

COLLABORATING TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH AND LEGAL NEEDS OF PATIENTS EXPERIENCING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

April 21, 2022

National Center for Medical  Legal Partnership
AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

HEALTH PARTNERS 
ON IPV + EXPLOITATION

This activity is funded by HRSA.





Health Partners on IPV + Exploitation is led by Futures Without Violence (FUTURES) and funded by HRSA BPHC to work with community health centers to support those at risk of experiencing or surviving intimate partner violence, human trafficking, or exploitation and to bolster prevention efforts.

We offer health center staff ongoing educational programs including:

- ✓ Learning Collaboratives on key topics for small cohorts
- ✓ Webinars + archives
- ✓ Clinical and patient tools, an online toolkit, evaluation + Health IT tools

Learn more: www.healthpartnersipve.org

National Center for Medical Legal Partnership

AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

The [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership](#) (NCMLP) at the George Washington University helps to build an integrated health care system that better addresses health-harming social needs by leveraging legal services and expertise to advance individual and population health.

Goals:

NCMLP provides specialized training and technical assistance (T/TA) designed to meet each of the objectives under the NTTAP type “Medical-Legal Partnerships” (interchangeably referred to as MLPs). These include:

- (1) increase the number of health centers that address health-related legal needs of patients to improve population and community health;
- (2) increase the number of patients that are screened for health-related legal needs that may affect health outcomes; and
- (3) increase the number of health centers that implement medical-legal partnerships to address social determinants of health (SDOH).

HRSA’s 2019-2022 Strategic Plan specifically includes mitigation of SDOH needs and barriers as a mechanism for improving health

Virtual Webinar Training Note

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Because domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking are so prevalent, assume that there are survivors among us.

- Be aware of your reactions and take care of yourself first. It's ok to step away from Zoom if you need to.
- Respect patient or client confidentiality.



Learning Objectives

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As a result of this webinar, participants will be better able to:

1. Identify strategies to build partnerships between civil legal services providers and community health centers to address the health and legal needs of survivors of IPV and exploitation.
1. Describe strategies for sustaining and growing collaborative health justice responses to preventing and addressing IPV.
1. Describe 3 tools that can help community health centers and civil legal services formalize partnerships and develop protocols for responding to domestic violence and building prevention strategies.



Moderators

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The George Washington University



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Panelists

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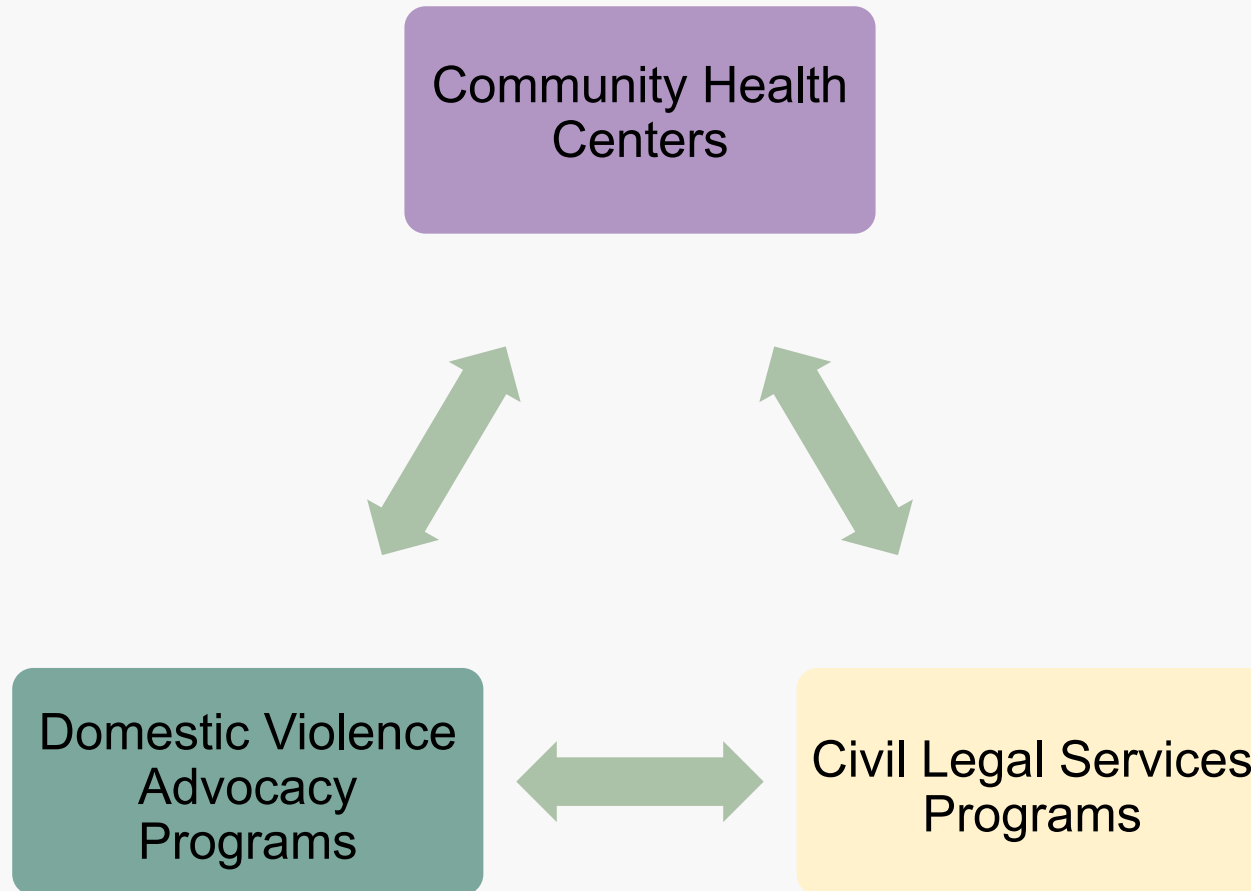


Jessica Brock
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Director of the LAVA
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Services



The Heart of the Model: Building Meaningful Partnerships

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About Domestic/Sexual Violence Advocacy Programs

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Domestic violence and sexual assault programs have vast experiences working with survivors of violence and assist them to identify ways to increase personal safety while assessing the risks.

Advocates connect patients to additional services like:

- ✓ Crisis safety planning
- ✓ Housing (emergency and transitional)
- ✓ Legal advocacy for IPV/HT, family court, immigration, labor
- ✓ Support groups/counseling
- ✓ Children's services
- ✓ Employment support

<https://nnedv.org/content/state-u-s-territory-coalitions/>



Overview of Community Health Centers (CHC)

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Community health centers are community-based and patient-directed organizations that deliver no-cost/low-cost comprehensive primary health care.

