

1

VIOLENCE INCREASES WOMEN'S RISK FOR HIV INFECTION.

Possible Opening Lines

- These days many women are experiencing violence. Do you think that's why HIV infection rates for women are going up?
- What do you think about this news that women are being infected with HIV at higher rates than men?

Ideas to Chat About

- When women do not have enough power in their relationships they cannot make choices that will keep them safe.
- Many women can't really say no to sex or ask for condom use with their partners, even if they don't want to have sex or don't feel safe.
- Everyone has a right to live free of violence.
- All types of violence make women more vulnerable to HIV infection. If we don't stop violence against women, we can't stop HIV infection!

Departing Words

Thanks for the chat! We really need to have this chat with others. We need to spread the word that violence increases women's risk for HIV infection. Who else could we talk to?

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2 HIV POSITIVE STATUS INCREASES WOMEN'S RISK FOR VIOLENCE.

Possible Opening Lines

- I've been hearing about how many HIV positive women are in danger of violence from their partners or families. Do you think this is true?
- Some women who test positive then have to worry about violence from their partner. Did you know that?

Ideas to Chat About

- Beyond physical violence, many HIV positive women experience emotional violence such as being insulted, blamed and isolated.
- Many HIV positive women experience economic violence such as being abandoned or denied access to family resources.
- The power imbalance between women and men means many women fear violence if they disclose their status.
- Young women who have to tell their parents they are HIV positive are sometimes kicked out of the home. This is violence, and at a time when young women need their parents the most!

Departing Words

Thanks for the chat! We really need to have this chat with others. We need to spread the word that women are at a particular risk for violence when they are HIV positive. Who else could we talk to?

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3

GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN ARE AT HIGH RISK FOR VIOLENCE AND HIV INFECTION.

Possible Opening Lines

- I see many young girls with older men these days. I feel concerned about this. Do you?
- You know, I wonder why the rates of HIV infection are going up for girls and young women. What do you think?

Ideas to Chat About

- Some young women who do not have basic needs are getting support from older men, but in exchange for sex. Many people don't realize that this is a form of violence.
- Girls and young women, because of their small size, are more likely to experience bruising and tears when having sex, which increases the transmission of the HIV virus.
- It is difficult for girls and young women to negotiate safe sex, since being female and young usually means that they have less power than their partners.
- Differences in power between older men and girls and young women puts them at risk for violence and HIV infection.

Departing Words

Thanks for the chat! We really need to have this chat with others. We need to spread the word that girls and young women are at high risk for violence and HIV infection. Who else could we talk to?

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4

OUR SILENCE ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PUTS WOMEN AT RISK.

Possible Opening Lines

- I sometimes see men using violence against their partners. This upsets me, but sometimes I'm afraid to say anything. Do you feel the same way?
- Do you think if we talked more about violence against women and its connection to HIV/AIDS we could decrease the risks for women?

Ideas to Chat About

- Our society gives men more power than women, and few people are questioning this. Our silence says it is acceptable.
- Violence against women is not a private issue—it hurts us all.
- Many people in our community believe that women and men are equals, but not many people are speaking out about it.
- By remaining silent about abuses of power, we are saying that it's okay for a man to use power over his partner—even if it means exposing her to possible HIV infection. Is that what we want?

Departing Words

Thanks for the chat! We really need to have this chat with others. We need to spread the word that our silence about men's power over women increases women's vulnerability to violence and HIV infection. Who else could we talk to?

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5 COUPLES WHO BALANCE POWER ARE HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER.

Possible Opening Lines

- I have a friend who is in a very happy relationship. She and her partner balance power and responsibilities. But I don't hear many people talking about this kind of relationship in our community. Do you?
- In some relationships, men use their power over their partners. Do you think this is good?

Ideas to Chat About

- An imbalance of power between women and men can lead to violence against women and HIV infection in women, but it doesn't have to be that way.
- When men value and respect their partners, they are choosing to use their power in a healthy way.
- Balancing power in our relationships also means that responsibility is shared. By treating their partners as their equals, men often experience less stress and more happiness, and so do their families.
- When one person in a relationship controls the other it creates tension and bad feelings. Balancing power in a relationship brings harmony.

Departing Words

Thanks for the chat! We really need to have this chat with others. We need to spread the word that couples who share power are healthier and happier. Who else could we talk to?

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