Relationship Violence

Info Packet

The Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education
407 Boynton 410 Church Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55455
Business Line: (612) 626-2929 TTY Line: (612) 626-4279
Email: aurora.center@umn.edu Website: www.umn.edu/aurora

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Office for Student Affairs

24hr Crisis Line: (612) 626-9111

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

Dear Reader,

This information packet was created for several reasons: First, we hope and believe that information and education will help survivors to reach a healthy recovery. Second, we hope that people concerned about a survivor can learn to be an excellent support person by understanding more about the issue affecting their loved one. And finally, we believe the information can be helpful to those reading it for educational purposes because it deals with an issue that is important to them.

If you are a survivor of violence, you may find some comfort in the following pages. You may also read some things that are upsetting. Please remember that The Aurora Center crisis line is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: 612-626-9111.

All of the statistics and facts in this packet are followed by their source. The information in this packet is updated on an annual basis, but please confirm any information contained herein if you are concerned about its source or its accuracy. This packet was created for informational purposes only and should not be taken as legal advice.

Readers will notice that the female pronoun "she" is used to refer to the survivor of violence in the following pages. This usage is reflective of statistics and our practice which have shown that on a college campus, the victims of sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking are overwhelmingly female. We have therefore chosen to avoid the cumbersome use of he/she, him/her, and his/hers. This does not mean that males are not victimized by these crimes, they are, but not in nearly the numbers that females are. Please note that we have devoted some sections of various information packets entirely to male survivors and we welcome male survivors to access our services.

We hope that all readers of this information packet find it helpful and we welcome comments on its content sent to: aurora.center@umn.edu

Sincerely,
The Aurora Center

The Aurora Center

The Differences Between Healthy & Abusive Relationships

Sometimes abusive relationships are easy to identify; other times the abuse may take subtle forms. The examples shown here can help you identify traits of healthy and abusive relationships. Healthy relationships share responsibility and decision-making tasks and reflect respect for all people in the relationship, including children. In general, abusive relationships have a serious power imbalance, with the abuser holding control over most aspects of life.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Non-Threatening Behavior

- Talking and acting so that your partner feels safe and comfortable doing and saying things

Respect

- Listening to your partner non-judgmentally
- Being emotionally affirming and understanding
- Valuing opinions

Trust and Support

- Supporting your partner's goals in life
- Respecting your partner's right to her own feelings, friends, activities, and opinions

Honesty and Accountability

- Accepting responsibility for self
- Acknowledging past use of violence
- Admitting being wrong
- Communicating openly and truthfully

Responsible Parenting

- Sharing parental responsibilities
- Being a positive, non-violent role model for children

Shared Responsibility

- Mutually agreeing on a fair distribution of work
- Making family decisions together

Continued…

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ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Using Intimidation

- Making your partner afraid by using looks, actions, and gestures
- Smashing things
- Destroying property
- Abusing pets
- Displaying weapons

Using Emotional Abuse

- Putting your partner down
- Calling your partner names
- Making your partner think she is crazy
- Playing mind games
- Humiliating your partner
- Making your partner feel guilty

Using Isolation

- Controlling what your partner does and reads, who your partner sees and talks to, where your partner goes
- Limiting your partner's outside involvements
- Using jealousy to justify actions

Minimizing, Denying, and Blaming

- Making light of abuse and not taking your partner's concerns about it seriously
- Saying the abuse didn't happen
- Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior
- Saying your partner caused the abuse

Using Children

- Making your partner feel guilty about the children
- Using the children to relay messages
- Using visitation to harass your partner
- Threatening to take the children away

Using Male Privilege

- Treating your partner like a servant
- Making all the big decisions
- Acting like the "Master of the Castle"
- Being the one to define men's and women's roles

Using Economic Abuse

- Preventing your partner from getting or keeping a job
- Making your partner ask for money
- Giving your partner an allowance
- Taking your partner's money
- Not letting your partner know about or have access to family income

Adapted from *Health Partners, Discover: "Here's What Healthy and Abusive Relationships Look Like," Summer 1996.*

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Is Your Relationship Abusive?

In the last two decades, relationship violence has emerged from the black hole of taboo subjects to become highly visible. What has long been happening between spouses and adult lovers is now recognized as a problem for teenagers as well. Surveys show that 28% of high school and college-age students are in abusive relationships, about the same proportion as adults. Barrie Levy, a Santa Monica, CA, therapist and abuse prevention specialist, offers this checklist to see if your relationship is abusive:

ABUSED

- **Does your partner's temper scare you?**
- **Are you afraid to disagree with your partner?**
- **Do you apologize for your partner's behavior when you are treated badly?**
- **Are you frightened by your partner's violence?**
- **Have you been hit, kicked, shoved, or had things thrown at you?**
- **Do you not see friends or family or do things because of your partner's jealousy?**
- **Have you been forced to have sex?**
- **Do you have to justify everything you do and every place you go and every person you see to avoid your partner's temper?**
- **Have you repeatedly been wrongly accused of flirting?**