They often include:

- ✓ pharmacy
- ✓ mental health services
- ✓ substance abuse programs
- ✓ oral health services

Located in medically underserved areas and for medically underserved populations.

<https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>



Photo: CHC Staff at Asian Health Services in Oakland, CA in 2021

Additional Points About CHCs:

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- ✓ Deliver comprehensive primary care, as well as supportive services such as health education, translation, and transportation that promote access to health care.
- ✓ Improve the health of underserved and vulnerable populations.
- ✓ Some focus on special populations including for those experiencing homelessness, migratory and seasonal agricultural workers, and residents of public housing.



Background: HRSA's Health Center Program

HRSA-funded health centers serve nearly 29 million patients across the country, including:




1 in 3 people living in poverty



1 in 5 people who are uninsured

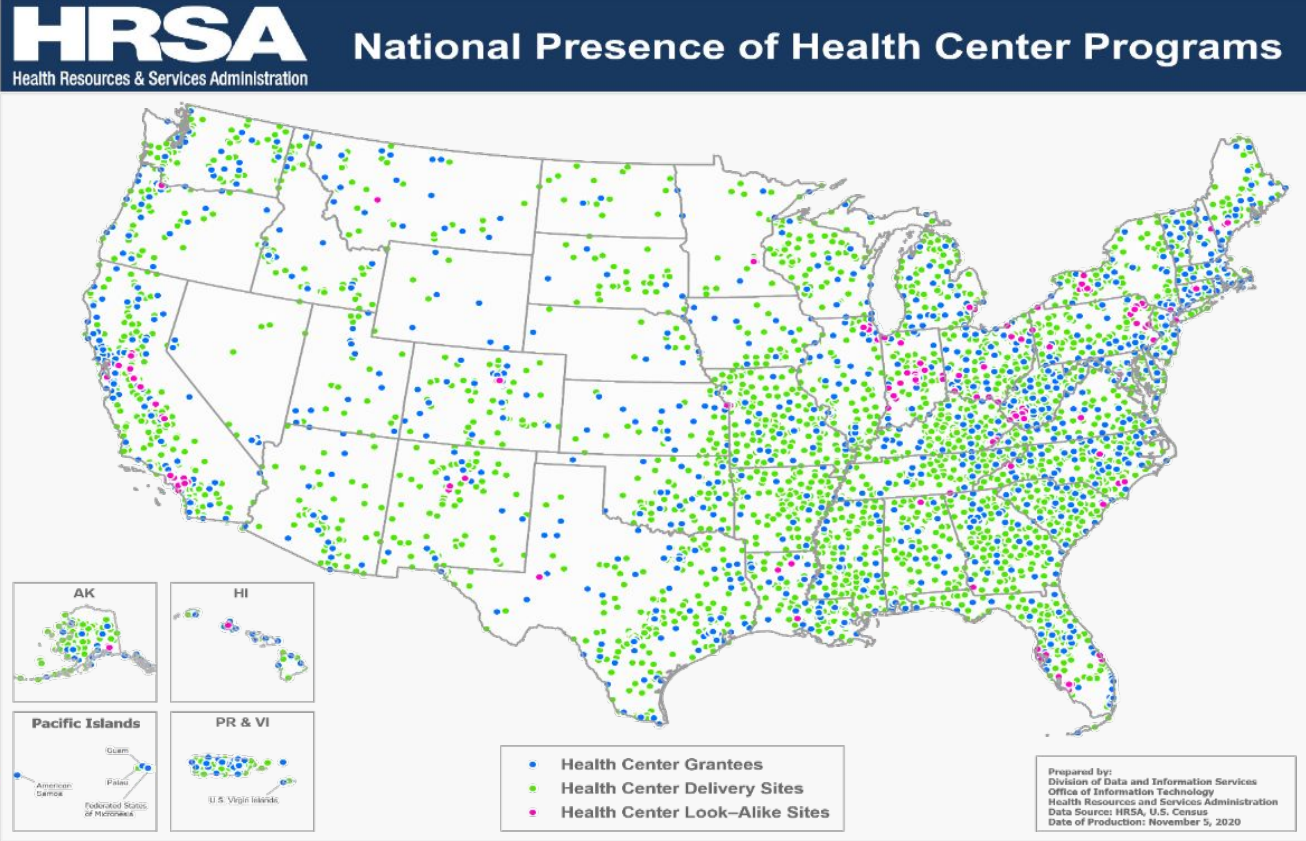


1 in 5 rural residents



Nearly 3 million adults age 65+

[FindAHealthCenter.hrsa.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov/FindAHealthCenter)



Source: Uniform Data System, 2020



Intersections of Domestic Violence and Primary Healthcare

Post-interaction surveys commenced on March 29, 2021. More than 3,400 surveys were administered. For the period June 23 - August 1, 2021, 242 of The Hotline's anonymous users voluntarily participated in the focus survey.

53%

reported that a partner who chooses to abuse has also controlled and/or restricted healthcare access

46%

of those respondents indicated the frequency or intensity of abuse increased during COVID-19

42%

agreed their healthcare provider spends time or talks with them without their partner present

What is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)?

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One person in a relationship is using a **pattern** of methods and tactics to gain and maintain **power and control** over the other person.

- It is often a cycle that gets worse over time – not a one time ‘incident’
- Abusers use jealousy, mental health, money and other tactics to be controlling and abusive – not just physical violence
- Leaving an abusive relationship is not always the best, safest or most realistic option for survivors



Trafficking Federal Legal / Criminal Definition

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Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)

- A. Labor Trafficking: The *recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining* of a person for *labor or services*, through the use of *force, fraud, or coercion* for the purpose of subjection to *involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery*.

- A. **Severe** Forms of Sex Trafficking: The *recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining* of a person for
 1. A *commercial sex act* induced by *force, fraud, or coercion*,
 2. Or in which the person induced to perform such act has *not attained 18 years of age*



Labor Exploitation, Labor Violations, Labor Trafficking: A Spectrum of Experiences

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Labor exploitation: an employer unfairly benefits from employee’s work. Labor exploitation is not a legal term—in fact, not all forms of labor exploitation are illegal.

Labor violations: a legal term used when employers violate federal, state, or municipal laws related to worker treatment, workplace safety, or recordkeeping requirements.

