

# **Towards Trauma-Informed Sexual Health Promotion Among Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence**

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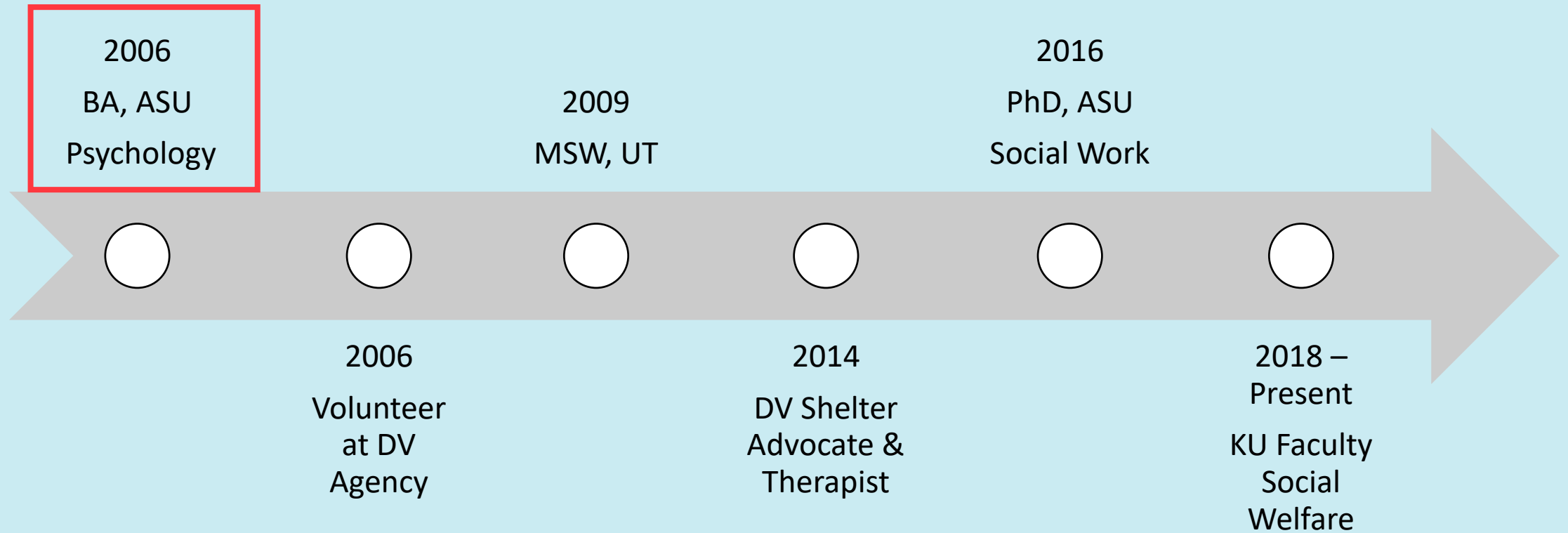
Meredith E. Bagwell-Gray, PhD, MSW

# Professional Background

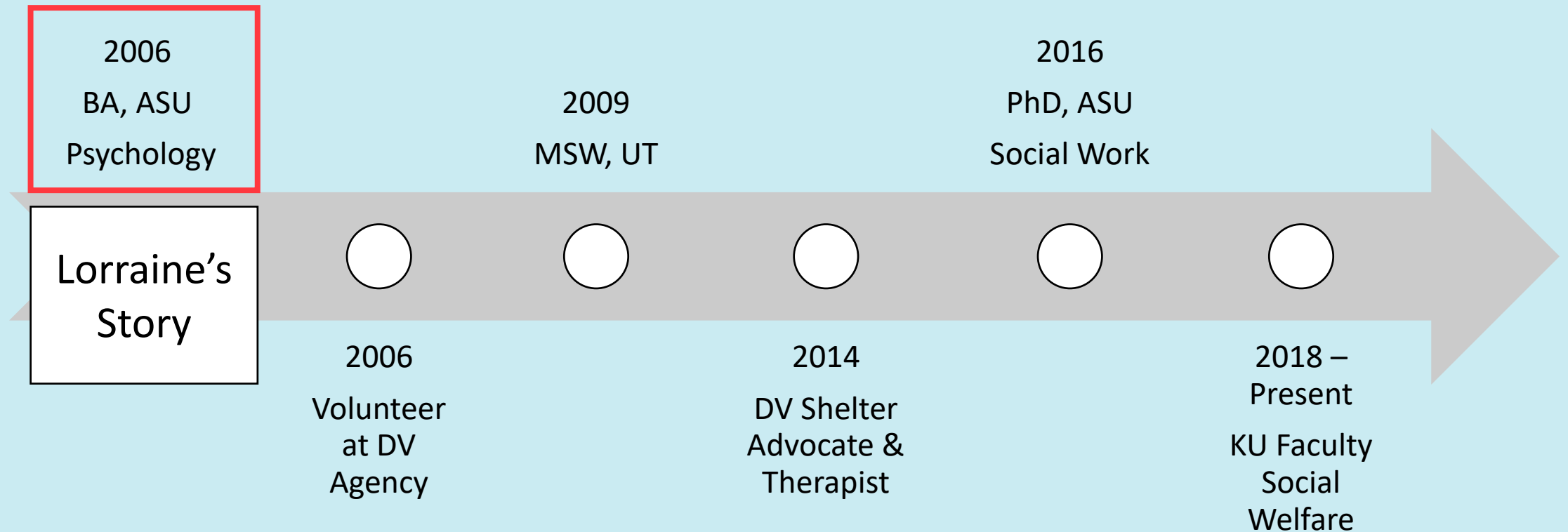
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# Education and Experience

