

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- ◇ About 95 percent of victims are women.
- ◇ 30% of female homicide victims are killed by their husbands. Murder by an intimate partner is the leading cause of death of African-American women aged 15-45 and the seventh leading cause of premature death for U.S. women overall.
- ◇ Each year up to six million are beaten in their home.
- ◇ Each year 1,500 women are killed by a current or former husband or boyfriend.
- ◇ Battering contributes to one-quarter of all suicide attempts by women.
- ◇ Weapons are used in 30% of domestic violence incidents.
- ◇ Up to 75% of battering victims have left or are trying to leave.
- ◇ According to the March of Dimes, battering during pregnancy is the leading cause of birth defects and infant mortality.
- ◇ 50-70% of men who abuse their female partners also abuse children in the home.

- ◇ Women who were threatened or assaulted with a gun or other weapon were 20 times more likely than other women to be murdered. Women whose partners threatened them with murder were 15 times more likely than other women to be killed. When a gun was in the house, an abused woman was 6 times more likely than other abused women to be killed.

WHY WOMEN STAY

- ◇ It is dangerous to leave
- ◇ They feel there is no way out
- ◇ They have low self esteem - reinforced by offender
- ◇ They feel that they cause the abuse
- ◇ Fear of retribution
- ◇ Shame
- ◇ Save the marriage at all costs
- ◇ There is little to prevent a released abuser from returning and repeating the assault.

THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Tension-building stage - The abuser becomes edgy, critical, and irritable. The woman may go out of her way to keep the peace, walking on eggshells as the tension mounts at perceived irritations (dinner not ready, food he does not like...). He displays hostility and dissatisfaction. He employs demeaning acts, such as name-calling.

Explosion stage - Occurs when tension builds to a point the abuser's rage spills over in verbal, emotional and physical abuse. The abuser will fly into a rage and become violent many times for no apparent reason, or for a stated reason that seems petty or irrational. Anything can be the catalyst for the explosion.

The honeymoon stage - The abuser is typically apologetic, kind, and stops abusing for a period of time. He will go out of his way to be kind, tranquil and loving.

ATTRIBUTES OF VIOLENT AND NONVIOLENT RELATIONSHIPS

Traits of a violent household

Intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, minimizing, using children, male privilege, economic abuse, using coercion and threats.

Traits of a nonviolent household

Non-threatening behavior, respect, trust and support, honesty and accountability, responsible parenting, shared responsibility, economic partnership.

CALL TAKING

Ascertain if violence has occurred and if medical assistance is needed.

Has he threatened you?
Has he hit you?
Are you bleeding?
Do you need an ambulance?
Are there any marks or bruising?

Use of drugs including alcohol

Has he been drinking or taking any drugs?
Have you been drinking or taking any drugs?

Use and presence of weapons

Are there any guns, knives or any other weapons in the house?

Does he have a gun?

Any other weapons?

Is he known to carry a gun?

Any other weapons?

Do you disconnect a domestic call?

Have caller call back if situation changes.

If any thing changes call us back on 9-1-1

Offender present

Is he there?

Do you think he is on the way?

Calming techniques

Provide reassurance

Take a deep breath

Separate the caller and the abuser

Talk to the abuser

Techniques for one-dispatcher call centers

How do you take call and dispatch simultaneously

Officer safety issues

What is the roll of the dispatcher in officer safety?

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