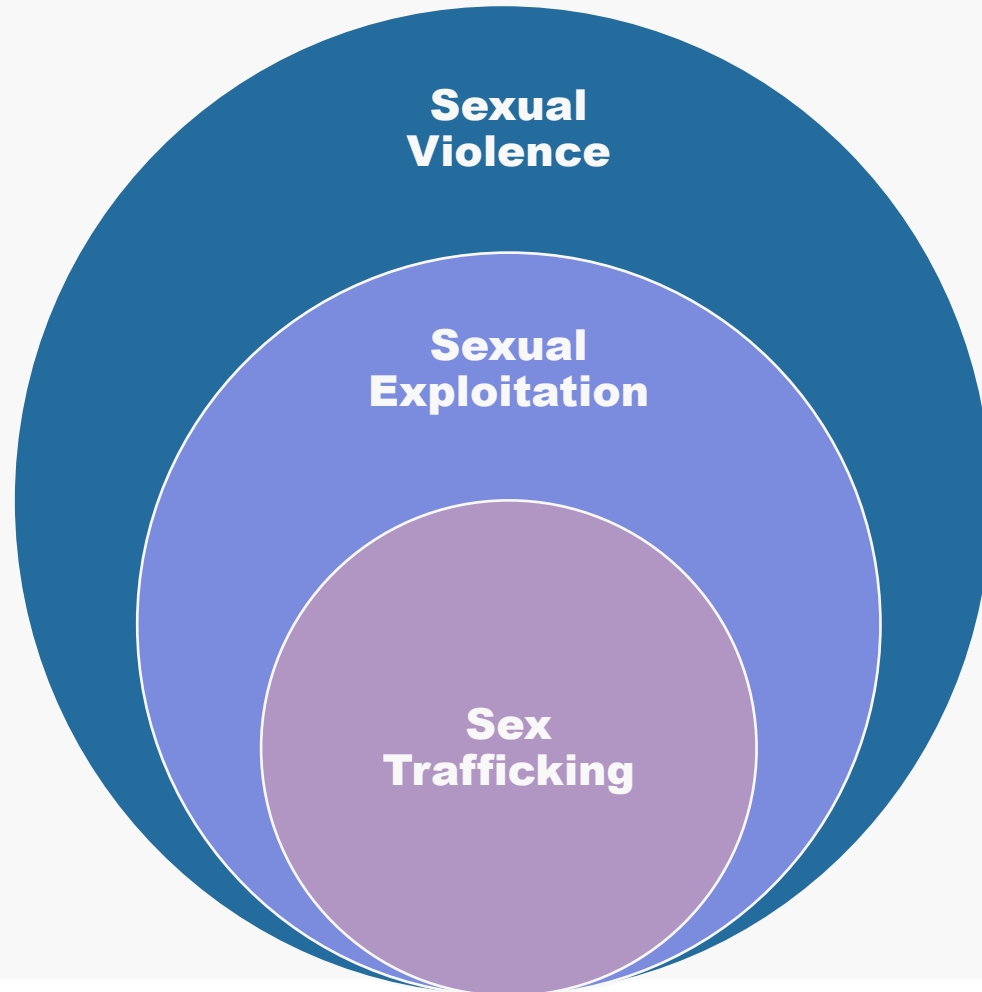
Adapted with permission from Morgan Baskall and Patricia Medige, Colorado Legal Services. “The Intersection of Labor Exploitation and Human Trafficking”, Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking. January 29, 2020.

www.combathumantrafficking.org/blog/2020/01/29/labor-trafficking/
(Accessed December 18, 2021)



Sexual Violence, Sexual Exploitation, Sex Trafficking: A Spectrum of Experiences

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Sexual Violence: includes rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, nonconsensual image sharing, incest, child sexual assault, public masturbation, watching someone engage in private acts without their consent, unwanted sexual contact/touching

Sexual Exploitation: Actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exchanges:

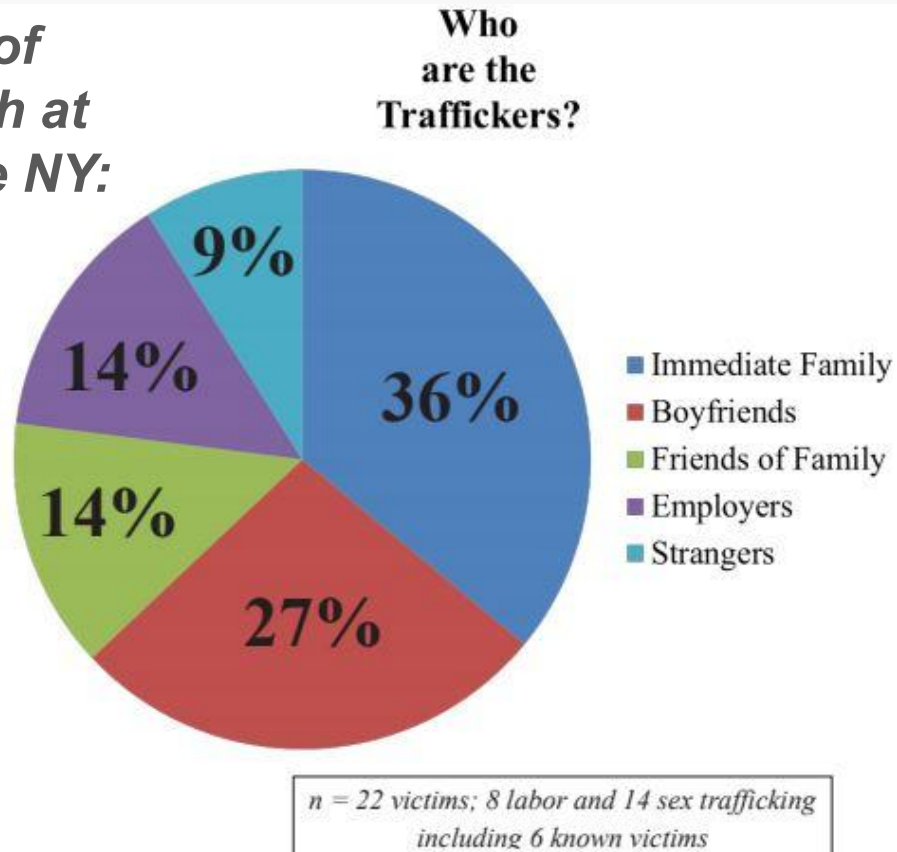
- Coercion from employers/workplace
- Coercive rent/debt exchange
- Trading drugs/children's sex



