



PROBLEM
GAMBLING
PREVENTION

The Intersection

of Problem Gambling and Violence Prevention

June 18, 2025 | 10:00 – 12:00 pm

Jennifer Myers, MA, LPC | Trainer

Carol Musallam, MS | Trainer



EDC.ORG

Introduce Yourself

1

**Insert your
organization**



2

Add your response to this question

1. What's something you're currently enjoying—whether it's a book, movie, show, or podcast?

Introducing Today's Presenters



Jennifer Myers, MA, LPC
Trainer



Carol Musallam, MS
Trainer



The Intersection of Problem Gambling and Violence Prevention



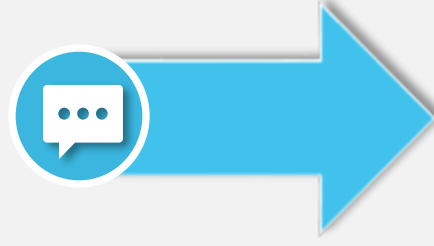
Describe socioecological approaches to violence prevention that apply to problem gambling prevention.

01



Understand the intersections between problem gambling and violence, including shared risk and protective factors—particularly those related to intimate partner and domestic violence.

02



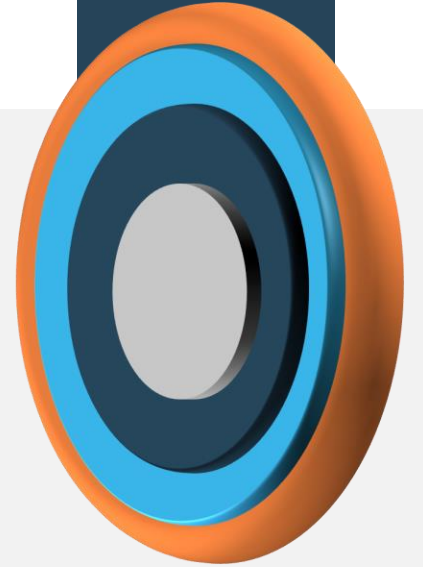
Identify 2-3 strategies for violence prevention and problem gambling prevention.

03



Apply resources and tools for violence prevention that can be applied with individuals at risk for problem gambling.

04



AGENDA

- Introductions
- Approaches to Violence Prevention
- Review of Data
- Risk and Protective Factors
- Strategies to Address Violence Prevention
- Resources and Tools
- Take-Home Messages



Group Agreements

- ✓ Speak from your experience
- ✓ Please avoid sharing graphic details of stories
- ✓ Experience discomfort as learning
- ✓ Share airtime, make space
- ✓ Listen for understanding
- ✓ Think with a both/and frame
- ✓ Oops & Ouch
- ✓ Expect non-closure
- ✓ Confidentiality
- ✓ Stay curious beyond this training



POLL #1

Have you ever attended a training focused on the intersection of problem gambling and violence prevention?

Yes

No



POLL #2

What are you most interested in learning today?

Approaches to violence prevention

Intersection of risk factors

Strategies to address violence within problem gambling

Resources on violence prevention that can be applied in problem gambling

Other: type in the chat



6 Key Principles of a Trauma-Informed Approach



Safety



Trustworthiness
and Transparency



Peer Support



Collaboration and
Mutuality



Empowerment,
Voice, and Choice



Cultural, Historical,
and Gender Issues

A Trauma-Informed Lens



Section 1: Approaches to Violence Prevention

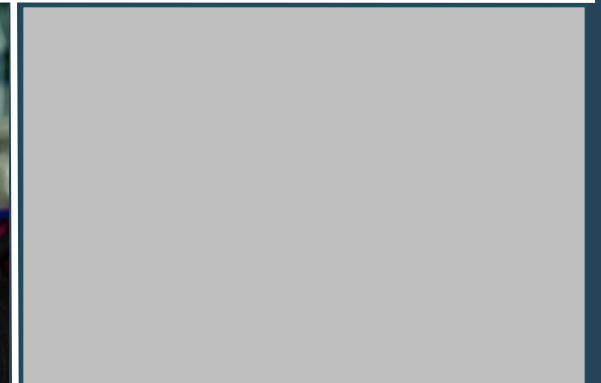
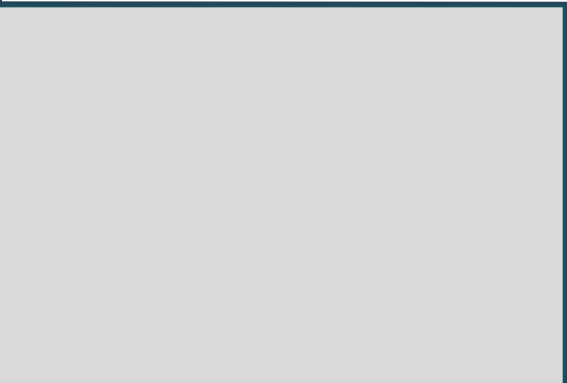


