

KNOW THE FACTS

Domestic Violence Facts

Prevalence

- Domestic violence is a “serial” crime with (usually) a single victim. Approximately 1 in 5 women victimized by a spouse or ex-spouse has reported that she had been in a series of at least 3 assaults in the preceding 6 months.
- Approximately 95% of assaults on spouses or ex-spouses are committed by men against women according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

- Nearly four million women are physically abused by their husbands or boyfriends.
- Most attacks on women (approx. 70%) are committed by someone the victim knows – often a husband or boyfriend.
- More women are victims of domestic violence than of burglary, muggings and other violent crime combined.

Injuries & Fatalities

- When a woman is killed, in about 43% of the cases the murderer is an intimate partner.
- Approximately 30% of women visiting the Emergency Room of hospitals have been identified as having injuries caused by battering.
- More than one third of abused women suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) afterwards. More than 40% suffer from major depression. Over one in four has attempted suicide at least once, usually in adolescence.

DV & Children

- A national survey of over 6,000 American families has shown that 50% of the men who frequently abused their wives also abused their children.
- In families where domestic violence is present child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur.
- Children who observe violence at home frequently develop emotional and behavioral problems, e.g., nightmares, low self esteem, withdrawal, self blame and aggression toward family, peers and property.
- Every year over 3 million children are in danger of exposure to parental violence.

Poverty & Violence

- Over 80% of very low-income mothers have been victims of severe physical and/or sexual abuse during their lives.
- A study in the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry indicated that among women who head poor families' there3 has been an extreme level of physical and sexual abuse by parents, caretakers, and adult partners.

A person may be in love, they may hope and believe their partner will change, and/or they may be very afraid of what their partner will do if they leave. If you or someone you know needs help **call our hotline: 1-800-664-5880**