Similar or Intersectional Dynamics IPV/HT

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Experiences of Homeless Youth at Covenant House NY:



Similar Dynamics:

- Physical and sexual violence
- Restrictions on freedom of movement, control
- Isolation
- Financial control
- Intimidation, fear
- Fostering of drug and alcohol dependencies due to their situations

It is not uncommon in federal trafficking prosecutions for the trafficker to be the husband, boyfriend, or romantic partner of the victim. (Human Trafficking Legal Center, 2018)

Health Impact

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- Anxiety, Depression, PTSD
- Asthma
- Barriers to healthcare
- Bladder and kidney infections
- Cardiovascular problems
- Gastrointestinal issues
- Chronic pain syndromes
- Sleep Problems
- STIs and HIV
- Suicidality
- Unintended Pregnancies

Intimate Partner Violence

- Anxiety, Depression, PTSD
- Back pain
- Barriers to healthcare
- Cardiovascular problems
- Dental pain
- Headaches
- Gastrointestinal issues
- Sleep problems
- STIs and HIV
- Suicidality
- Unintended Pregnancies

Human Trafficking



Universal Education

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Provides an opportunity for clients to make the connection between violence, health problems, and risk behaviors.



**** If you currently have IPV/HT screening as part of your health center requirements: we strongly recommend first doing universal education.***



CUES: An Evidence-based Intervention

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Confidentiality
Universal Education
Empowerment
Support



www.IPVHealthPartners.org online toolkit + CUES

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Guidance on:

- ✓ Enhancing patient privacy
- ✓ Disclosing limits of confidentiality
- ✓ Universal education scripts
- ✓ Reaching friends and family
- ✓ Disclosures + supportive messages
- ✓ Warm referrals to local DV programs
- ✓ Safely sharing resources
- ✓ Tech privacy tips



www.ipvhealthpartners.org

Developed by and for
community health centers in
partnership with domestic
violence programs

**+ New guidance on COVID-19
and telehealth support**

Legal Services for Survivors

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Types of legal services programs may provide that support survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking:

- Housing: eviction, support on other housing protections that may be available
- Family Law: child custody, separation and divorce, child or spousal support
- Orders of protection
- Immigration-related legal assistance for survivors of domestic violence
- Public benefits and economic security issues
- Criminal record expungement



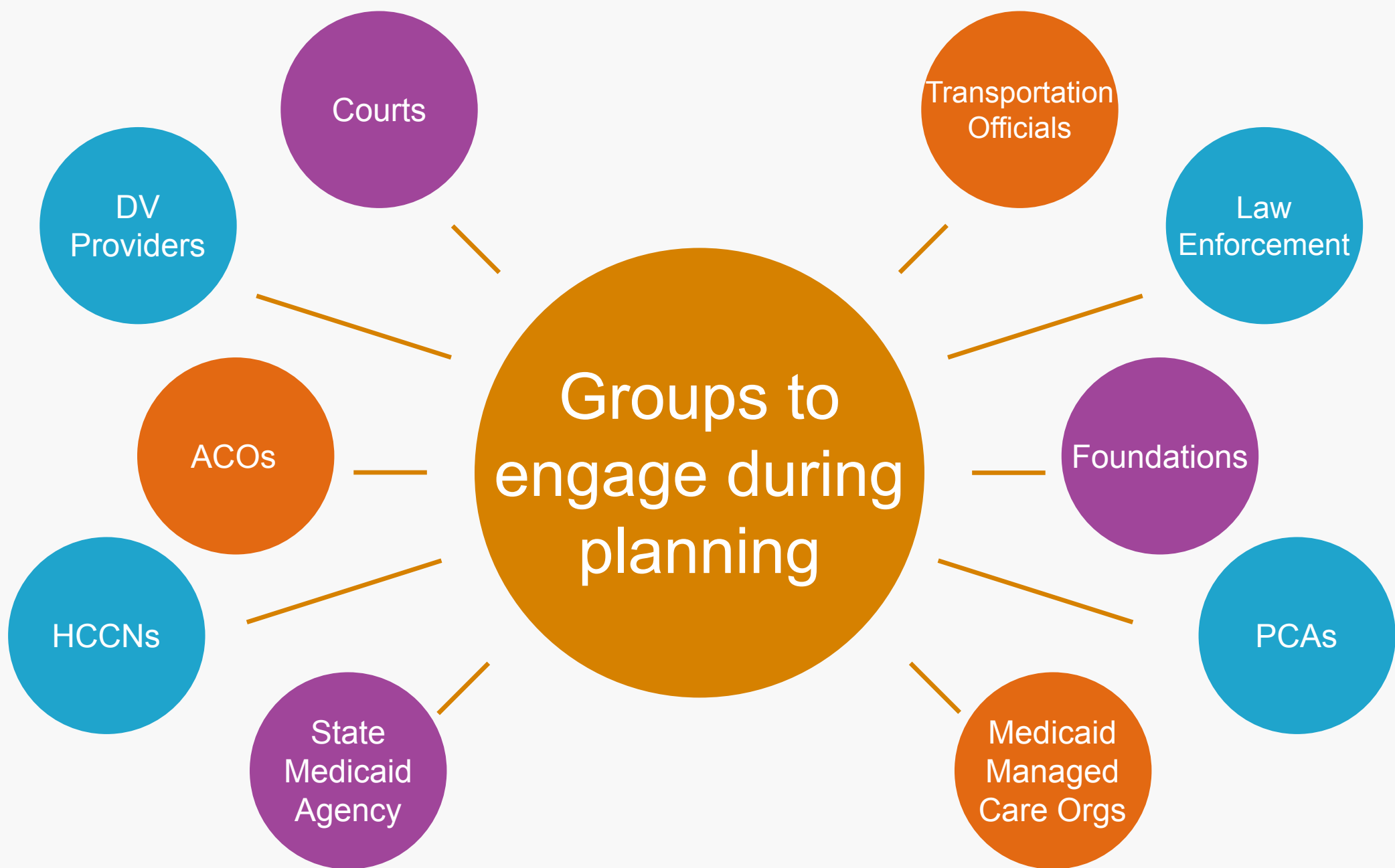
What is MLP?

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MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP is an intervention where legal and health care professionals collaborate to help patients resolve **SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS** that contribute to **HEALTH DISPARITIES** and have a remedy in civil law.