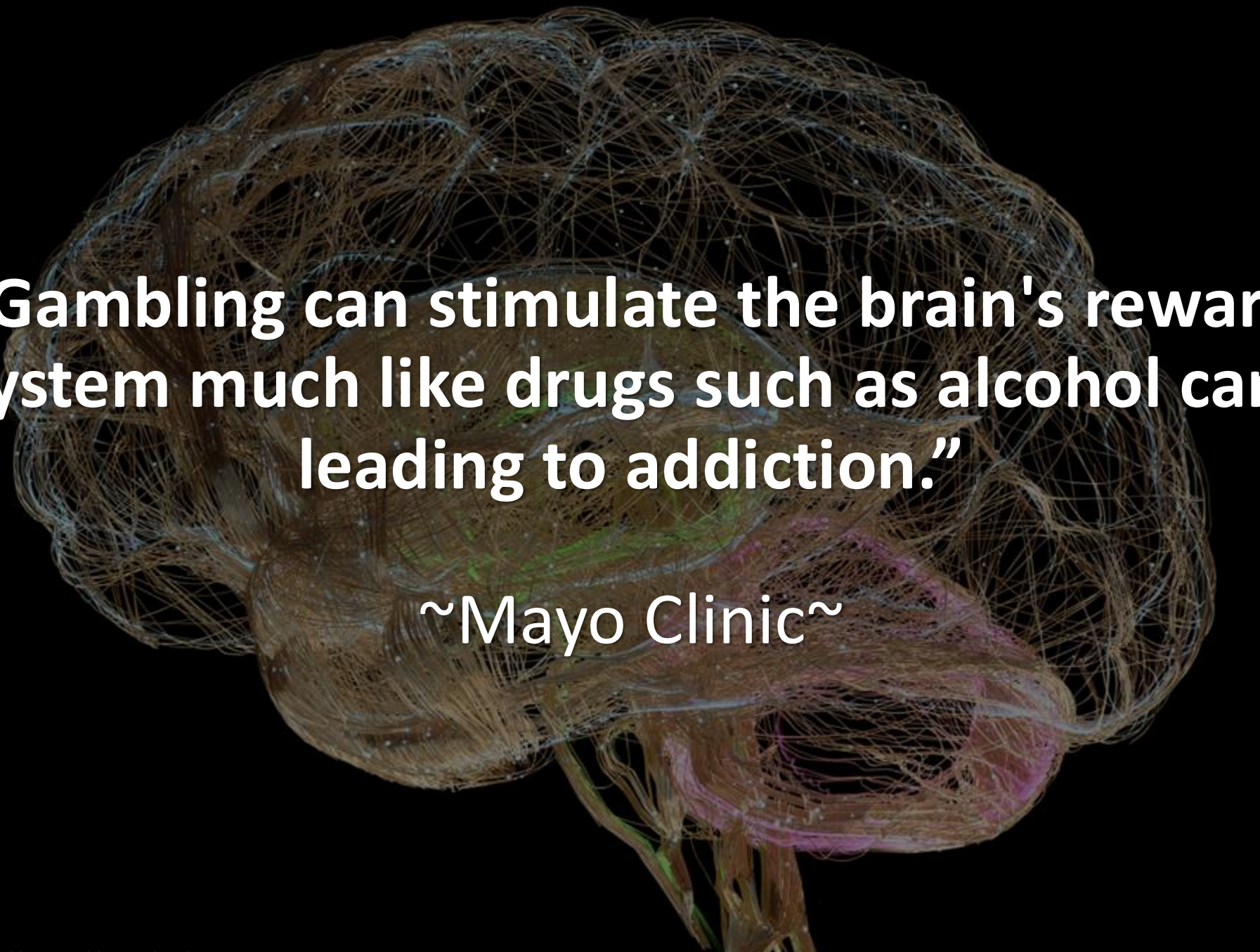
Image Source: <https://www.i-fink.com/building-sustainably/>

Definition of Gambling

“Betting money or material goods on an event with an uncertain outcome in the hope of winning additional money and/or material goods.”

Source: (Williams, et al., 2017)





“Gambling can stimulate the brain's reward system much like drugs such as alcohol can, leading to addiction.”

~Mayo Clinic~

Definitions

Violence: the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation.

Source: World Health Organization [WHO](#)

Definitions

Intimate Partner Violence: behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. This definition covers violence by both current and former spouses and partners.

Source: World Health Organization [WHO](#)

Domestic Violence: the mistreatment of one family member or intimate partner by another. The abuse can be physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological.

Source: [People's Law Library of Maryland](#)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

IPV can include any of the following types of behavior:

- **Physical violence** is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by using physical force.
- **Sexual violence** is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act, sexual touching, or a non-physical sexual event (e.g., sexting) when the partner does not or cannot consent.
- **Stalking** is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a partner that causes fear or concern for one's own safety or the safety of someone close to the victim.
- **Psychological aggression** is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm a partner mentally or emotionally or to exert control over a partner.

Definitions

Community Violence: Community violence happens between unrelated individuals, who may or may not know each other, generally outside the home.

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)

Socioecological Approaches to Violence Prevention



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *About Violence Prevention*. 3 Nov. 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/violence-prevention/about/index.html>.

CDC/Veto Violence



Preventing IPV

Strategy	Approach
Teach safe and healthy relationship skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social-emotional learning programs for youth ▪ Healthy relationship programs for couples
Engage influential adults and peers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Men and boys allies in prevention ▪ Bystander empowerment and education ▪ Family-based programs
Disrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early childhood home visitation ▪ Preschool enrichment with family engagement ▪ Parent skills and family relationship programs ▪ Treatment for at-risk children, youth, and families
Create protective environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve school climate and safety ▪ Improve organizational policies and workplace climate ▪ Modify the physical and social environments of neighborhoods
Strengthen economic supports for families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen household financial security ▪ Strengthen work-family supports
Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Victim-centered services ▪ Housing programs ▪ First responder and civil legal protections ▪ Patient-centered approaches ▪ Treatment and support for survivors of IPV, including TDV

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [VetoViolence](#) | [Resources for violence prevention](#)

CDC/Veto Violence



Strategies and Approaches to Stop Sexual Violence

	Strategy	Approach
S	Promote Social Norms that Protect Against Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bystander approaches ▪ Mobilizing men and boys as allies
T	Teach Skills to Prevent Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social-emotional learning ▪ Teach healthy, safe dating and intimate relationship skills to adolescents ▪ Promote healthy sexuality ▪ Empowerment-based training
O	Provide Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening economic supports for women and families ▪ Strengthening leadership and opportunities for girls
P	Create Protective Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving safety and monitoring in schools ▪ Establishing and consistently applying workplace policies ▪ Addressing community-level risks through environmental approaches
SV	Support Victims / Survivors to Lessen Harms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Victim-centered services ▪ Treatment for victims of SV ▪ Treatment for at-risk children and families to prevent to prevent problem behavior including sex offending

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [VetoViolence](#) | [Resources for violence prevention](#)



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Poll Question

How would you rank your knowledge in the intersections of Problem Gambling (PG) and Violence Prevention/Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV)?

- Very Comfortable
- Knowledgeable
- Somewhat Aware
- New to This
- Not Familiar Yet



