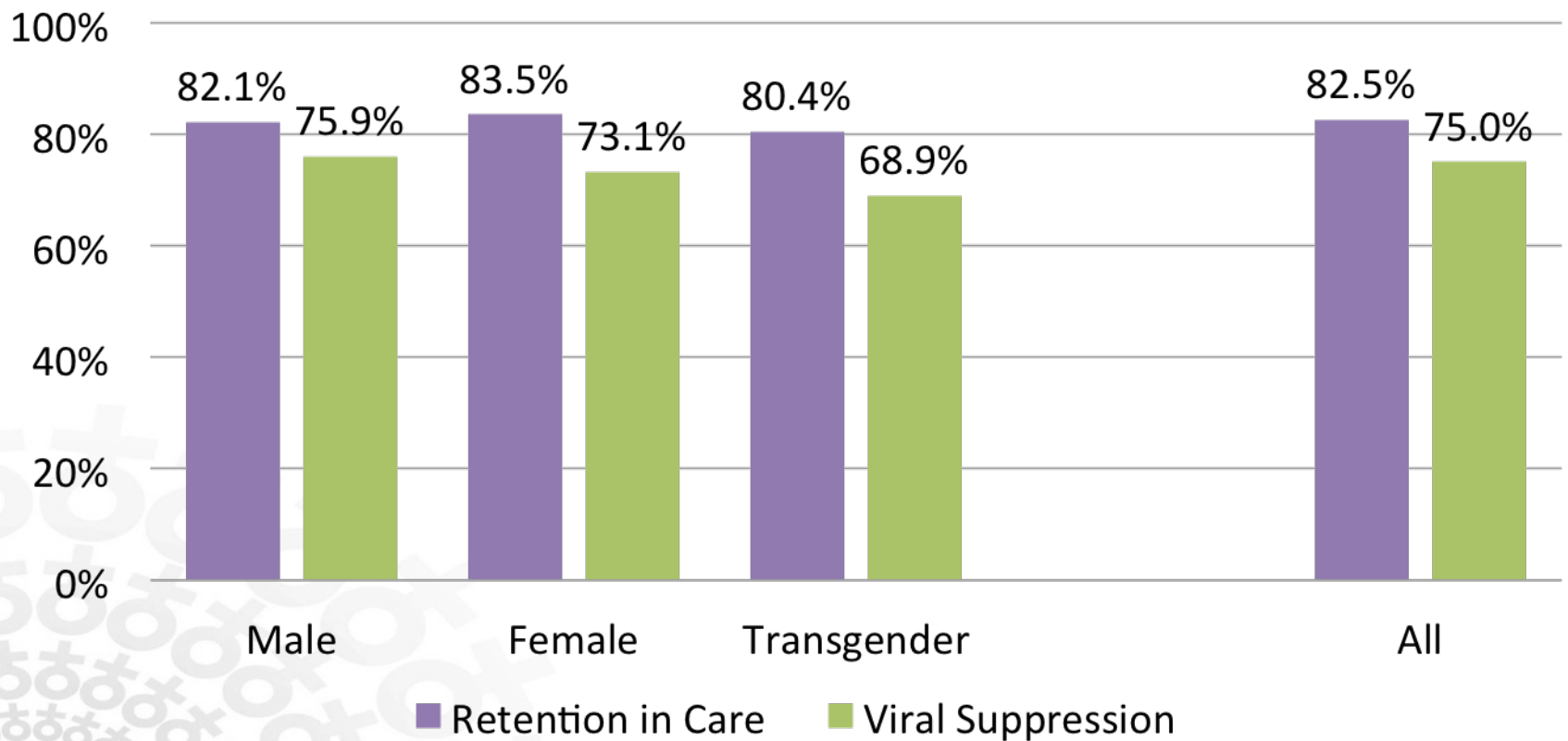
# Trauma-informed Primary Care



© Women's HIV Program (WHP) at UCSF & Positive Women's Network-USA



# Retention in Care and Viral Load Suppression by Gender – RSR 2012 data



“Interestingly, while women had higher levels of retention [in the Ryan White program] than men, their viral suppression was lower, suggesting that there may be a significant gap in ART use and/or adherence.” – Doshi et al

**High Rates of Retention and Viral Suppression in United States HIV Safety Net System: HIV Care Continuum in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 2011**

**Clinical Infectious Diseases Advance Access published September 15, 2014**



Breaking Our Chains  
Ending the Culture of Violence



**DAY OF ACTION**

**TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST**

**WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV**

**OCTOBER 23RD | #PWNSPEAKS**

# National Day of Action to End Violence against Women Living with HIV

October 23 2015  
Everywhere



Barb Cardell  
@BarbCardell



Following

Sisterhood, solidarity, action... #endvawhiv  
#pwnspeaks







# Thank you

Naina Khanna

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510.681.1169

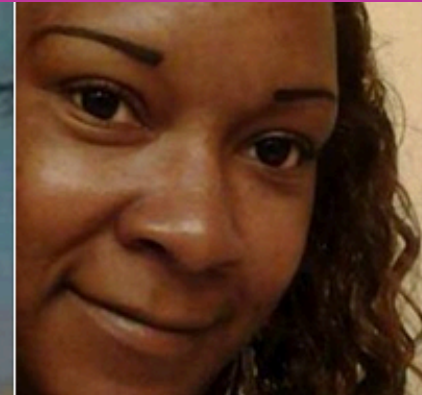
@nainadevi

@uspwn

[www.pwn-usa.org](http://www.pwn-usa.org)



In memory of  
**Cicely Bolden**  
**Elisha Henson**



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