Health Impact of Partnership to Address Legal Needs of Survivors

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FAMILY and JUVENILE	
Legal Problems	Projected Health Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption• Custody / Visitation• Divorce / Separation / Annulment• Adult Guardian / Conservatorship• Name Change• Parental Rights Termination• Paternity• Domestic Abuse• Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved continuity of care• Obtained health insurance• Increased access to healthy built environment• Enhanced financial ability to access care and obtain medication• Enhanced financial ability to purchase healthy foods• Reduced risk of injury• Reduced likelihood of uncompensated care• Improved ability to prioritize health and health care• Improved ability to make health-positive decisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delinquent• Neglected / Abused / Dependent• Emancipation• Minor Guardian / Conservatorship	

Source: CHART-IT, or CAPTURING HEALTH - AN ATTORNEY REPORTING TOOL FOR IMPACT TRACKING, A Framework for Systematically Documenting the Impact of Legal Assistance on the Health of Low-Income Individuals and Families (May 2016) Access at: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/assets/541-1591/929-chart-it-health-impacts-white-paper.pdf>



Panel:

Supporting Survivors Through Legal Services & Healthcare Provider Collaboration Responses



Medical-Legal Partnerships Model

Nikole Nelson

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Relative Size of Alaska to the Contiguous U.S.















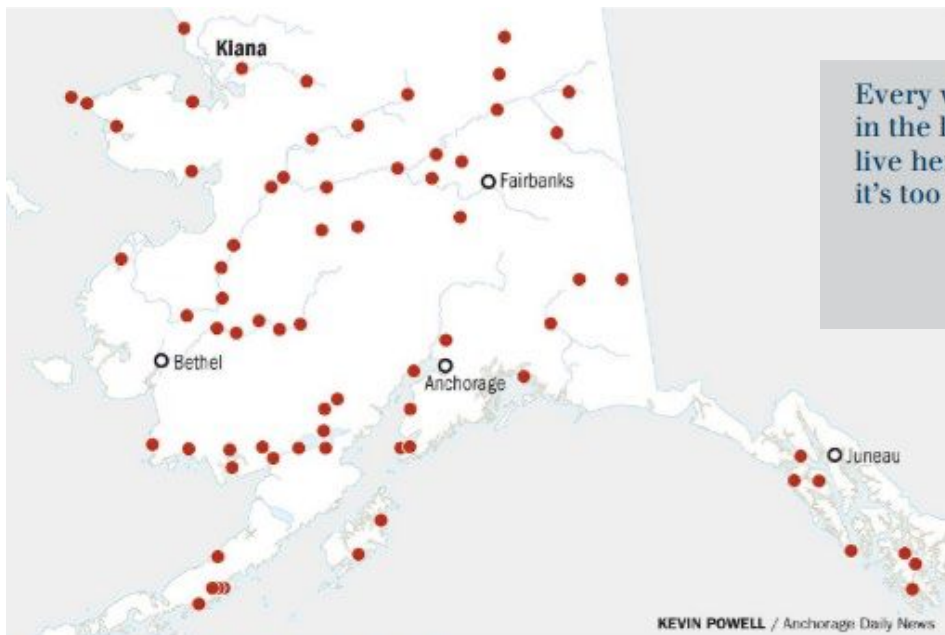


Communities

Many communities are not connected to each other by roads, and are accessible only by airplane, boat or snowmachine.







Alaska communities that had no local law enforcement in 2019.

KEVIN POWELL / Anchorage Daily News

Every woman you've met today has been raped. All of us. I know they won't believe that in the lower 48, and the State will deny it, but it's true. We all know each other and we live here. We know what's happened. Please tell Congress and President Obama before it's too late.

Tribal citizen (name withheld)
 Statement provided during an Indian Law and Order Commission site visit to Galena, AK
 October 18, 2012

LAWLESS

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ALASKA

A PROJECT BY
 ADN PROPUBLICA



Dozens of convicted criminals have been hired as cops in rural Alaska. Sometimes, they're the only applicants.

In one village, every cop has been convicted of domestic violence within the past decade, including the chief. Only one has received formal law enforcement



Why remote Alaska communities that need cops aren't getting them

A tiny Alaska village got a police officer. He's never had to make an arrest. Meanwhile, larger communities with more crime have often been left behind as the state's two-tiered policing crisis gets worse.



She leapt from a van on the Kenai Peninsula to escape her rapist. Then she waited 18 years for an arrest.

Anna Sattler's rape kit sat untested for almost 20 years as Alaska's backlog got worse. Now, an ex-Iditarod musher faces charges, and she's speaking publicly