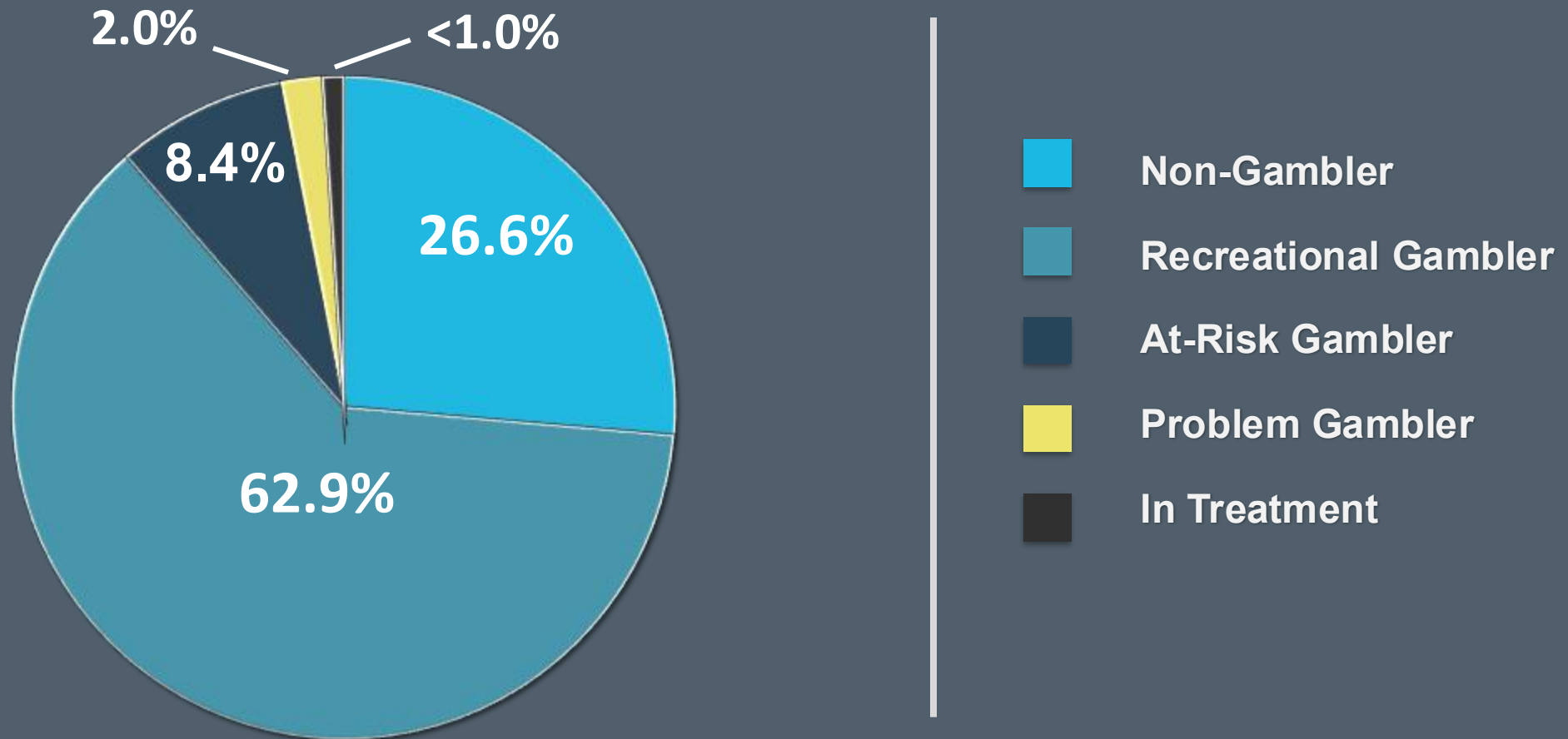
Section 2: Review of Data



Image Source: <https://www.i-fink.com/building-sustainably/>

U.S. Problem Gambling Prevalence

(Percent of surveyed participants)



Adapted from SEIGMA Survey, 2017, UMass School of Public Health & Health Sciences

Data

- About 41% of women and 26% of men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime and reported a related impact. A
- Over 61 million women and 53 million men have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC



Data

- For youth ages 10 to 24, homicide is the second leading cause of death.
- For people 25 to 34, homicide is the third leading cause of death.
- Over 700,000 young people are treated and released in U.S. emergency departments each year for injuries resulting from violence.



Data on Violence Against Women



Source: WHO, Global Database on the Prevalence of Violence Against Women, vaw-data.srhr.org/map

Section 3: Risk & Protective Factors



Image Source: <https://www.i-fink.com/building-sustainably/>

Risk and Protective Factors

Risk Factors

Factors that **increase** the likelihood of developing problem gambling.

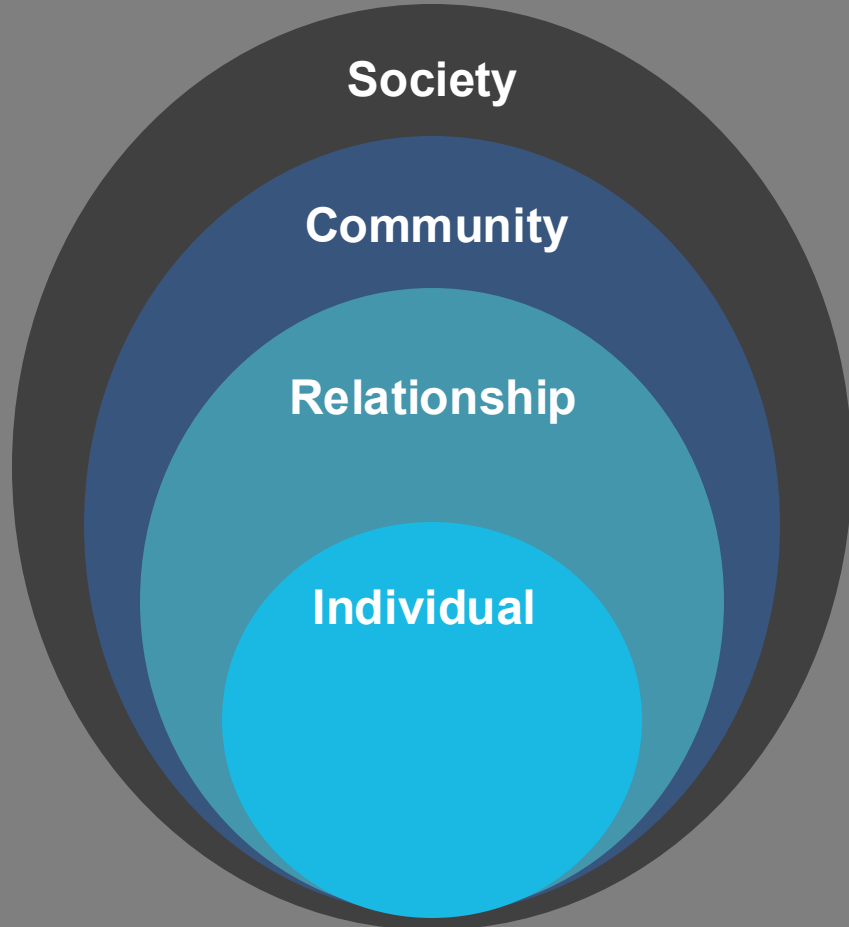


Protective Factors

Factors that **decrease** the likelihood of developing problem gambling.