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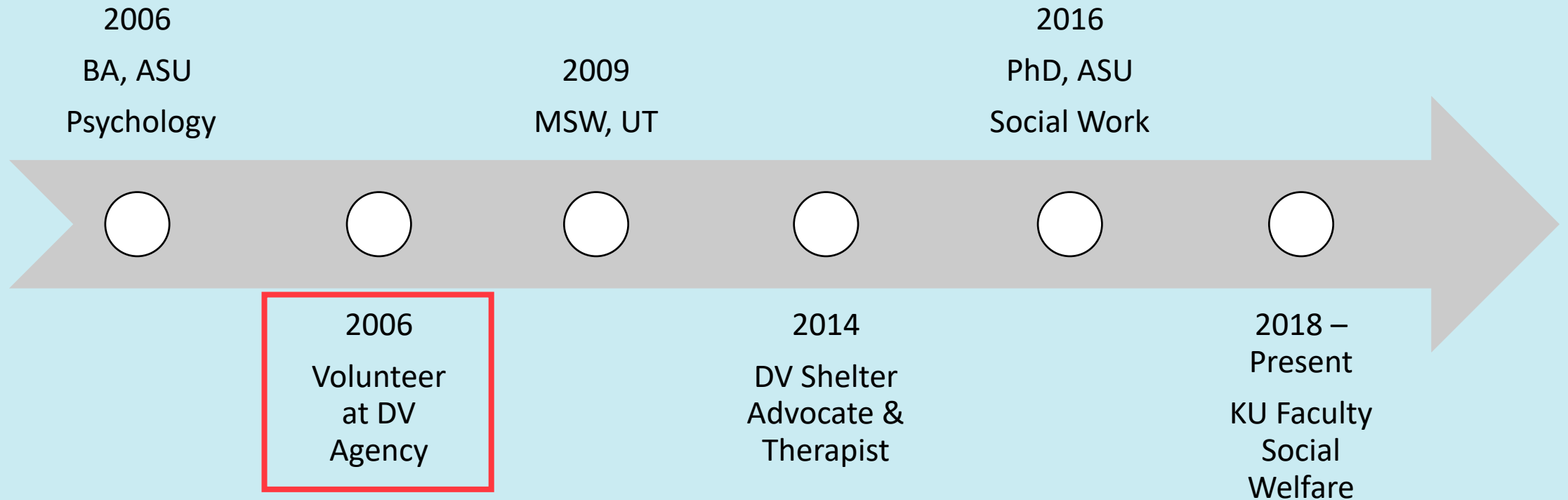


