

# Navigating Together: Family and Domestic Violence with AOD Abuse

# Overview

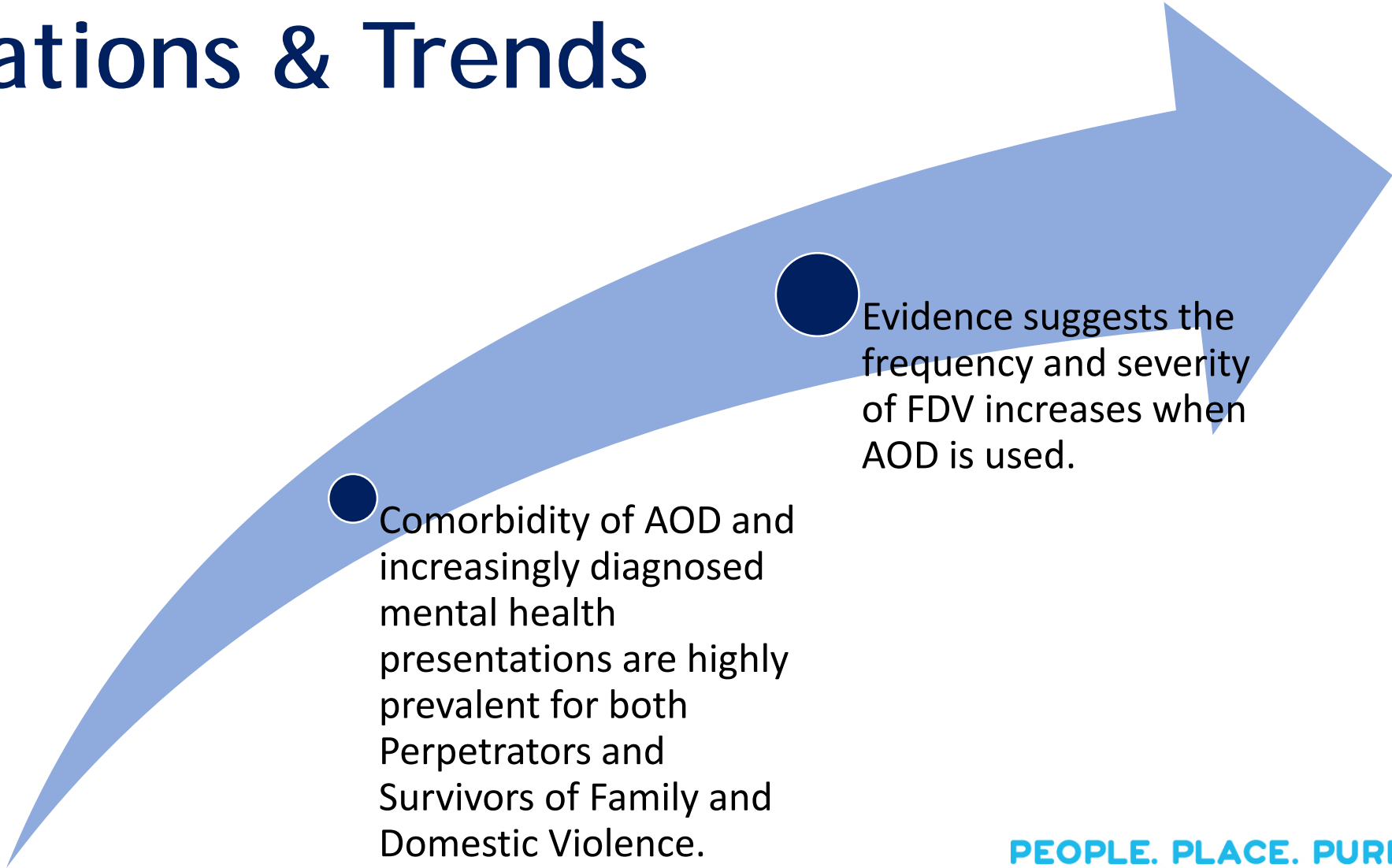
- Correlation & Trends between FDV & AOD
- FDV Tactics & AOD
- Communicare Breathing Space – A Holistic Approach
- FDV and AOD sectors navigating together

# Family & Domestic Violence

Family and Domestic Violence is pattern of behaviours intended to **coerce, control** and **create fear** within an intimate or familial relationships.

