Moving Ahead
Talking about brain injury in intimate partner violence

ASK:
1. Have you ever hit your head, or been hit on the head or shaken roughly? Did your partner strangle you?
2. Were you ever seen in the Emergency room, hospital, or by a doctor because of a brain injury? Have you ever felt you needed medical attention but did not seek it?
3. Did you ever lose consciousness or experience a period of being dazed and confused because of an injury to your head?
4. Do you experience any of these problems since you hurt your head?
5. Have you experienced any significant sicknesses or physical symptoms?

As many as 92% of women survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) may also experience brain injury.

The HELPS Brain Injury Screening Tool can identify survivors who’ve experienced, or may be at risk for, a brain injury.

The HELPS Tool does not diagnose concussion. It does provide a way to talk about head injury in the context of IPV, and can help survivors identify the source of some of their challenges.

*The HELPS tool above is an adapted version of the original, which was developed by M. Picard, D. Scarisbrick, R. Paluck, 9/91, International Center for the Disabled, TBI-NET, U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Grant #H128A00022. The original version has been adapted for brain injury in the context of intimate partner violence.*