# Education and Experience



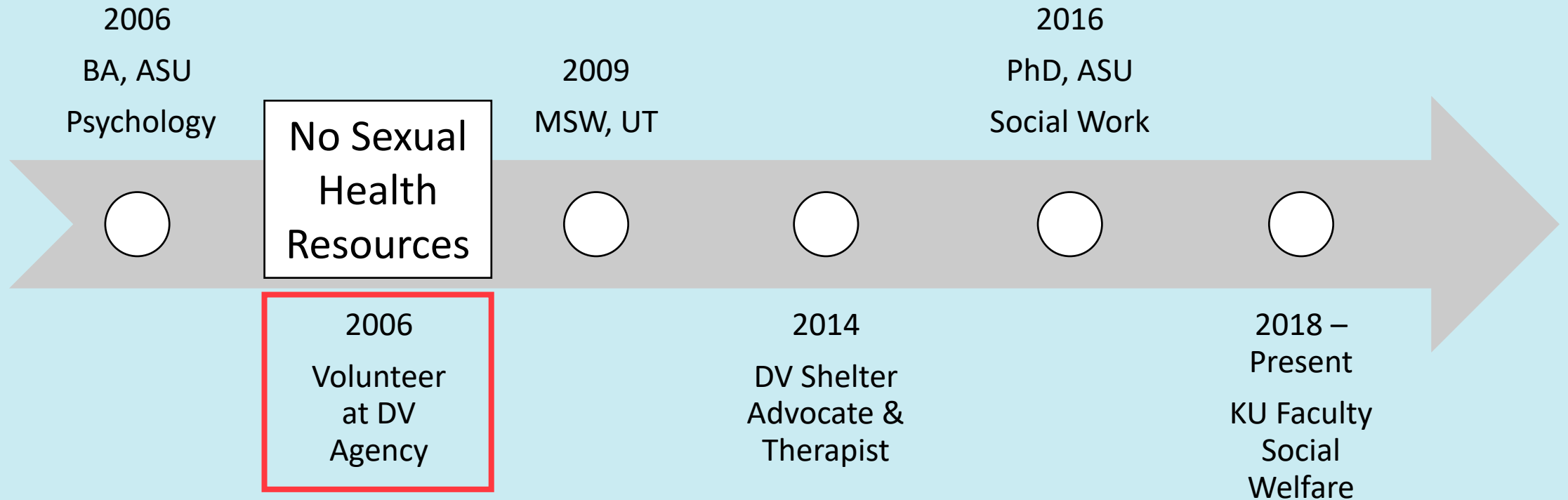
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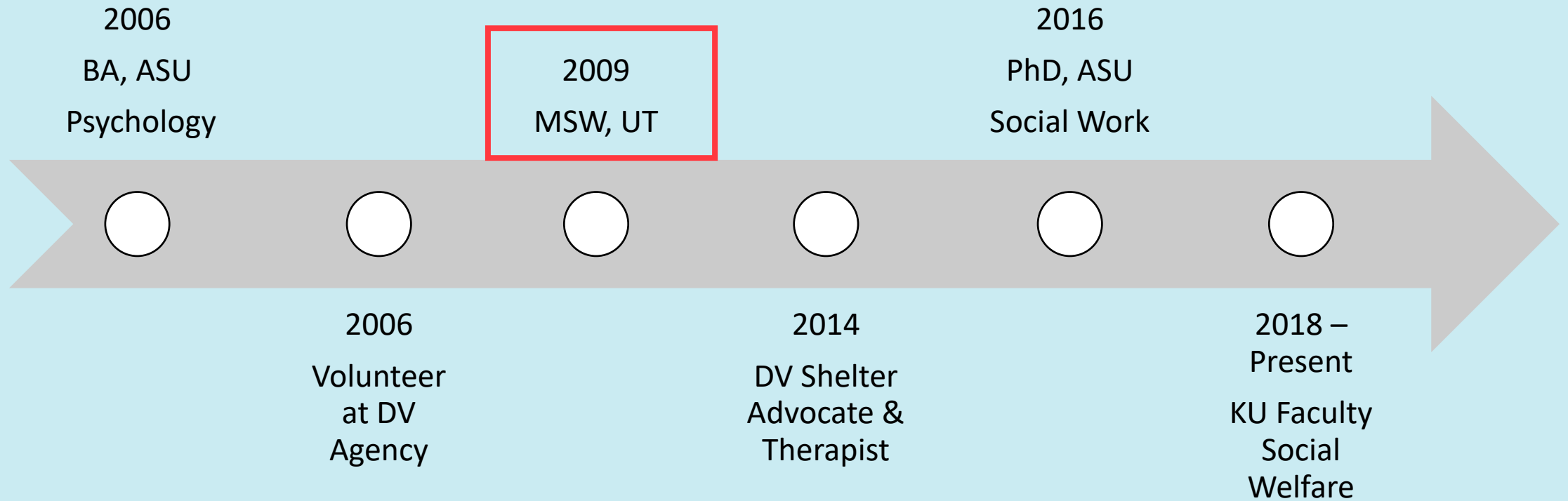
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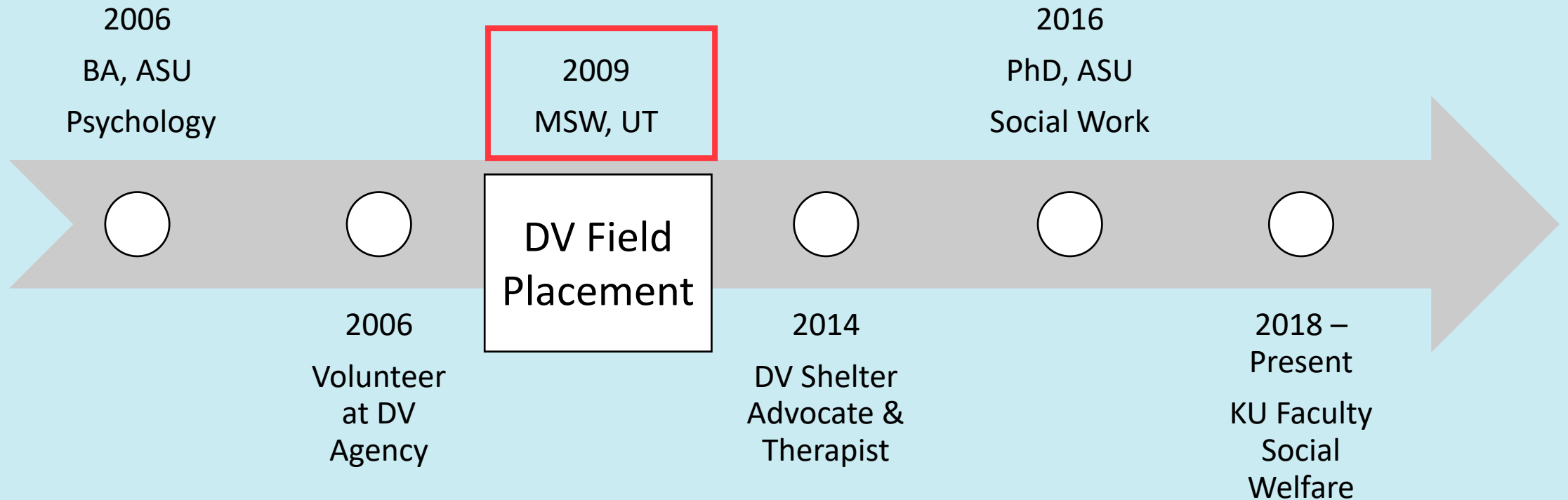
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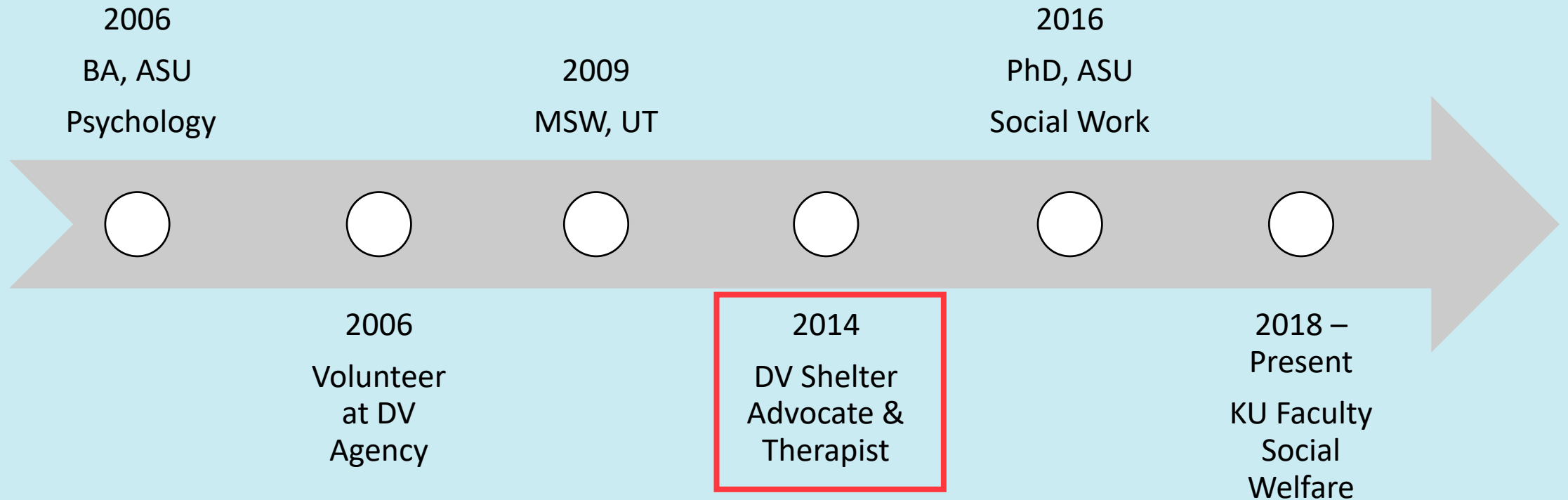
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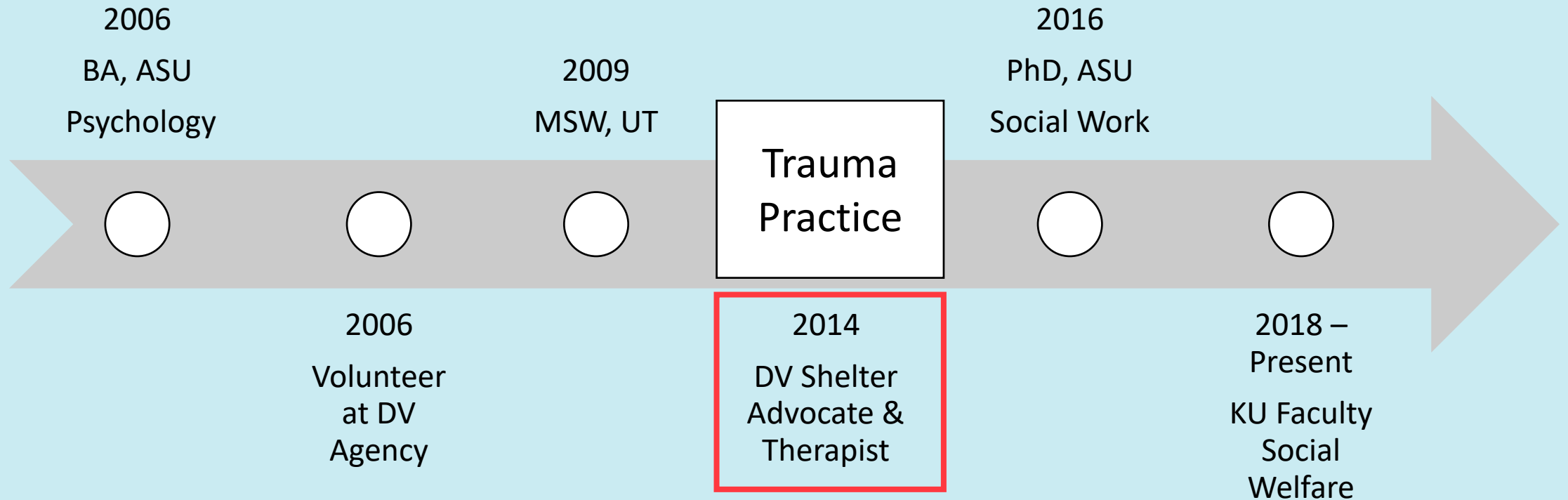
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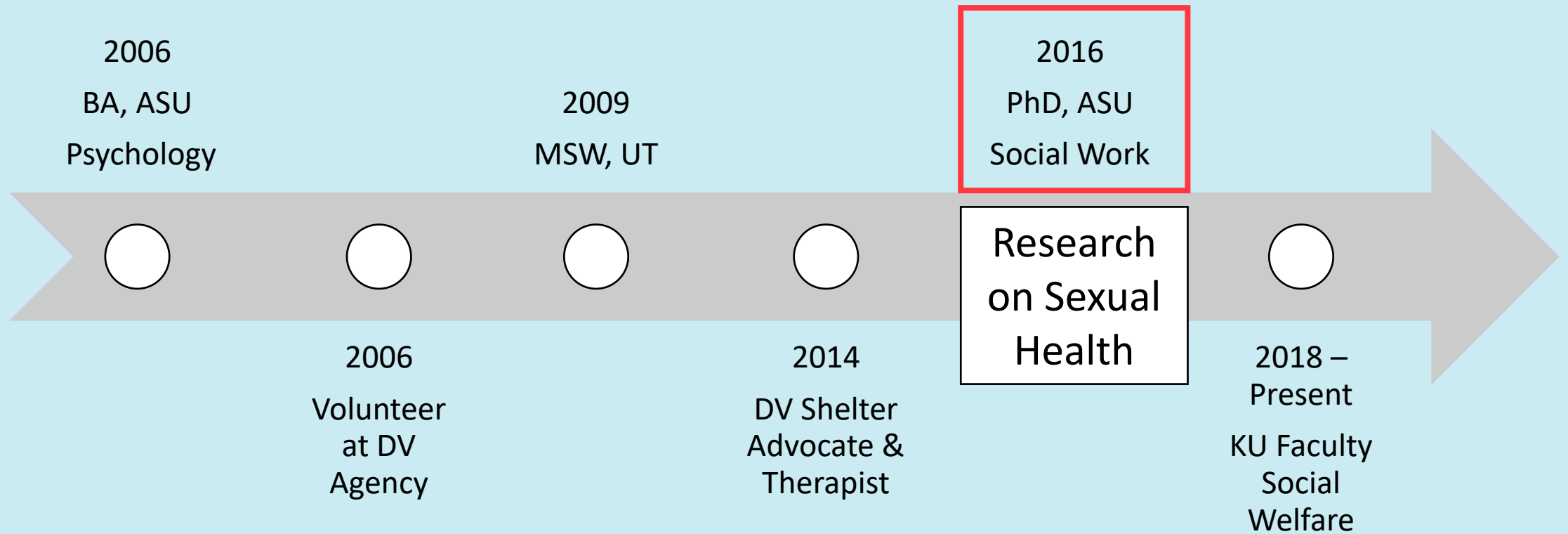