Direct Benefits Across Alaska

12 Offices
6 Medical-Legal Partnerships
197 Communities
3,603 Cases
7,448 Alaskans Impacted



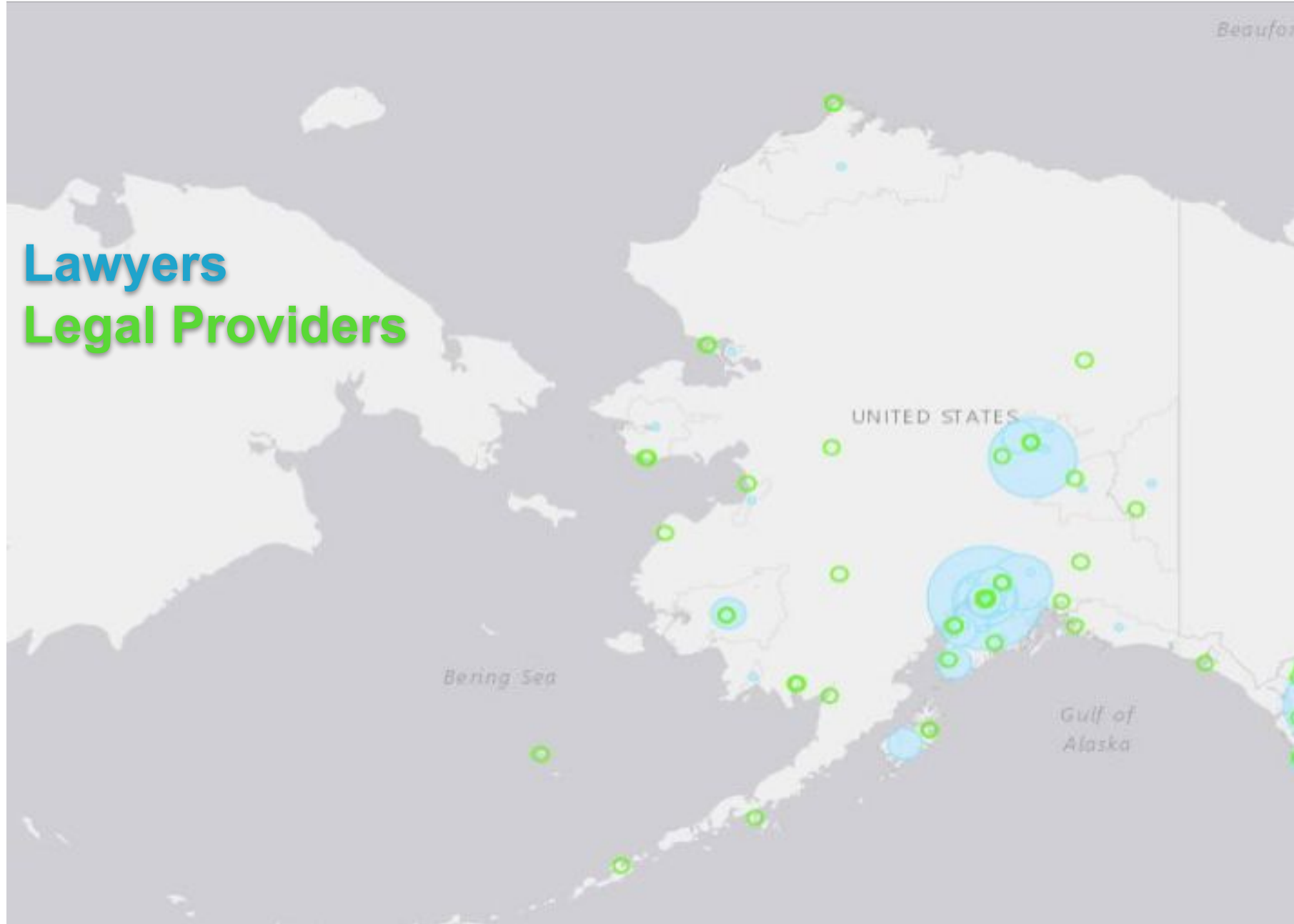
● ALSC OFFICE/MLP ● COMMUNITIES SERVED

- OUR SERVICES:**
- Advice and Counseling
 - Court Representation
 - Community Legal Clinics
 - Advocacy
 - Client Self-Help
 - Pro Bono Program