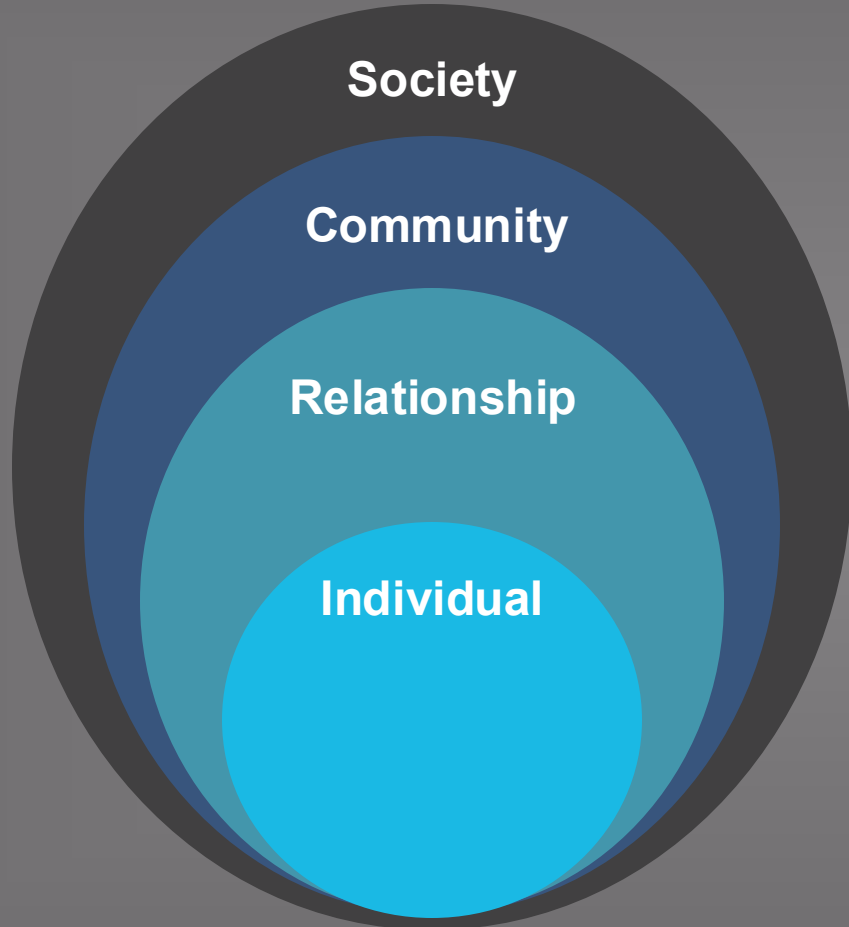
Risk and Protective Factors Exist in Multiple Contexts: The Social Ecological Model



This model considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community, and societal factors.

Helps us understand the range of factors that put people at risk for problem gambling or protect them from experiencing negative consequences of problem gambling

Risk and Protective Factors Exist in Multiple Contexts: The Social Ecological Model



Policy: policy and regulatory climates and associated corporate norms and practices that may influence the development of gambling problems or violent behaviors.



Community: characteristics of local areas and cultures within local spaces or broader social groups, like schools and workplaces, that may influence the development of gambling problems or violent behaviors.



Family, Friends, and Groups: factors within an individual's closest relationships, such as family, partners, peers that influence development of gambling problems or violent behaviors.



Individual, Psychological, and Biological: characteristics, life events, personal history, and cognitive characteristics that influence development of gambling problems or violent behaviors.

