

The Effects of Battering Over Time on...

WOMEN: Isolation from others, low self-esteem, depression, increased alcohol or drug abuse, emotional problems, illness, pain and injuries, permanent physical damage, death.

CHILDREN: Emotional problems, illness, increased fears, anger, increased risk of abuse, injuries, and death, repetition of abusive behavior.

MEN: Increased belief that power and control are achieved by violence, increase in violent behavior, increased contact with law enforcement, increased emotional problems, decreased self-esteem.

SOCIETY: Increase in crime, increase in legal, police, medical and counseling costs. Cost of prison, perpetuation of violence, perpetuation of myths of inequality of women and men, decrease in quality of life.

If you are being abused...

There is help available. There are people in your community that can offer support and assistance. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.** No one deserves to be hurt physically, emotionally, or sexually. It is important for you to realize that you did not make the other person hurt you. ***It is not your fault!***

If it is dangerous for you to live at home and/or you don't feel safe in your community, there are shelters for abused women that can provide safety for you and your unborn child. Please contact your local domestic violence program or the Nevada Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-500-1556) and talk to an advocate about the choices available to you.



If you need help, please call:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE

1-800-799-7233

1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

Se habla Español

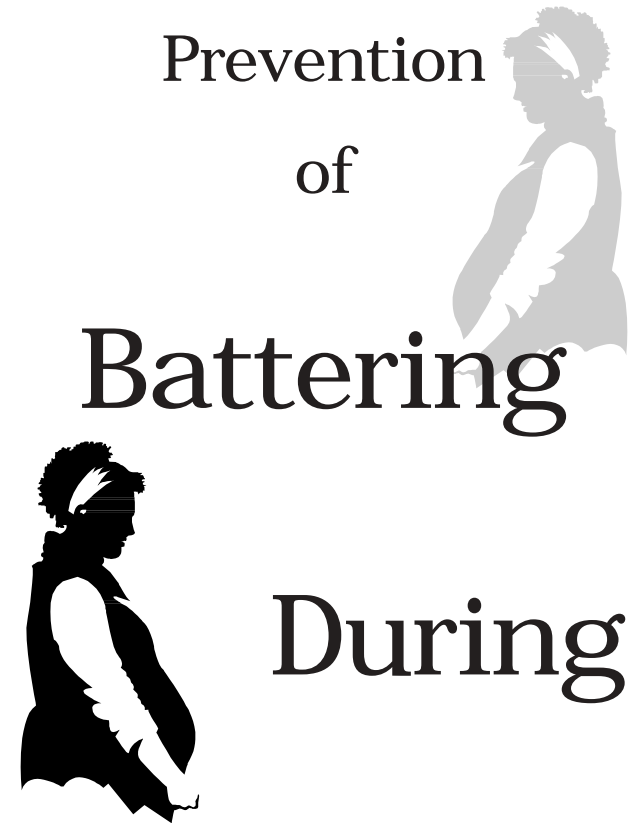
Program's phone
number in your area:

Prevention of

Battering

During

Pregnancy



Nevada Network Against
Domestic Violence
220 S. Rock Blvd., Ste. 7
Reno, NV 89502
Voice/TTY (775) 828-1115
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Facts on Battering¹...

- 85% of all victims of domestic violence cases are women.
- As many as 3 million women are battered in America each year.
- On average, more than 3 women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in America every day.

...and Pregnancy²

- Homicide is a leading cause of traumatic death for pregnant and postpartum women in the United States, accounting for 31% of maternal injury deaths.
- Complications of pregnancy, including low weight gain, anemia, infections, and first and second trimester bleeding are significantly higher for abused women.
- Each year, about 324,000 pregnant women in this country are battered by their intimate partners. That makes abuse more common for pregnant women than gestational diabetes.
- Young mothers are particularly vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence, with one study finding that 26% of new mothers between the ages of 13 and 17 experienced violence in the three months after the birth of their child.
- Pregnant women who are abused by their partners have a higher risk for depression and suicide attempts.
- Violence is linked to a wide range of reproductive health issues including miscarriages and STD and HIV transmission.

Types of Domestic Violence...

Physical abuse is only one type of domestic violence. There are many other types of domestic violence which can occur. The following are definitions for the different types of abuse:

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Includes hitting, punching, grabbing, pinching, shoving, slapping, hair pulling, biting, kicking, hitting with objects, stabbing, or shooting. Physical abuse can also include withholding access to resources necessary to maintain health, such as medications, medical care, and foods or fluids.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

When the batterer weakens his victim's sense of self-worth by constant criticism, belittling, minimizing, denying, and blaming. The abuser may call her names, embarrass her in front of family and friends, or prevent her from visiting sick or dying relatives. He also might try to confuse her by telling her she is responsible for the violence, or that he is allowed to physically punish her because he is the "man"; convincing her that his violent acts are not criminal; and, if she decides to leave, blaming her for the breakup of the family.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse is coerced (unconsenting) sexual contact, such as rape and/or beating of the sexual parts of the body; as well as forced prostitution, unprotected sex, or use of pornography. This type of abuse may also include undermining a person's sexuality with insults and unfounded accusations of infidelity.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

When the batterer tries to frighten the victim by intimidation, threats to harm her or others, or isolation. The abuser may threaten persons that serve as a support for her; kill pets or destroy other valued property; isolate her from friends and family; or read her mail and not allow her to use the telephone.

ECONOMIC ABUSE

Economic abuse occurs when the abuser is making (or trying to make) his partner financially dependent on him. For instance, he may maintain control over both partners' income; withhold money; keep the victim from employment or harass her at work; or require her to justify all money spent.



Does Your Partner...

...Scare you with threats or by throwing objects when he's angry?

...Say it's your fault if he hits you?

...Hit you, then promise that it won't happen again, but it does?

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE ALONE AND LIVING WITH A SECRET OF VIOLENCE IN YOUR HOME?

IF SO,

YOU MAY BE IN A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE THAT COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR YOU AND YOUR UNBORN CHILD!

¹ Domestic Violence is a Serious, Widespread Social Problem in America: The Facts." Family Violence Prevention Fund. <http://endabuse.org/resources/facts/DomesticViolence.pdf>.

² The Facts on Reproductive Health and Violence Against Women." Family Violence Prevention Fund. <http://endabuse.org/resources/facts/ReproductiveHealth.pdf>.