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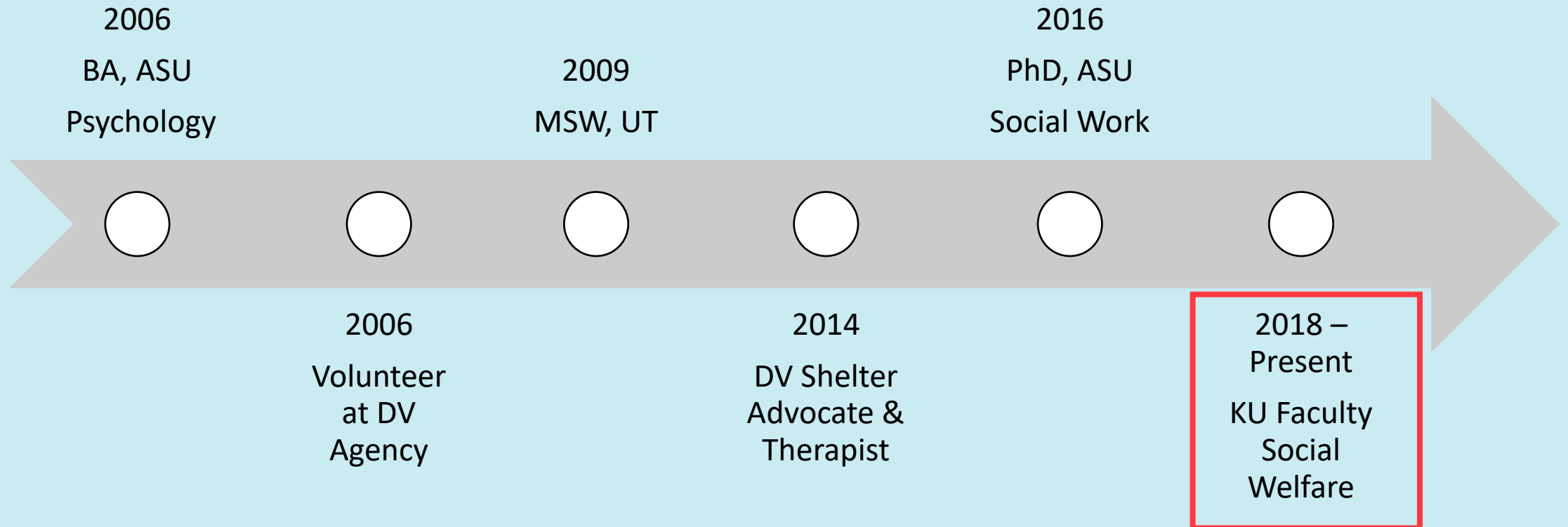