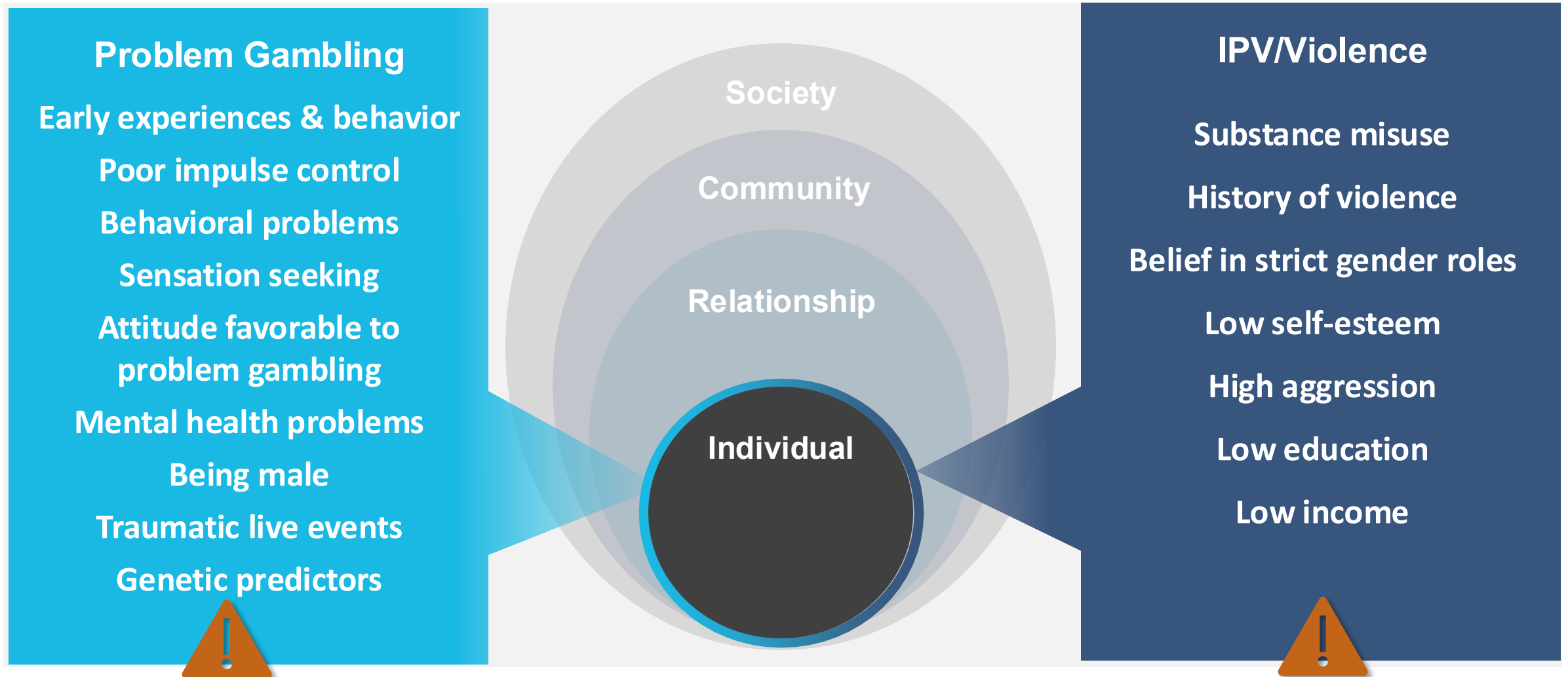
Shared Risk and Protective Factors

Problem Gambling

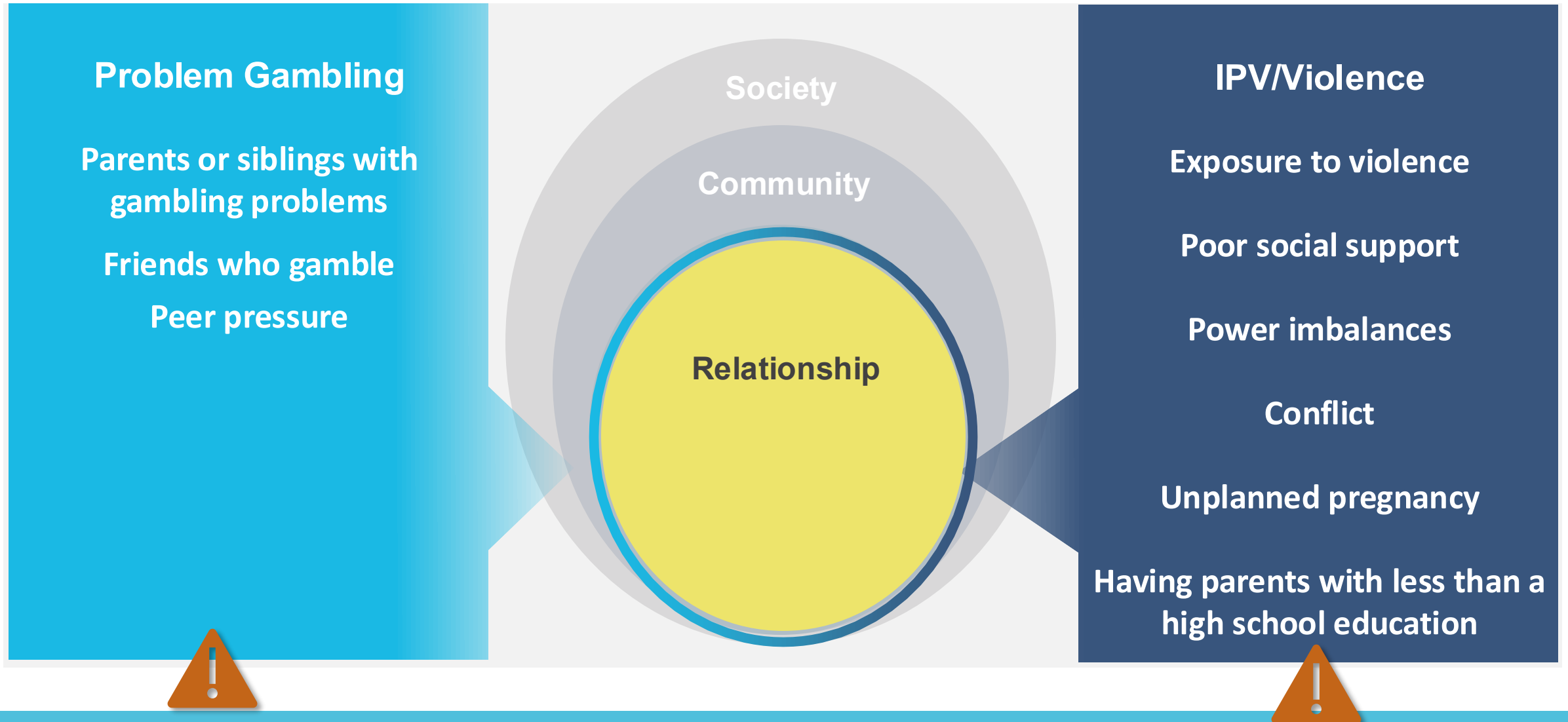
Violence



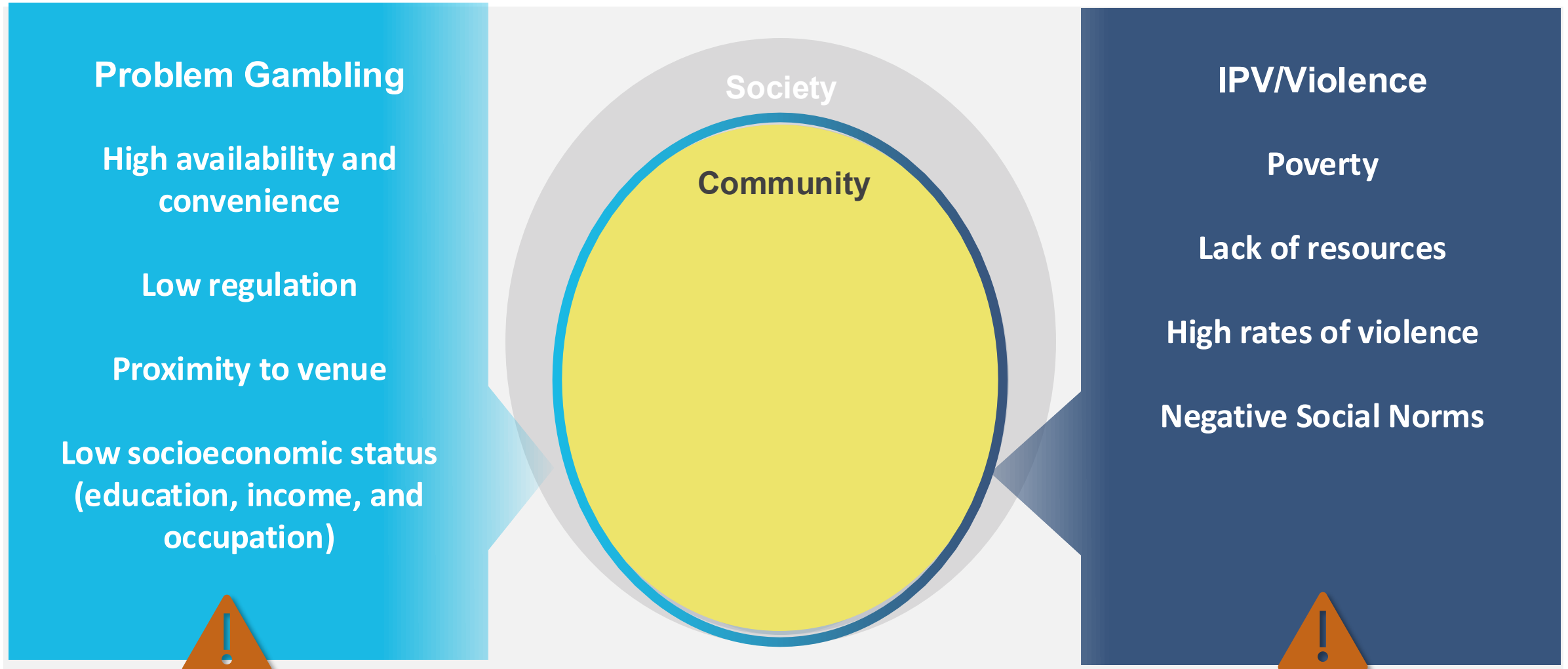
Risk Factors Exist in Multiple Contexts:



Risk Factors Exist in Multiple Contexts: Relationship

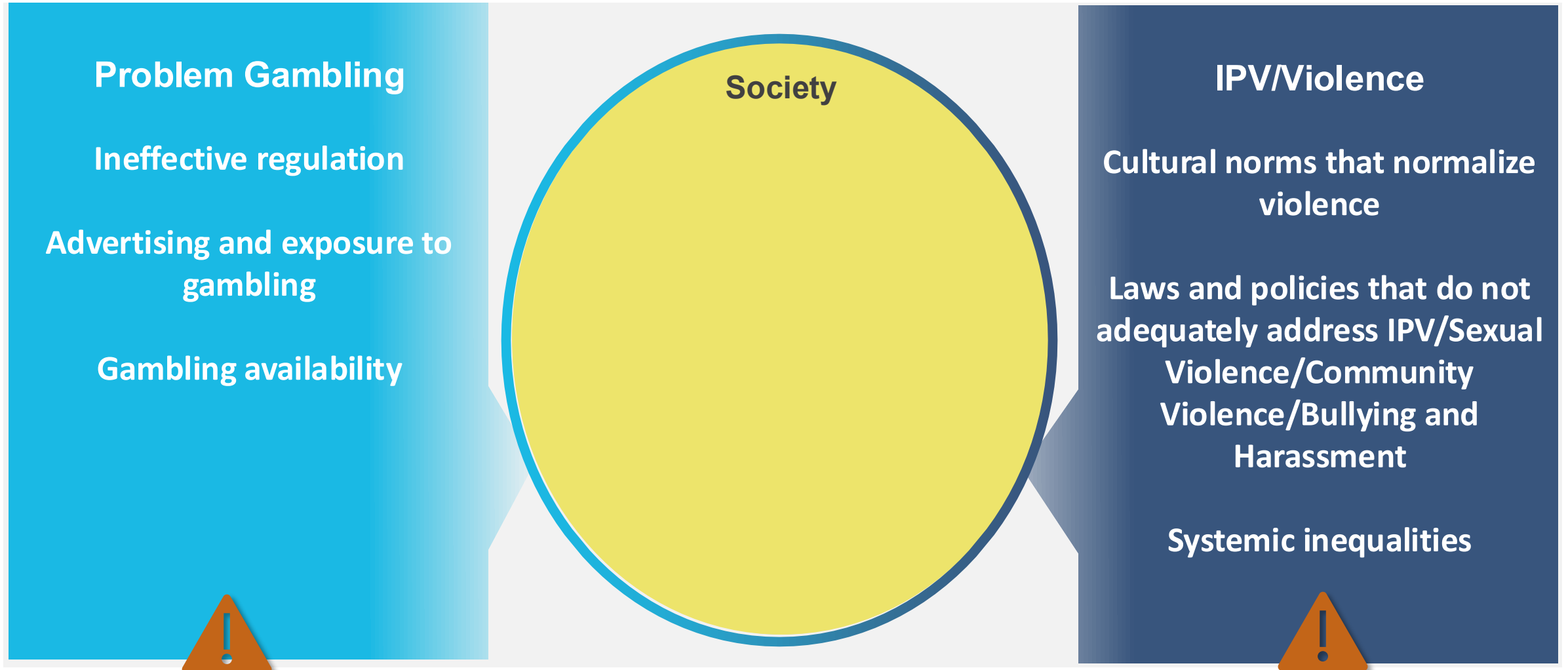


Risk Factors Exist in Multiple Contexts: Community



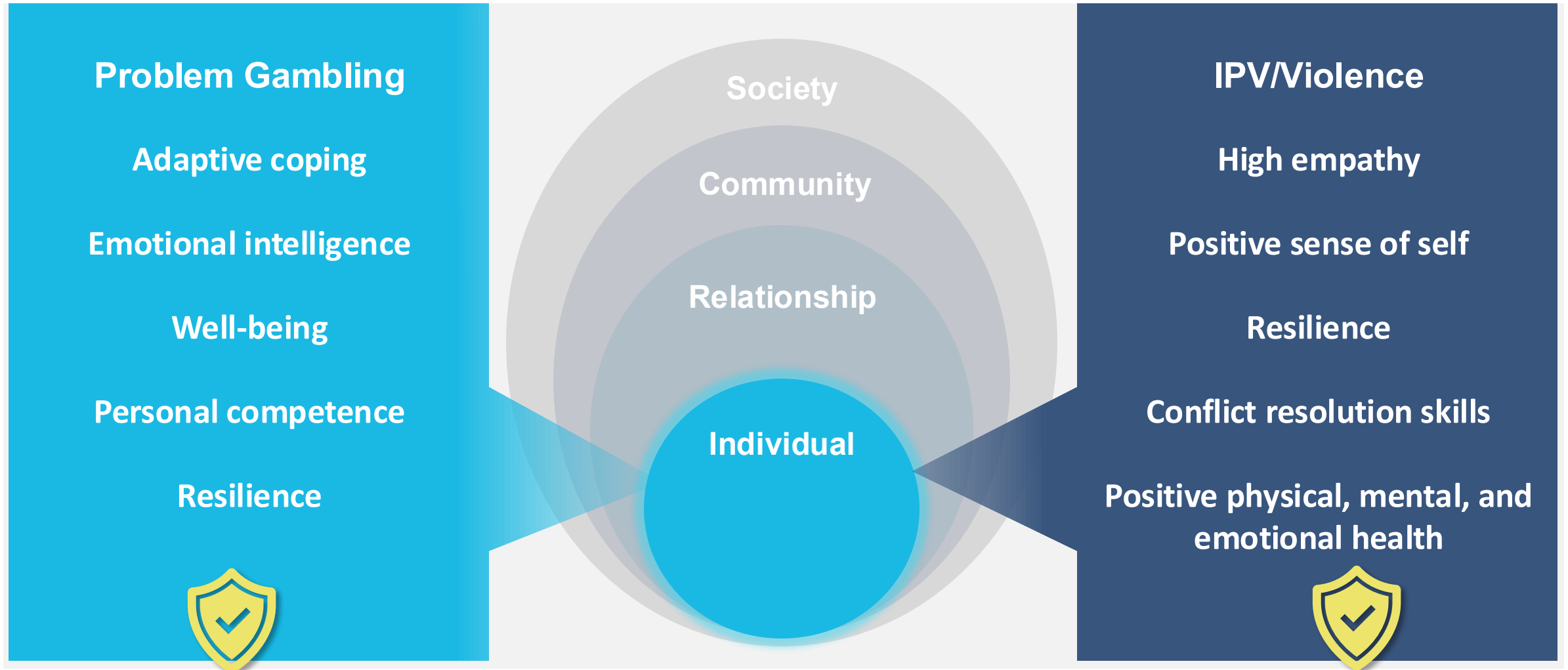
Risk Factors Exist in Multiple Contexts:

Society

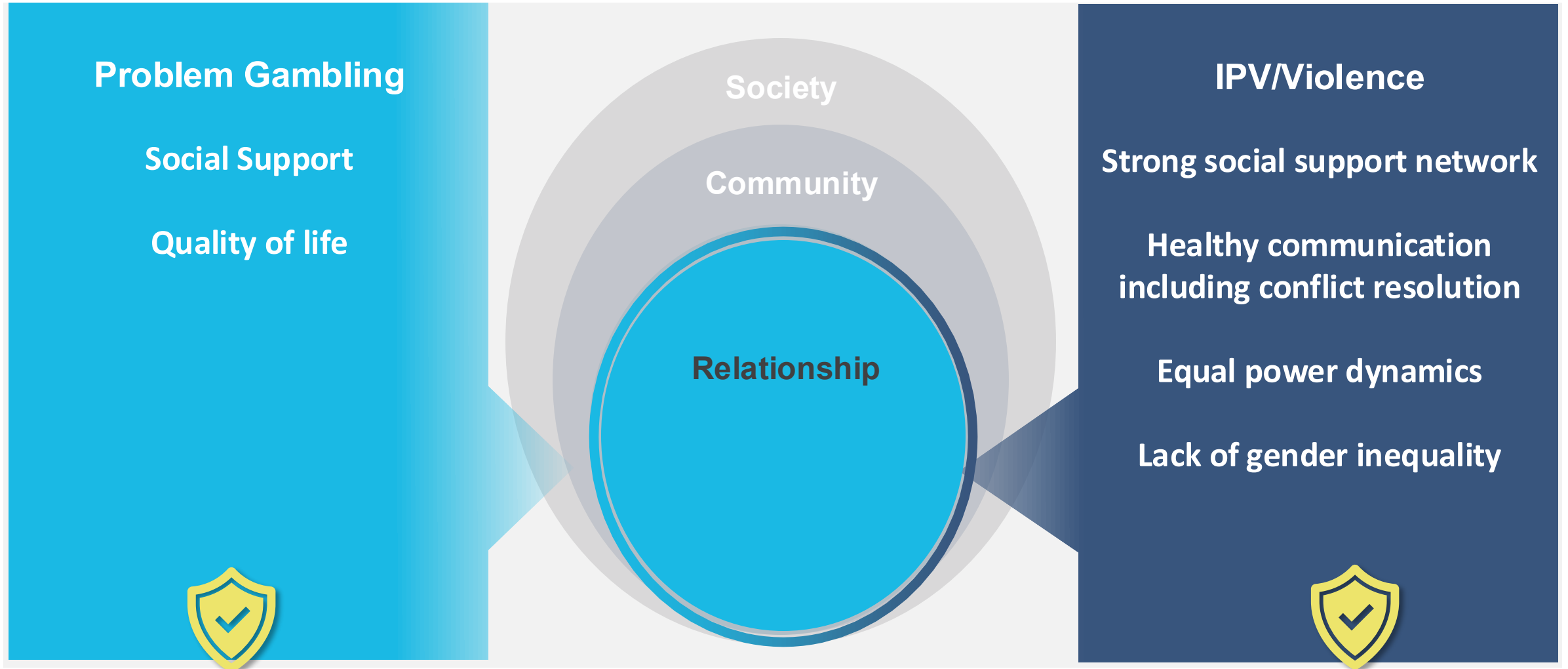


Protective Factors

Individual



Protective Factors: Relationship



Protective Factors : Community



Protective Factors: Society

Problem Gambling

Supply reduction

Legal age restrictions

Demand reduction

Restrictions advertising

Policies



Society

IPV/Violence

Laws that protect against violence
and hold perpetrators accountable

Societal intolerance of forms of
oppression

Media that portrays violence
ethically and responsibly



5-Minute Movement Break



Section 4: Applying Violence Prevention Strategies in Problem Gambling



Image Source: <https://www.i-fink.com/building-sustainably/>

Strategies

- Address intersections and include violence prevention/DV/IPV/SA information in prevention programs
- Include information for hotlines/crisis lines/shelters in casinos, hotels, etc.
- Increase protective and work to limit/decrease risk factors
 - Economic and financial stability and support
 - Consider exposure to violence
 - Flexible gender roles
 - Conflict resolution

Strategies

- Include screening for violence in identification for problem gambling and include problem gambling screening/identification in identification and treatment for IPV/DV
- Those working with IPV/DV Survivors - include information about problem gambling/spikes in violence related to this for survivors to include in their safety planning Train on how to identify signs of IPV/DV/Violence
 - Know how to screen for/identify a person who might be being impacted by violence/DV/IPV within your scope and role
- Train staff on Bystander Intervention

DV Screening Tool

How often does your partner physically hurt you?

How often does your partner insult you or talk down to you?

How often does your partner threaten you with harm?

How often does your partner scream or curse at you?

Safety Planning Tool

- Collaborative
- Personalized
- Trauma-informed
- All decisions are driven and made by the person impacted by violence
- Interactive Safety Planning:

<https://www.thehotline.org/plan-for-safety/create-your-personal-safety-plan/>

Interactive guide to safety planning

Introduction Basics Home School Job Technology Partner Children Emotional

HAVE YOU TOLD SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP?

☐ Yes ☐ No

WHAT WORD OR PHRASE CAN YOU USE AS A CODE IN A PHONE CALL, TEXT, OR INSTANT MESSAGE TO ASK YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, OR NEIGHBORS TO CALL FOR HELP WITHOUT YOUR PARTNER KNOWING?

DURING TIMES WHEN YOU ARE HOME ALONE, WHO CAN STAY WITH YOU IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE?

Write this person's phone number on your emergency card and keep it in your wallet or another safe place. This way you can reach your friends and family even when you do not have your cell phone. This is especially important if your partner has ever threatened or tried to take or break your cell phone.


IF YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE BEING AT HOME, WHERE ELSE COULD YOU GO TO STAY SAFE?