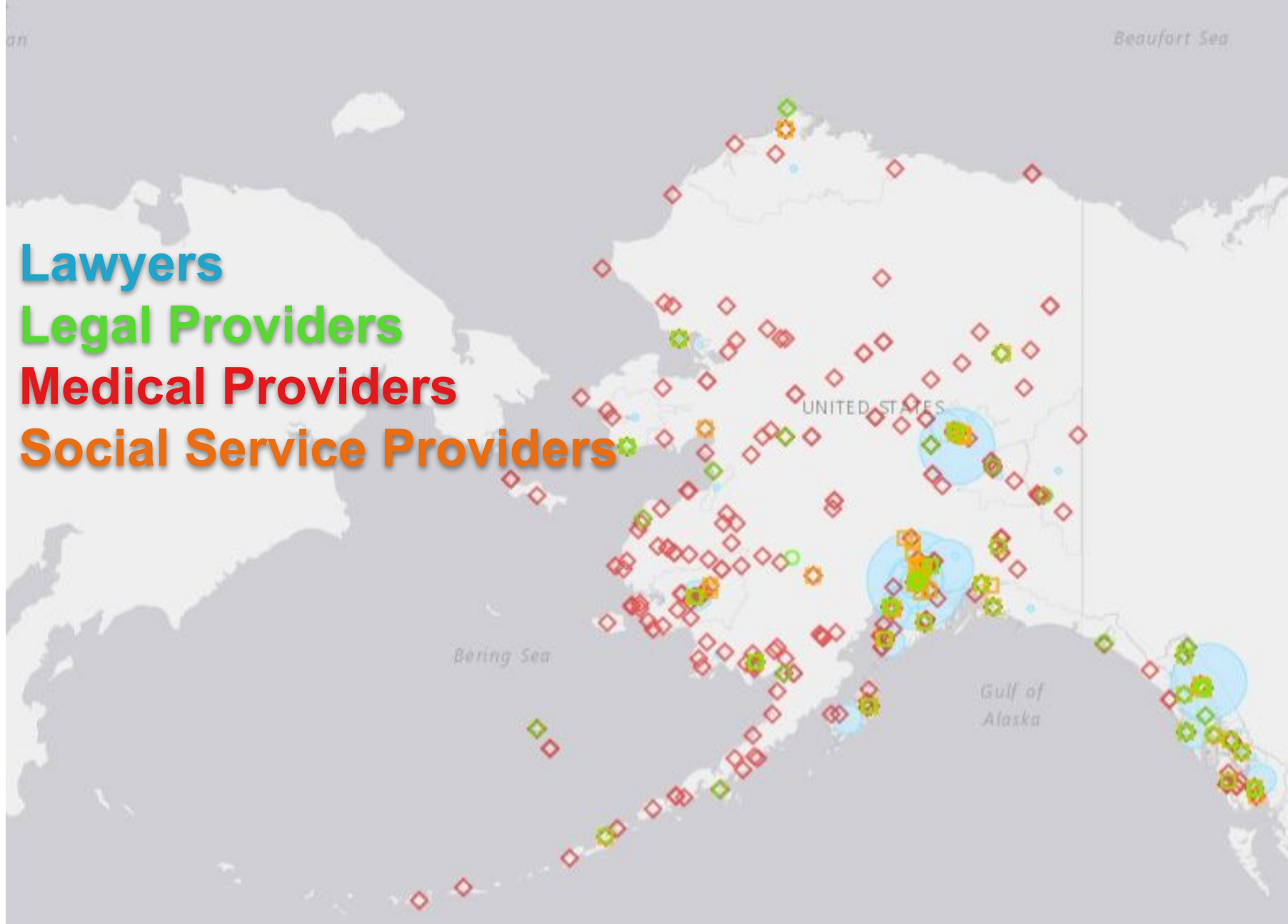


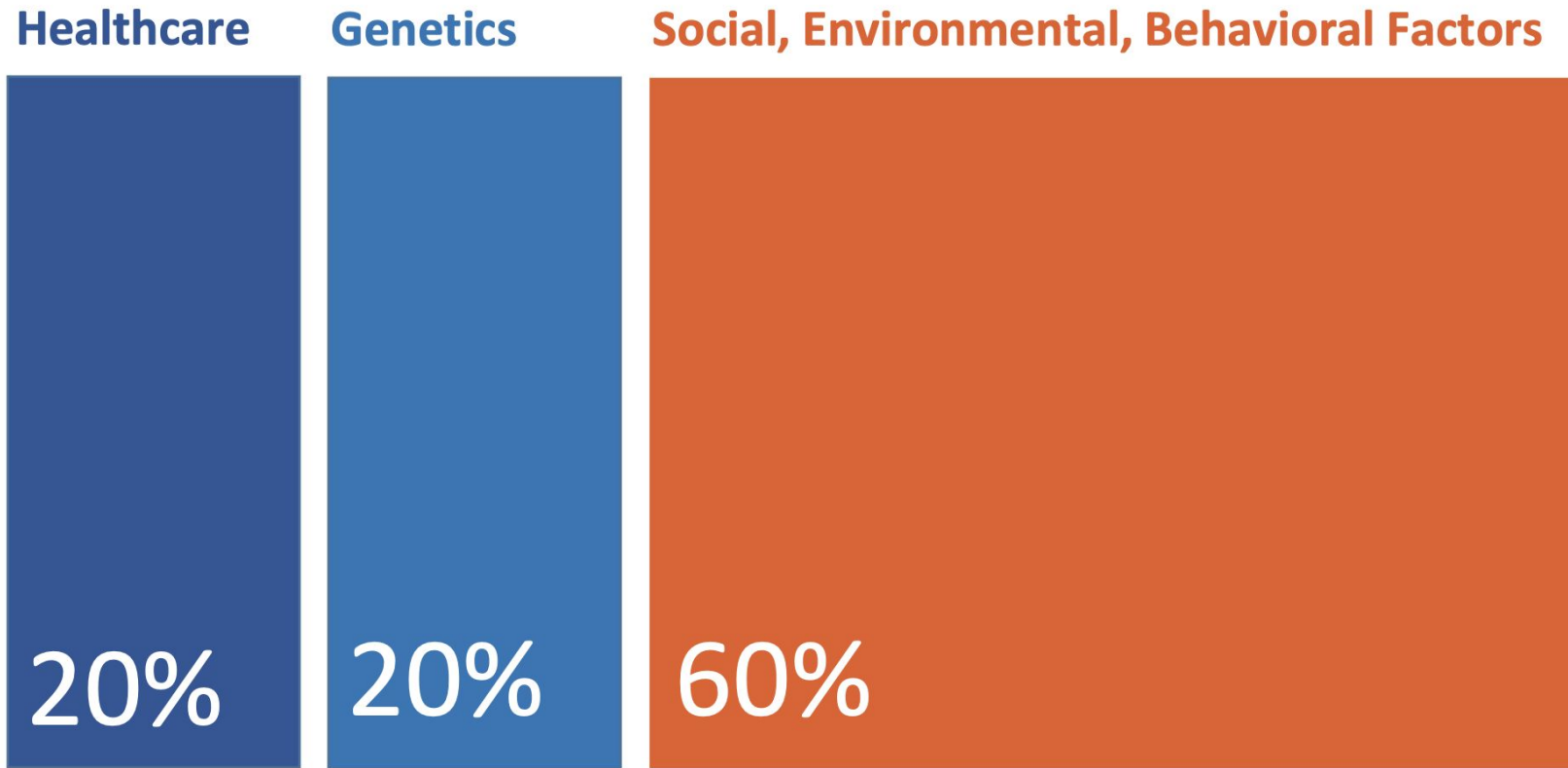


Lawyers Legal Providers



Lawyers
Legal Providers
Medical Providers
Social Service Providers





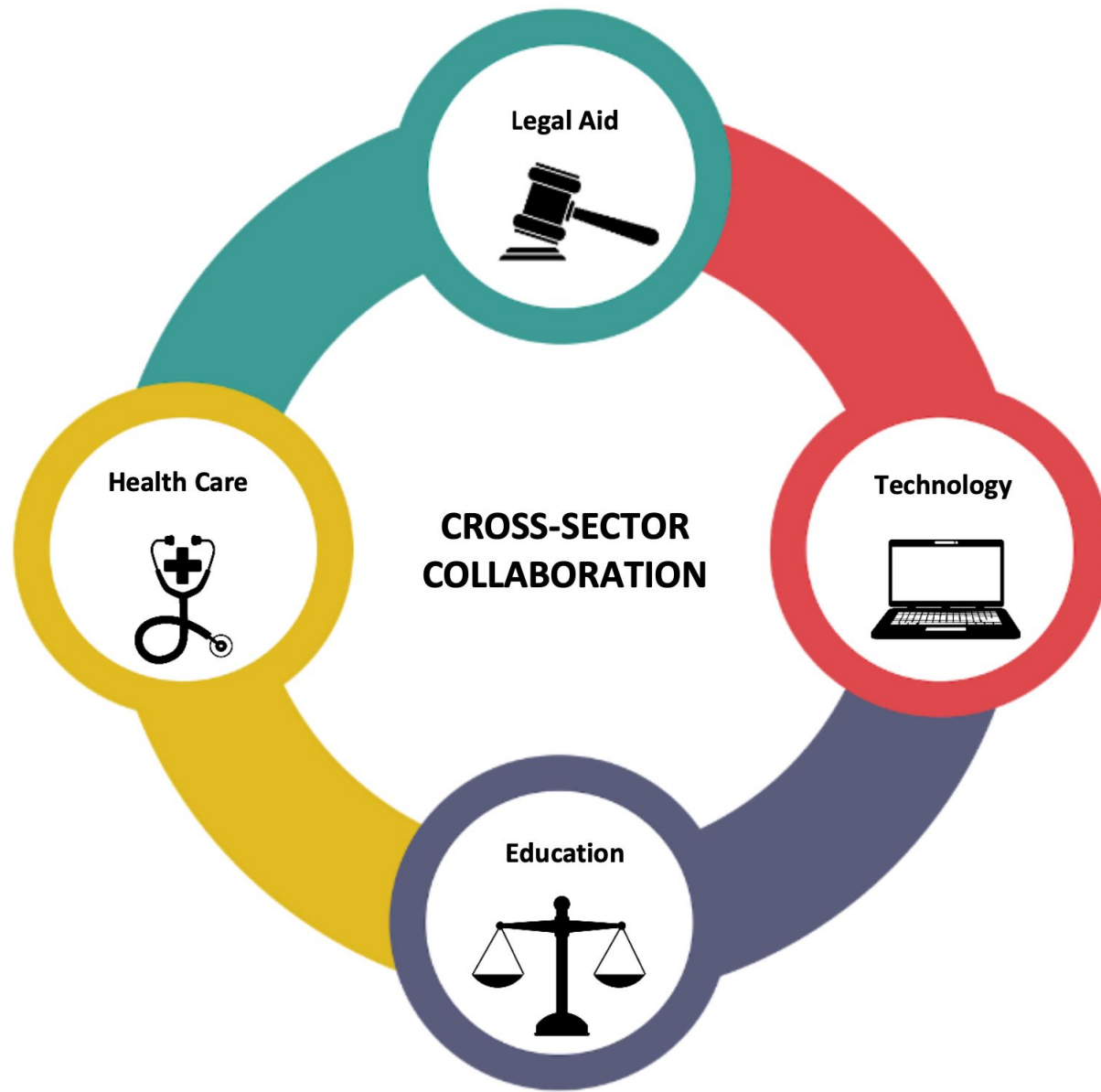
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Social Determinants of Health*; Tarlov, A.R., Public Policy Frameworks for Improving Population Health. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1999. 896 (SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND HEALTH IN INDUSTRIAL NATIONS: SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL PATHWAYS): p. 281-293.