# Education and Experience



# Education and Experience

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# Framework



# **Focus on Women**

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# **Focus on Women**

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Prevalence rates of IPV

(Black et al., 2011; Stark, 2007)

# **Focus on Women**

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Prevalence rates of IPV  
Women's sexual and reproductive health

(CDC, 2014)



# Focus on Women

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Prevalence rates of IPV

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# Focus on Women

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Prevalence rates of IPV

Women's sexual and reproductive health

(CDC, 2014)

# **Intimate Partner Violence**

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# Intimate Partner Violence

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“physical, sexual, and psychological abuse  
and stalking by an intimate partner,”

(Saltzman et al., 2002)

# Intimate Partner

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# **Intimate Partner**

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“current or former spouse or dating partner,”

(CDC, 2012)

**IPV**

# **IPV**

(Intimate Partner Violence)



# IPV Prevalence Among US Women

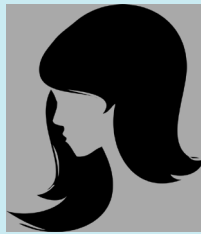
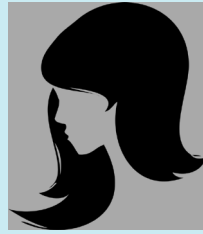
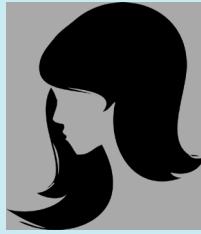
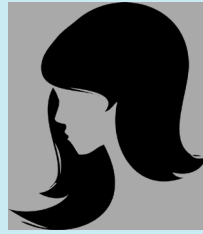
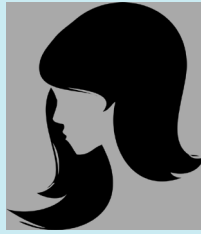
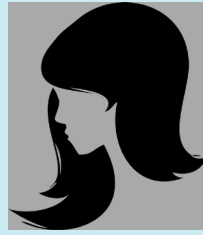
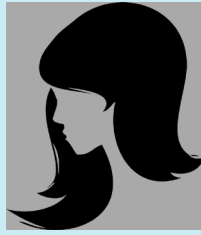
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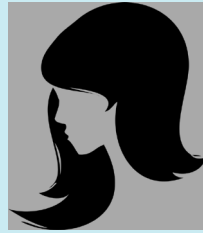
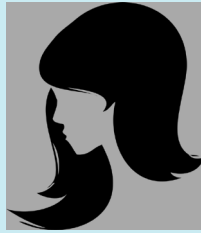
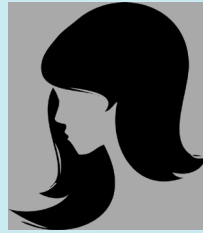
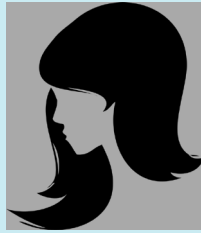
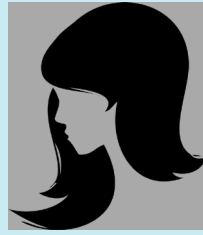
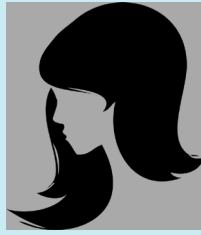
**Lifetime: 1 in 3**

**Annual: Over 1 in 20**

(Black et al., 2011)







**IPSV**

# **IPSV**

(Intimate Partner Sexual Violence)

# **IPSV**

(Intimate Partner Sexual Violence)

68% of women in IPV relationships report  
sexual violence

(McFarlane et al., 2005)

# Coercive Control

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# Coercive Control

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Stark, 2007

# Coercive Control

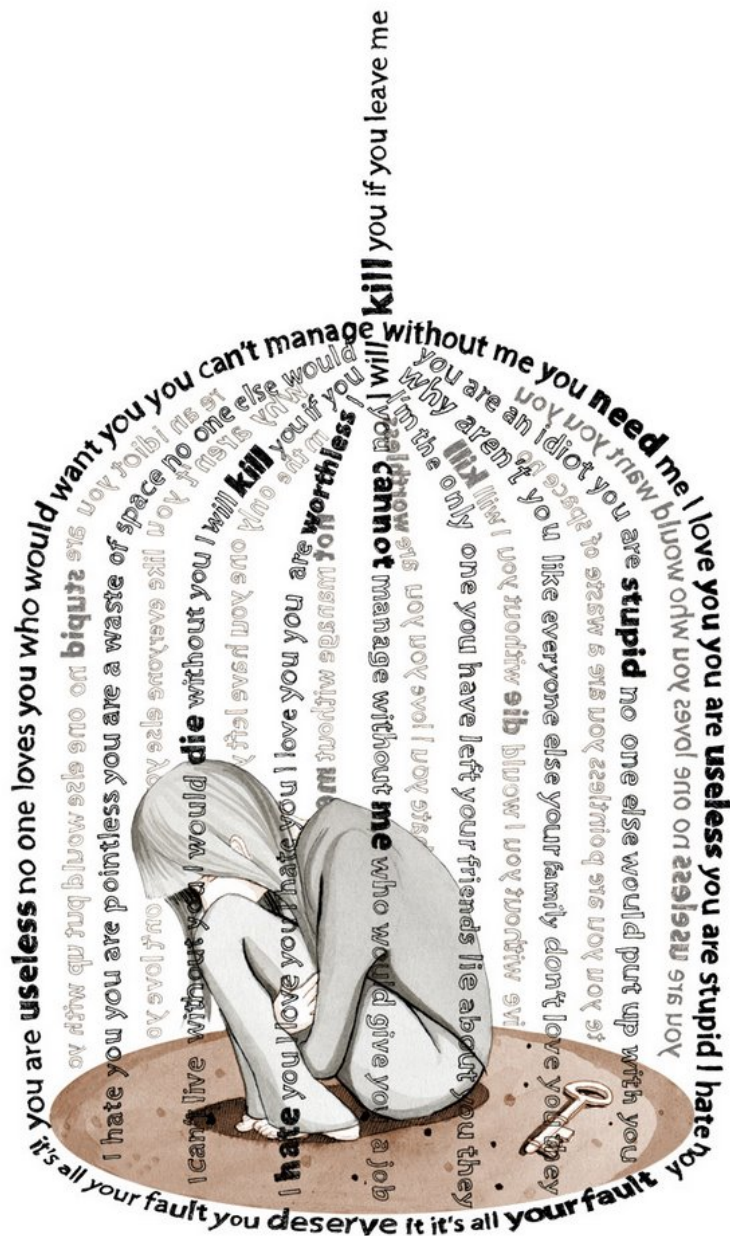
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Stark, 2007

