



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

## Assessing Traumatic Brain Injury in Domestic Violence Victims/Survivors

### BACKGROUND:

Up to 30-75% of women in physically abusive relationships have been shown to suffer at least one (1) traumatic brain injury resulting from abuse.\*

### GOAL:

Provide law enforcement and other stakeholders a concise questionnaire assessing traumatic brain injury in both male and female survivors of intimate-partner violence in Santa Clara County. These questions should be asked if the survivor appears to be having difficulty comprehending questions pertaining to the violent incident.

### THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ASKED OF EVERY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR, MALE OR FEMALE.

These questions should be read rather than given as a questionnaire to help accommodate for potential post-traumatic cognitive confusion and/or misinterpretation of the question following the violent act. Additional details about what happened should be asked as needed to determine what happened.

#### After anything your partner did to you [TIME OF DAY HERE; e.g., tonight, today]:

Did you ever black out or lose consciousness?

[IF 'YES'] What happened?

[IF PERSON LOST CONSCIOUSNESS]

How long were you out?

Do you have any trouble remembering anything surrounding the loss of consciousness?

#### After anything your partner did to you [TIME OF DAY AGAIN HERE], did you:

See stars or spots?

Feel dizzy?

Feel dazed or confused?

Feel stunned or disoriented?

Have memory loss about what happened?

\*Valera & Berenbaum, 2003 and Kwako et al, 2011

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