Informal MLPs and Supporting Formal MLPs

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About CLS

- Survivor Services Unit
- Denver Units and Local Offices
 - Formal MLPs



Case Example

- Affluent man pursued woman
- Campus counseling
- CLS referral: housing, immigration, informal support
- Referral to on-campus services/IPV
- Outcome



Informal MLPs

- Trainings targeting medical community (partner organization, importance of partnerships)
- Connecting providers to SOAR (Stop, Observe, Ask, Respond) trainings: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/soar-health-and-wellness-training>
- Trainings for victim services networks, individual organization staff
- Informal outreach at every opportunity (client in hospital, shelter)
- Advice:
 - Flexibility (legal provider), being responsive even when outside scope of services
 - Where is the trust?



Supporting Formal MLPs

- Overview of CLS formal MLP
 - Previous model
 - Current model
- Support: Training for providers regarding immigration (humanitarian visas, why immigration lawyers request letters; immigration landscape creating barriers)
- Cross-training: Health care providers training on various topics (effects of trauma, special needs of certain populations)
- Flexibility (legal provider): being responsive even when outside scope of services
- Explore Foundation funding



Other Models

- Regional clinic hiring legal staff
- Medical company funding attorney fellowship
- MLP at immigration detention center
- Trainings: Human services, victim services networks, nurse associations



ILS



**EQUAL
ACCESS
TO JUSTICE**

LAVA Project – Civil Legal Services Model for Elder Abuse

Jessica Brock, JD LLM
Indiana Legal Services
LAVA Project Director

ILS



**EQUAL
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TO JUSTICE**

This project is supported by VOCA Grant No. 7201 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice or grant-making component.



The LAVA Project

- Legal
- Assistance for
- Victimized
- Adults

LAVA Project – Mission

Provision of Civil Legal Services

- Provide quality legal representation to seniors and endangered adults who are victims of criminal behavior, including abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Ease or eliminate the negative effects of these crimes
- Identifying and obtaining social services for clients, Referrals

Legal Education/Community Outreach

- Provide law-related education and proactive programming designed to empower seniors and endangered adults

LAVA Project – Who is eligible?

Victim of a crime **#1**
Doesn't have to be charged
or prosecuted



#2
Senior
Age 60 or older

OR

Endangered Adult

1. Age 18+
2. Incapable by reason of: mental illness, developmental/intellectual disability, dementia, other physical or mental incapacity
3. Harmed or threatened with harm as a result of abuse, neglect, or exploitation

Other General Requirements Include:
• Capacity to retain legal counsel

LAVA Project – Services we offer

- Quality legal representation including:
 - Advice
 - Negotiation
 - Consultation
 - Civil action (Litigation)
- Non-legal Issues – LAVA Advocate
 - Identifying and obtaining social services for clients
 - Referrals
 - Collaboration with attorneys
 - Outreach, Developing relationships
- Legal Education – for the public and professionals

LAVA Project – Examples of Cases We Take

- Fiduciary Abuse
- Trusts/Estate Planning
- Domestic Violence/Stalking
- Unwanted Houseguests
- Financial Exploitation
- Consumer Fraud
- Scams

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<https://www.abc57.com/news/goshen-woman-locked-in-her-basement-by-own-family-shares-her-story-to-help-others>

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Partnerships

Founding Partner and Current Partners

Adult Protective Services

Now:

Area Agencies on Aging

Councils on Aging

Financial Institutions

Law Enforcement

Neuropsychologists

Special Education Professionals

Medical Professionals

All roads lead to help

No wrong door in....

just different connections and specialties.

Resources

Coming soon....

Legal Risk Detector

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Ways we rely
on community
partners for
help

- Eyes and Ears
 - Who is controlling a situation?
 - Meeting people alone to determine needs/issues
 - Changes in values and appearance and health
 - Who is getting mail?
 - Signs of isolation

Referrals

Evidence/Testimony

Identifying systemic issues

Contact Information

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Questions

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1. How can medical professionals help combat agism, ableism, and elder abuse?
2. How do you sustain an MLP, especially after short-term funding ends?
3. How does the addition of a social worker inform your legal practice?



Collaborating to Address the Health and Legal Needs of Patients Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence and Exploitation: **A learning Collaborative**

Registration is open!

Four small group activities. Four Thursdays: May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022 at 10am PT / 1pm ET (1 hour)

- **Session 1:** Collaborating to Address the Health and Legal Needs of Patients Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence and Exploitation: Introduction, Tools, and Resources
- **Session 2:** Developing Partnerships Between Legal Services Programs and Health Centers
- **Session 3:** Scaling and Sustaining Medical Legal Partnerships to Address IPV and Exploitation
- **Session 4:** Partnering to Address the Health and Legal Needs of Older Adult Survivors of Abuse and Exploitation

Register by April 28, 2022:

<https://healthpartnersipve.org/learning-opp/collaborating-to-address-the-health-and-legal-needs-of-patients-experiencing-intimate-partner-violence-and-exploitation/>



THANK YOU!

Please fill out the evaluation survey: <https://redcap.link/n99e3ymj>

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