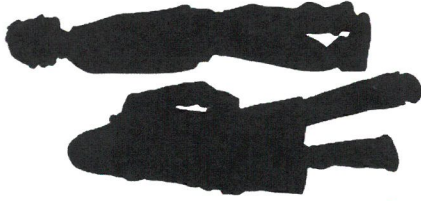


WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Domestic abuse is a pattern of aggressive and intimidating behaviors. People often think of domestic violence only in terms of the cuts and bruises that we can see. In reality, it is a pattern of assault and cohesive behaviors designed to control another person. Abusers use fear and intimidation to control their intimate partners. Abuse can be verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, and/or economic and is based on power and control. The abuser believes he is entitled to control his partner; control how they think, feel, and behave.

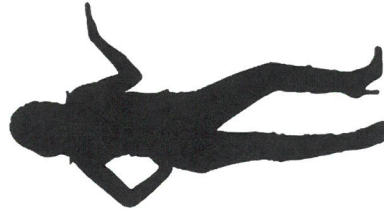


Domestic Abuse is defined by Wisconsin Statutes, s.968.075 as the intentional infliction of physical pain, injury, or illness; intentional impairment of physical condition; sexual assault; or physical act that causes the other to reasonably fear that these actions will occur.

THERE ARE NO EXCUSES FOR VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

OBSTACLES FOR LEAVING AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Many victims do not want the relationship to end, they only want the violence to end and for their partner to change. However, leaving is a difficult step, even under the best of circumstances. Violent relationships are subjected to numerous barriers and obstacles which limit their options.



28,729 Domestic Abuse Incidents were reported to law enforcement in 2012, a small increase from the 28,539 incidents reported in 2011.

GET HELP
It will get worse!

COMMON FACTORS & OBSTACLES

play a part in battered woman's decision to remain in the relationship or to leave are:

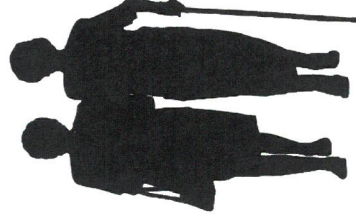
- Encouragement by family or friends to stay in the relationship
- Lack of awareness; domestic violence is a crime and resources
- Hope in their partner's promise to change or seek treatment
- Belief that the violence is deserved and is a just punishment
- Ineffective local justice response for protection and support
- A lack of job skills, housing, transportation or money
- Fear for their own safety and/or the safety of family
- Hope and/or belief that their partner will change
- The promise that it will never happen again
- Love or compassion for their partner
- Having a father for the child(ren)
- Religious or cultural beliefs
- Economic reasons
- Low self-esteem

SAFETY PLAN STEPS

- Step One:** → Keep a list of emergency numbers and any important papers.
- Step Two:** → Pack a bag in advance and leave it with someone you trust.
- Step Three:** → Arrange transportation in advance.
- Step Four:** → Hide an extra set of car/house keys.
- Step Five:** → Prepare a **SAFE PLACE** to go!

WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

- **CHILDREN** become substitute victims when partners are angry at each other.
- **CHILDREN** project what they see and experience by teasing, humiliating, and/or abusing other children.
- **CHILDREN** may not believe in themselves and/or may do poorly in school.
- **CHILDREN** may likely continue the cycle of anger and control with their own family as an adult.



Domestic violence can be devastating to families, but its effect on entire communities run even deeper.

1 in 4 women report experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime.

Violence at home will not go away without help; you are not alone.

FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WANTING TO HELP

DO:

Support both partners in seeking counseling to prevent the next attack and admit that you are aware of the violence.

DON'T:

- Blame the victim
- Silence or deny the problem exists
- Make her feel guilty for seeking help
- Treat violence as a private or family affair
- Make the women feel she deserved the abuse
- Tell her it is her duty to keep the family together