systematic deprivation of freedom of one  
partner by the other

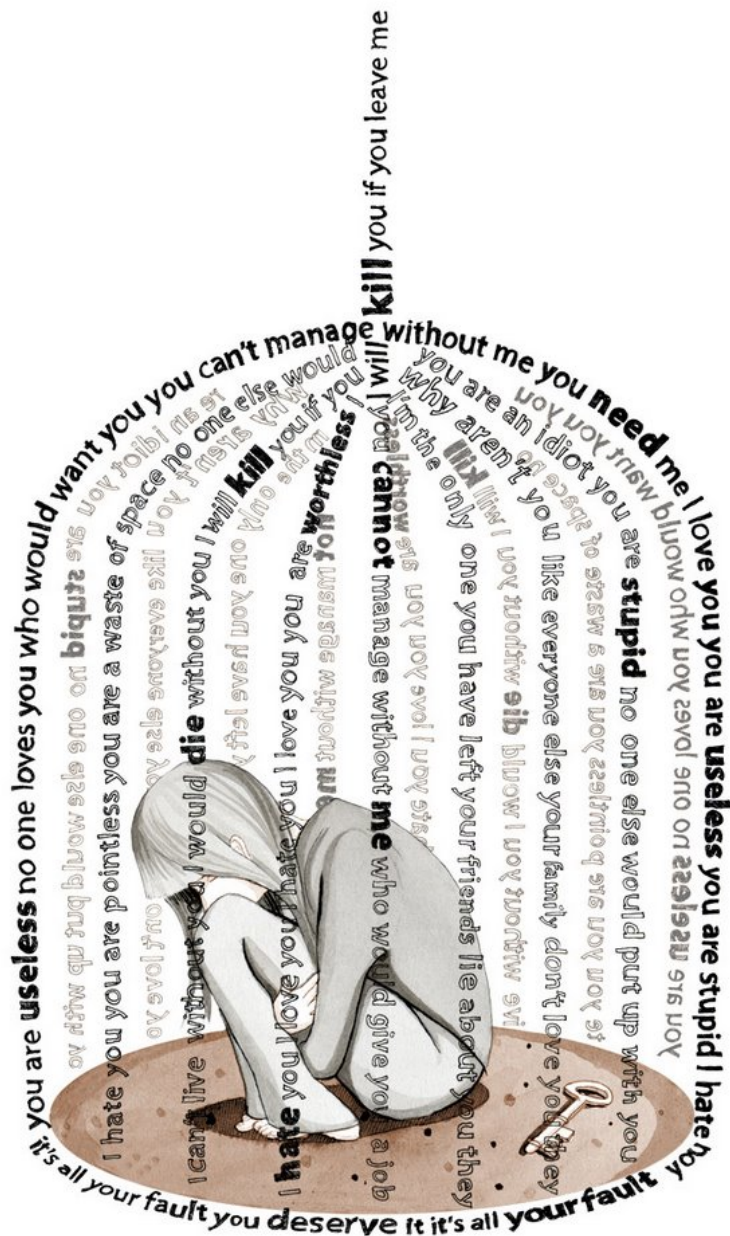
# Caged

# Lorna Brown (2006)



# Caged

# Lorna Brown (2006)



# Research Review: IPV and Sexual and Reproductive Health

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# **IPV and Sexual Health Outcomes**

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# **IPV and Sexual Health Outcomes**

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HIV/AIDS

(Campbell, 2008; El-Bassel et al., 2001; Josephs et al., 2009; McFarlane et al., 2005)

# **IPV and Sexual Health Outcomes**

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HIV/AIDS

Bleeding and Pain During Intercourse

(Coker, 2007)



# **IPV and Sexual Health Outcomes**

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HIV/AIDS

Bleeding and Pain During Intercourse

Vaginal Infections

(Campbell, 2002; Coker, 2007)

# IPV and Sexual Health Outcomes

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HIV/AIDS

Bleeding and Pain During Intercourse

Vaginal Infections

HPV → Cervical Cancer

(Coker, 2007)

# IPV and Sexual Health Outcomes

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HIV/AIDS

Bleeding and Pain During Intercourse

Vaginal Infections

HPV → Cervical Cancer

Unintended Pregnancy & Miscarriage

(Miller et al., 2010; McFarlane et al., 2005)

# IPV and Sexual Health Outcomes

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HIV/AIDS

Bleeding and Pain During Intercourse

Vaginal Infections

HPV → Cervical Cancer

Unintended Pregnancy & Miscarriage

(Miller et al., 2010; McFarlane et al., 2005)

# IPV and Sexual Health Outcomes

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HIV/AIDS

Bleeding and Pain During Intercourse

Vaginal Infections

HPV → Cervical Cancer

Unintended Pregnancy & Miscarriage

Project Funded  
by American  
Cancer Society

(Miller et al., 2010; McFarlane et al., 2005)

Among a sample of IPV survivors, the  
prevalence of cervical cancer was  
**10x higher**  
than in the general population

(Cesario, McFarlane Nava, Gilroy, & Maddoux, 2013)