*Department of Child Protection and Family Support (2015)*

# Correlations & Trends

A large, light blue arrow graphic that curves upwards from the bottom left towards the top right, pointing towards the right side of the slide. It contains two dark blue circular markers.

Comorbidity of AOD and increasingly diagnosed mental health presentations are highly prevalent for both Perpetrators and Survivors of Family and Domestic Violence.

Evidence suggests the frequency and severity of FDV increases when AOD is used.

## Victim Support Services – Refuge and Outreach Services

- Over past 12 months, **75-90%** of women using our services may present with complex needs including the use of **licit** or **illicit drugs**.
- Increasingly noticeable use of **AOD** as a **coping strategy** for mental health e.g. anxiety, which leads to breaches of stay within the Refuge.
- Common use of drugs are alcohol, marijuana and methamphetamines, poly-users becoming more common.
- Dual diagnosis for FDV, AOD and MH is very difficult for external support, impacting on the survivors and children goals and overall wellbeing.

## Perpetrator Services

- **100%** residents report problematic AOD use in the Communicare Breathing Space (CBS) and Indigenous Family Violence (IFV) programs, with **85%** in Families Without Fear.
- For CBS, 20% of men report high alcohol consumption; 80% report drug use
- Increase in perpetrators using Amphetamine and Methamphetamine.
- All clients in CBS reported use prior to applying for programs

## Perpetrator Services

- Indigenous Family Violence program 43% were terminated from group as a result of continued use of AOD resulting in reoffending, non-compliance and/or positive urinalysis.
- Of the 47% of men who commenced and completed group, **85%** report reduced or abstained from AOD use during programmatic intervention.

# FDV Tactics & AOD

- Many women increase their use of AOD after they start their relationship
- Perpetrators may use AOD as a tactic to gain control within the relationship by coercing their partner or family members to use AOD.
- Survivors may try to stop AOD use as a form of resistance, however Perpetrators will predict this and force drugs on them to gain control.





# FDV Tactics & AOD

- Perpetrators use mothers dependence on AOD to undermine her parenting.
- Survivors become dependent on AOD to cope with psychological impacts of their experience of violence.



# Communicare Breathing Space

An Innovative Therapeutic Community



3 month  
MBCP

Therapeutic  
Community  
Setting

Group Work

Individual  
Counselling

Case  
Management

Partner  
Contact

Aftercare  
Support

Transition  
Housing

System  
Response

Men Relating Safely

Dadworx

Understanding Emotions

Understanding Anger & Aggression

DV/AOD

AOD Counselling

# Transitional Housing

- Allows up to 12 months to transition back into community and reduce risks of returning to family due to homelessness.
- Increases regular contact with the program through weekly contact and fortnightly case management





# Navigating together

- Increase knowledge on FDV
- Use a common risk assessment tool i.e. CRARMF in WA
- Build strong partnerships with FDV service providers for specialist referral options
- Ensure information sharing is built into your policies and procedures
- Safety always comes first
- Perpetrator accountability is built in the AOD therapeutic process and relationship through transparency.



# Resources

- NADA Practice Resource (2016). Working with Women Engaged in Alcohol and Other drug Treatment just released in 2016.

<http://www.nada.org.au/resources/nadapublications/resourcestoolkits/women'saodresource/>

- Nicholas, R., White, M., Roche, AM., Gruenert, S. & Lee, N. (2012). *Breaking the Silence: Addressing family and domestic violence problems in alcohol and other drug treatment practice in Australia*. National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA). Flinders University, Adelaide, SA.

<https://www.google.com.au/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=breaking+the+silence+NCETA>

- Western Australia Government Department of Child Protection and Family Support (2015). Common Risk Assessment Risk Management Framework – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

<https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/CrisisAndEmergency/FDV/Pages/CRARMF.aspx>

- Womens Council for domestic and family violence services (WA) (2009). Supporting Women with Complex Needs: The relationship between substance use and domestic and family violence.

<https://www.google.com.au/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=supporting%20women%20with%20complex%20needs>