

If you need help, please call...

Nevada Statewide Hotline
1.800.500.1556

**National Domestic
Violence Hotline**
1.800.799.SAFE or 1.800.799.7233
1.800.787.3224 (TTY)
www.ndvh.org

National Dating Abuse Helpline
Call or visit website for hours of operation.
1.866.331.9474
1.866.331.8453 (TTY)
www.loveisrespect.org

Hotlines provide crisis intervention,
information, referrals and safety planning.
All hotlines are toll-free, confidential and
anonymous and most operate 24 hours a day
365 days a year.

Se habla Español



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Nevada State Health Division.

The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV)...

...is a statewide organization that was
formed in 1980 to work toward the elimi-
nation of domestic and sexual violence
against all persons and the empower-
ment of women and children.

NNADV helps Nevada's communities
respond creatively and effectively to the
needs of domestic violence victims by
providing information to service providers
in the fields of domestic and sexual vio-
lence. In addition, NNADV provides edu-
cation and advocacy to the general pub-
lic and actively educates legislators on
issues of concern to Nevada families.



Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

220 South Rock Blvd. Suite 7
Reno Nevada 89502

Phone: 775.828.1115 or
800.230.1955 statewide
Fax: 775.828.9911
Website: www.nnadv.org

A program in your area:



**Nevada Network Against
Domestic Violence**

Pregnancy & Intimate Partner Violence



Pregnancy should
be a time of hope
with thoughts of
raising the next
generation and growing a healthy
baby, but abuse during pregnancy is
more common than most people think.

NNADV wishes to acknowledge the information
and research provided by the
Futures Without Violence organization
www.futureswithoutviolence.org

Pregnancy & Intimate Partner Violence

How common is intimate partner violence (IPV) among pregnant women?

Violence against women is a costly and pervasive problem, and women of reproductive age—in particular those ages 16 to 24—are at the greatest risk. The [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) (CDC) defines IPV as “physical, sexual, or psychological/emotional violence or threats of violence that are inflicted on a pregnant woman.”

Every year in the U.S. more than 300,000 pregnant women experience some kind of violence involving an intimate partner, and about one-quarter of women report having been sexually or physically assaulted by a spouse, partner, or boyfriend at some point in their life. (CDC)

Signs a pregnant woman has been or is being abused may include:

- A pregnancy conceived through sexual assault, marital rape, or inability to negotiate contraceptive use;
- A delay in seeking pre-natal care and/or a reluctance or refusal to attend pre-natal education or receive post-natal care;
- Unexplained bruising or damage to her breasts, abdomen, or genitals resulting in serious consequences for the mother, fetus, and newborn; and
- A refusal to support her financially during pregnancy and refusing to provide access to money to buy food, supplies, or forcing her to work beyond what is reasonable for her current endurance.

If I am being abused, what are the risks to my health and the health of my baby?

Women experiencing abuse in the year prior to and/or during a recent pregnancy are 40 to 60 percent more likely than non-abused women to report high blood pressure, anemia, vaginal bleeding, severe nausea, kidney or urinary tract infections, hospitalization during pregnancy and are 37 percent more likely to deliver preterm.

Violence is linked to a wide range of reproductive health issues including STD and HIV transmission and miscarriages. Also, abused pregnant women have higher rates of depression, suicide attempts, tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drug use, all of which have negative effects on the developing fetus.

Source: “The Facts on Reproductive Health and Violence Against Women.” Futures Without Violence, (formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund), www.futureswithoutviolence.org.

There is help, if you are being abused...

If you recognize any of the behaviors relating to pregnancy and intimate partner violence, there is help available. There are people in your community (advocates & health care professionals) that can offer support and assistance.

No one deserves to be hurt physically, emotionally, or sexually. Abuse is not your fault! You are not alone.



Call the Nevada Statewide or [National Hotline](#) to locate a community-based advocacy program in your area and ask to speak with an advocate. All services are premised on support, empowerment, options and safety for you and your unborn baby. For a list of programs, visit the [NNADV](#) website.

Brochure developed 5/12/2011

If you are health care professional, you can make a difference...

Approximately 74 percent of reproductive age women in the U.S. receive at least one reproductive health care service annually which is an excellent opportunity to screen for domestic and sexual violence.

Health care providers can help victims of IPV by asking about abuse, believing her, offering support before the abuse becomes life threatening and referring women to victim-advocacy organizations. These interventions may significantly reduce the odds of abuse.



Clinical studies have proven the effectiveness of a private, confidential 2-minute screening for early detection of abuse in pregnant women. Other studies have tested a 10-minute intervention that was proven highly effective in increasing the safety of pregnant, abused women.

Screening may include simple, direct questions:

- Because violence is so common in many people’s lives, I’ve begun to ask all my patients about it routinely.
- Are you in a relationship with a partner that has ever hurt you physically, used verbal demands or threats? Forced you to have sex against your wishes, or were you made to do things sexually you did not want to do?
- Did someone cause these injuries? Who?

In combination with a complete medical history, noting behavioral and physical clues that may relate to abuse, the health care professional may have enough information to discuss safety planning and make appropriate referrals to advocacy organizations. For more information on screening tools, contact the NNADV office.