# Pathways to STIs

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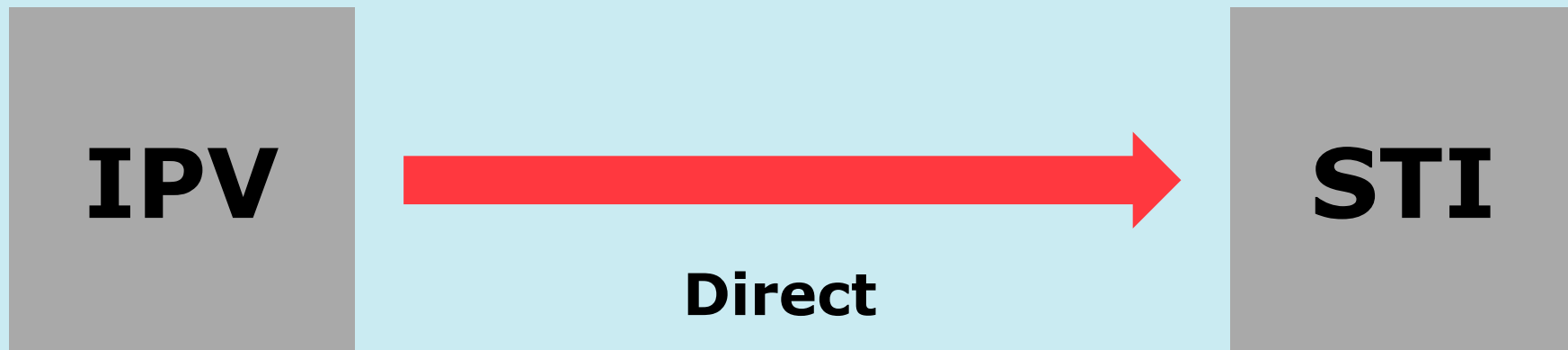
**IPV**

**STI**

(Dunkle & Decker, 2012)

# Pathways to STIs

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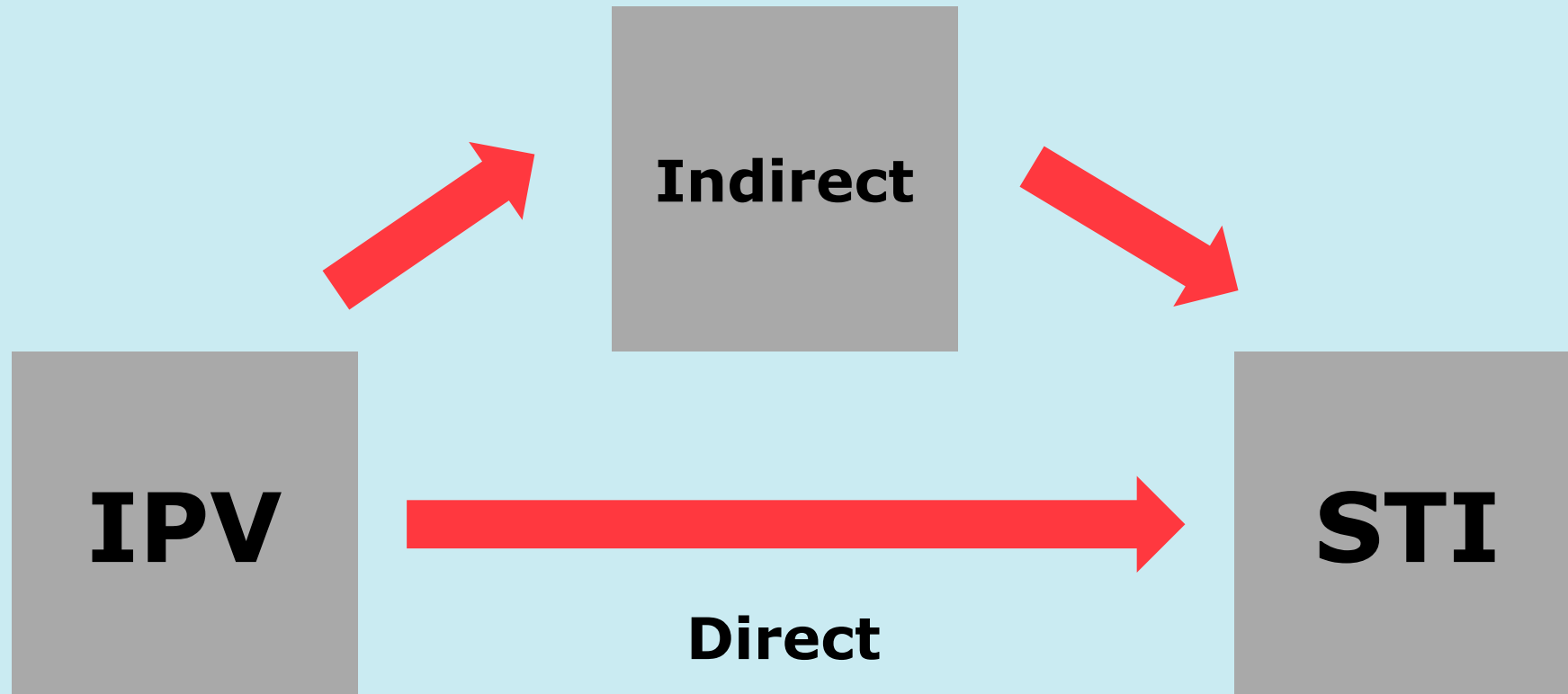


(Dunkle & Decker, 2012)



# Pathways to STIs

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(Dunkle & Decker, 2012)

# Direct Pathways

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# Direct Pathways

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## Partner Risk Taking

(Raj et al., 2006; Campbell, 2002; Dunkle & Decker, 2012 )

# Direct Pathways

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Partner Risk Taking  
Sexual Violence

(Murdaugh, Hunt, Sowell & Santana, 2004; Josephs & Abel, 2009 )

# Direct Pathways

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Partner Risk Taking  
Sexual Violence  
Reproductive Control

(Miller et al., 2010; Lichtenstein, 2004 )

# Direct Pathways

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Partner Risk Taking  
Sexual Violence  
Reproductive Control  
Fear to Request Condom Use

(El-Bassel, Gilbert, Wu, Go, & Hill, 2005; Amaro, Raj, & Silverman, 2004 )

# Indirect Pathways

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(Dunkle & Decker, 2012)

# Indirect Pathways

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Traumatization

(Dunkle & Decker, 2012)



# Indirect Pathways

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Traumatization 

(Dunkle & Decker, 2012)

# Indirect Pathways

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(Dunkle & Decker, 2012)