Application


- Thinking of your role, what are 1-2 strategies for violence prevention that you could apply? This can be at any level of the socioecological model – individual, relational, community, societal
- Is there anything you are already doing that focuses on the intersection of gambling and violence prevention – if so share this with your group and any lessons learned or barriers you have faced.

HOW TO GET HELP

AskMOVA

- AskMOVA is a free online resource offered by the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA). MOVA supports free and accessible direct services throughout Massachusetts that help crime victims and their families recover from the impacts of violent crime. AskMOVA allows victims, survivors, and service providers to find these free services in an area that is convenient, accessible, and safe for the victim or survivor.  www.mass.gov/orgs/askmova

SafeLink

- SafeLink is Massachusetts' statewide 24/7 toll-free domestic violence hotline and a resource for anyone affected by domestic or dating violence.  877-785-2020



RESOURCES

Massachusetts Problem Gambling Helpline

- Call 1-800-327-5050
- Visit gamblinghelpline.ma.org to speak with a trained Specialist to receive support. Specialists are available 24/7.

MCOE PGP Resource Library

- Visit mcoepgp.org/resources

The Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health

- Visit macgh.org/resources-research

NATIONAL RESOURCES

National Domestic Violence Hotline

- Call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- Chat “Start” to 88788
- Visit <https://www.thehotline.org> (Site has numerous resources)

National Sexual Assault Hotline

- Visit <https://rainn.org> (Chat links and Resources)
- Call 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)



Wrap-Up

What are you taking away from today?

- ✓ Any insights you had?
- ✓ Anything important and/or new?
- ✓ How can you address PG and Violence Prevention in your role?

Word Waterfall

**What is one word that stands out to you
from today's training?**

Upcoming MCOE PGP Trainings

- **Applying Evidence-Based Models to Prevent Problem Gambling: Stages of Change, Motivational Interviewing and Diffusion of Innovation** – July 2, 2025 / 1-3 pm
- **Partnering for Change: Understanding the Structural and Social Determinants of Health to Prevent Problem Gambling** – July 16, 2025 / 1-3 pm



We Are Now on Social Media!

Scan the QR codes below to follow our pages



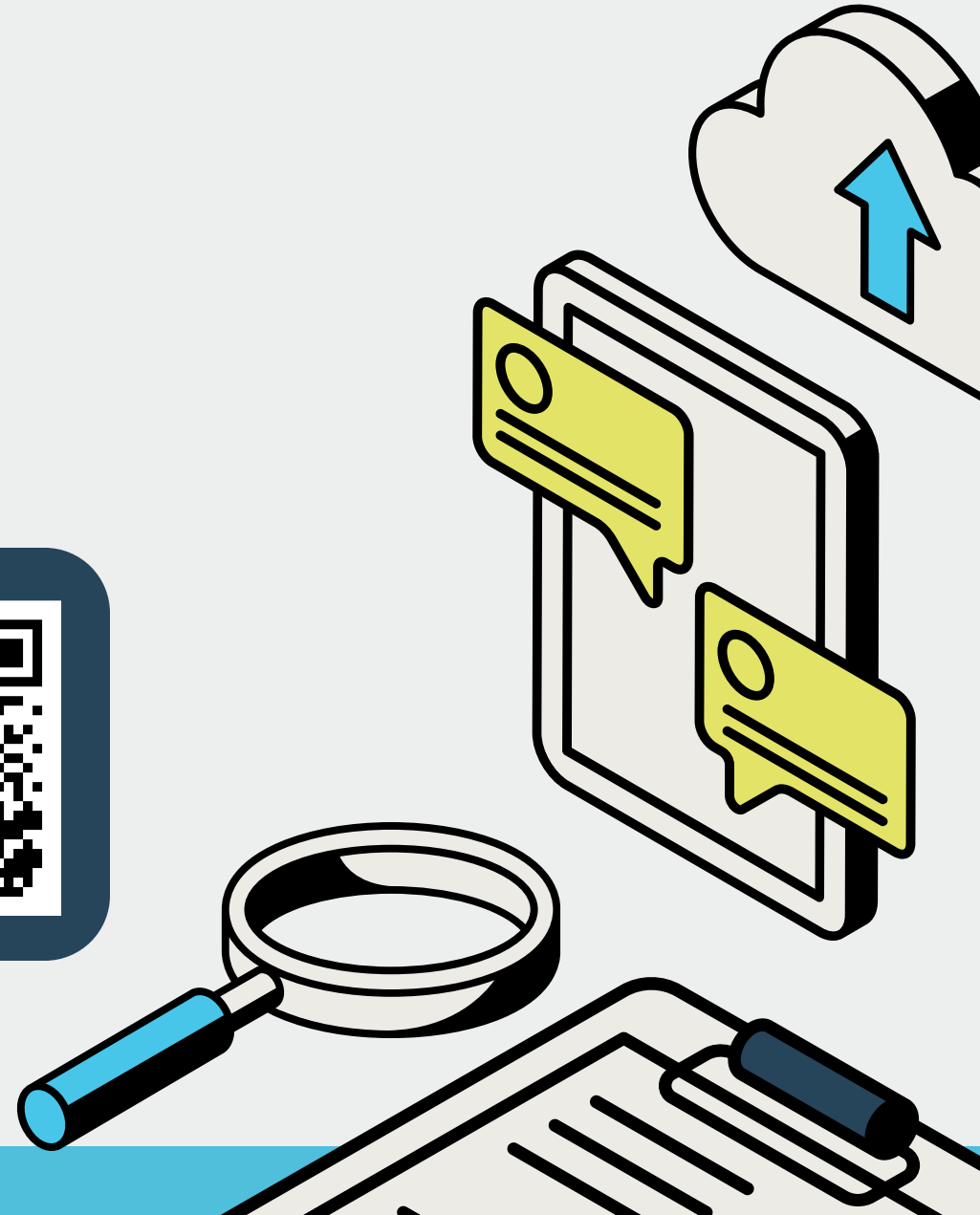
Facebook



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**PROBLEM
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MASSACHUSETTS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

THANK YOU

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Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Veto Violence*. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/main/home/>

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Williams, R. J., & Volberg, R. A. (2017). *The definition, dimensionalization, and assessment of gambling participation*. University of Lethbridge, Alberta Gambling Research Institute. <https://opus.uleth.ca/bitstream/handle/10133/4838/Williams%20the%20defn%2C%20dimensionalization%20and%20assessment.pdf>

Williams, R. J., Volberg, R. A., & Stevens, R. M. G. (2017). *Gambling and problem gambling in Massachusetts: Results of a baseline population survey*. Massachusetts Gaming Commission. <https://massgaming.com/wp-content/uploads/Updated-BGPS-Report-EXECUTIVE-SUMMARY-10-26-17.pdf>

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