# Indirect Pathways

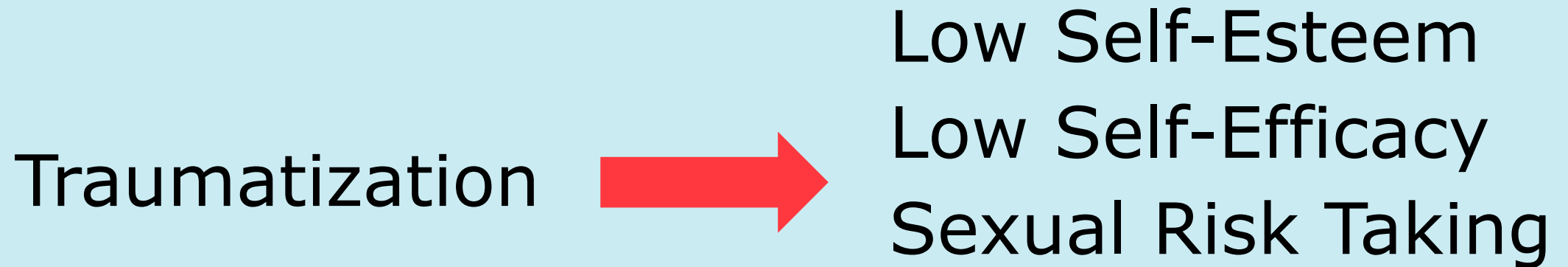
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(Lucea, Hindin, Kub, & Campbell, 2012 )

# Indirect Pathways

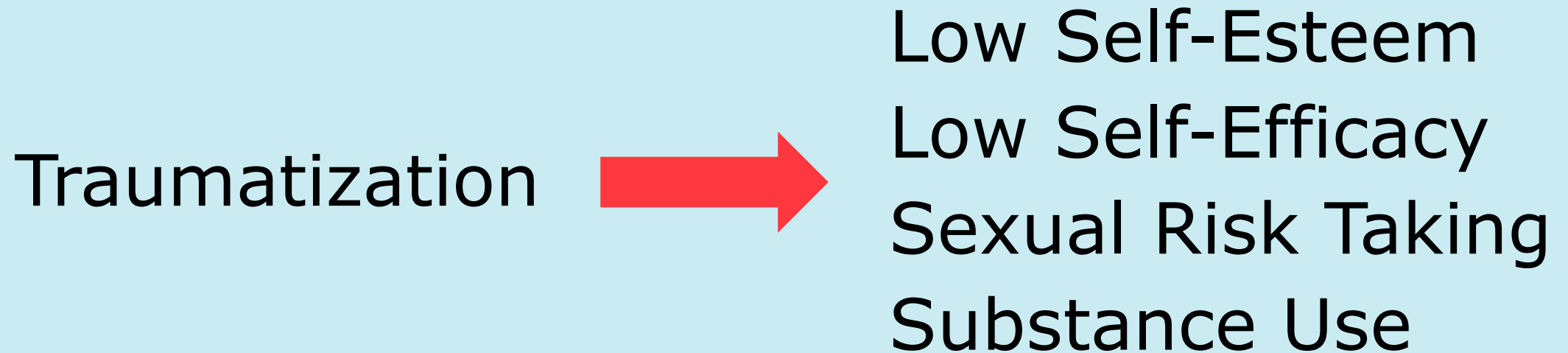
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(El-Bassel, Witte, Wada, Gilbert, & Wallace, 2001;  
Johnson, Cunningham-Williams, & Cottler, 2003; Raj et al., 2006; Ramos et al., 2004 )

# Indirect Pathways

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(El-Bassel, Witte, Wada, Gilbert, & Wallace, 2001;  
Johnson, Cunningham-Williams, & Cottler, 2003; Raj et al., 2006; Ramos et al., 2004 )

# Practice Gaps

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Based on these risk factors, there is a need for specialized sexual health services and programs that address women's experiences of IPV.

# **My Research Agenda**

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To test a trauma-informed sexual safety planning program for survivors of IPV in domestic violence social service settings.



The intervention is informed by interviews with survivors who described their healing as a **journey**





I'm taking steps that I need to take care of me – to say that I'm important and nobody else is right now. So I put a real block on that other place and I built up that road block and said 'Dead End,' . . . that's biohazard over there . . . It's really hard for me . . . to start this whole entire road again in my life . . . become this new person, you know, and heal.

"Carrie"



Topic	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	
1. Talking About Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk about sex and cultural and community norms that impact women's sexuality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience talking about sex in a supportive setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreased sexual shame</li> </ul>	Engage in cervical cancer prevention visit sexual health care Provider; Pap test HPV vaccination
2. Sharing Cervical Cancer Prevention Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify barriers to cervical cancer prevention</li> <li>Identify resources to overcome barriers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A personalized resource list for cervical cancer prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased knowledge of resources for cervical cancer prevention</li> </ul>	
3. Assessing Cervical Cancer Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about links between IPV, HPV and cervical cancer</li> <li>Conduct personal risk assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A personalized cervical cancer risk assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased acceptability and self-efficacy for cervical cancer prevention</li> </ul>	

Topic	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	
4. Coping with Sexual Trauma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify types of sexual violence</li> <li>Learn about natural responses to trauma</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies to enhance emotional self-regulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreased trauma symptoms</li> <li>Decreased substance use / sex while intoxicated</li> </ul>	Decreased exposure to HPV
5. Reclaiming Personal Sexuality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set personal sexual expectations</li> <li>Acknowledge challenges to keeping sexual boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affirming statements</li> <li>Trauma-informed body movements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased self-esteem</li> <li>Fewer risky sex partners</li> </ul>	
6. Planning Healthy Sexual Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk about desirable qualities in partners</li> <li>Learn to integrate sexual pleasure with sexual safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A toolkit of safer sex activities and behaviors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased safer sex behaviors: alternatives to intercourse</li> </ul>	

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# **Types of Barriers**

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Partner Related

# Types of Barriers

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Partner Related  
Resource Related

# Types of Barriers

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Partner Related  
Resource Related  
Cognitive Affective

# Types of Barriers

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Partner Related  
Resource Related  
Cognitive Affective  
Provider Related



# Activity

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What strategies do you think could help reduce IPV survivors' barriers to sexual and reproductive health care?

Remember: Barriers are partner-related, resource-related, cognitive affective, and provider-related

# Questions

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