ABUSER

- **Are you very jealous and possessive?**
- **Do you have an explosive temper?**
- **Do you constantly ridicule, criticize, or insult your partner?**
- **Are you violent when you drink or use drugs?**
- **Have you hit, pushed, kicked, or injured your partner when you were angry?**
- **Have you threatened to hurt your partner or kill your partner or someone close to your partner?**
- **Have you forced your partner to have sex or made your partner afraid to say no?**
- **Have you threatened to kill yourself if your partner leaves?**
- **Do you make your partner account for every moment that she is away from you?**
- **Do you spy on your partner?**
- **Do you call a lot to check up on your partner?**
- **Do you accuse your partner of seeing other people?**

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Red Flags in Dating Relationships

The four factors that are most important in detecting pre-rape behavior and/or abuse among dates and acquaintances are:

1. SEXUAL ENTITLEMENT

A. Touching another person with no regard for their wishes
B. Sexualizing relationships that are appropriately non-sexual
C. Using conversation that is inappropriately intimate
D. Telling sexual jokes at inappropriate times or places
E. Making inappropriate comments about people's bodies, sexuality, etc.

2. POWER AND CONTROL

A. Interrupting people, especially women
B. Being a "bad loser"
C. Exhibiting inappropriate competitiveness
D. Using intimidating body language
E. Game playing

3. HOSTILITY AND ANGER

A. Showing a quick temper
B. Blaming others when things go wrong
C. Tending to transform other emotions into anger

4. ACCEPTANCE OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

A. Using threats in displays of anger
B. Using violence in borderline situations
C. Approving observed violence
D. Justifying violence

From *Acquaintance Rape: The Hidden Crime,* edited by Andrea Parrot and Laurie Bechhofer, 1991, John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

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Early Warning Signs of Abuse

It's hard to believe when you're in the first blush of love, but new relationships often carry with them warning signs of future abuse. The signs may be nothing more than a gut feeling that something's off, or perhaps a vague concern about his temper, but you should pay heed to such intuitions.

If you're getting those subtle little warnings, it's important to take a hard, realistic look at this new person in your life. Though there's no 100 percent foolproof way to know if your partner may become violent, there may be signs.

Some experts, for example, say to be wary if a new partner comes on strong and insists on communication right away. You also should look out for someone who is excessively possessive or jealous, is extremely controlling, has unrealistic expectations of you, isolates you, makes you responsible for his feelings, has sudden mood swings, is hypersensitive, or is cruel to animals or children. Also be on the lookout for verbal abuse (often in the guise of "jokes"), "playful" use of force during sex, rigid sex roles, past history of abuse, and acts or threats of violence. Those guidelines, along with the quiz on these two pages, can help you assess the potential for abuse.

Your answers to these questions about your partner and you are indicators only. You need to weigh your answers against the whole of the relationship. For example, there's nothing wrong with catering to your partner, but if you feel afraid to stop doing so, it might be a warning sign.

Look, too, to see if unhealthy patterns are emerging. For example, you may notice that you are becoming more isolated from friends and family because your partner wants all of your time and attention. Another important clue to look for is whether you are doing these behaviors because you want to or because you are afraid not to. If you are motivated by fear, you should have some serious concerns about the relationship.

Your Partner's Cues

These are some behaviors and traits that you see in your partner. We list some typical traits of people who have the potential to become abusive. Add other traits that you observe and are concerned about.

Anger/Blaming:

1. Gets angry a lot, complains, or blames others.
2. Puts down other people.
3. _____

Sexist Attitudes/Beliefs:

1. Makes demeaning comments about women (especially about women who are assertive).
2. Makes sexist statements like: "That's women's work."
3. _____

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Controlling Behaviors:

1. Fights or disagrees with me and then indulges me (gets nice or buys me something).
2. Has rigid like/dislikes and ideas on the way things should be done.
3. Doesn't hear me, discounts me, minimizes my concerns, or changes the subject.
4. _____

Lifestyle/Family Background

1. Has few or no friends or interests outside me.
2. Drinks or uses other chemicals to excess.
3. Has trouble keeping a job and blames it on someone else.
4. _____

Violent Behavior

1. Flies off the handle a lot. Gets mad at little things.
2. Breaks or damages property when upset.
3. Physically disciplines children or pets.
4. _____

Your Cues

Self-Esteem:

1. I feel put down, insulted, or dumb.
2. I feel unattractive or not good enough.
3. I question my judgement.
4. _____

Health/Mental Health

1. I feel vaguely "blue," anxious, or unsettled after being together.
2. I overlook my own preferences and needs.
3. _____

Lifestyle Changes:

1. I have experienced changes in eating, sleeping, drinking, work, etc.
2. I don't have time to get things done that I need to get done.
3. _____

Attending to Partner:

1. I think a lot about how to comfort my partner.
2. I tell myself that I can succeed where others have failed. (No one loved or understood him the way I do.)
3. _____

If you have answered "often" or "always" to some of these questions, now is the time to re-evaluate the quality of the relationship and to leave if you feel unsafe.

*This quiz is excerpted from the Personal Empowerment Plan, a tool developed by the Domestic Abuse Project, Inc., and is reprinted with permission. Contact Domestic Abuse Project, Inc. at 204 West Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Phone: (612) 874-7063.

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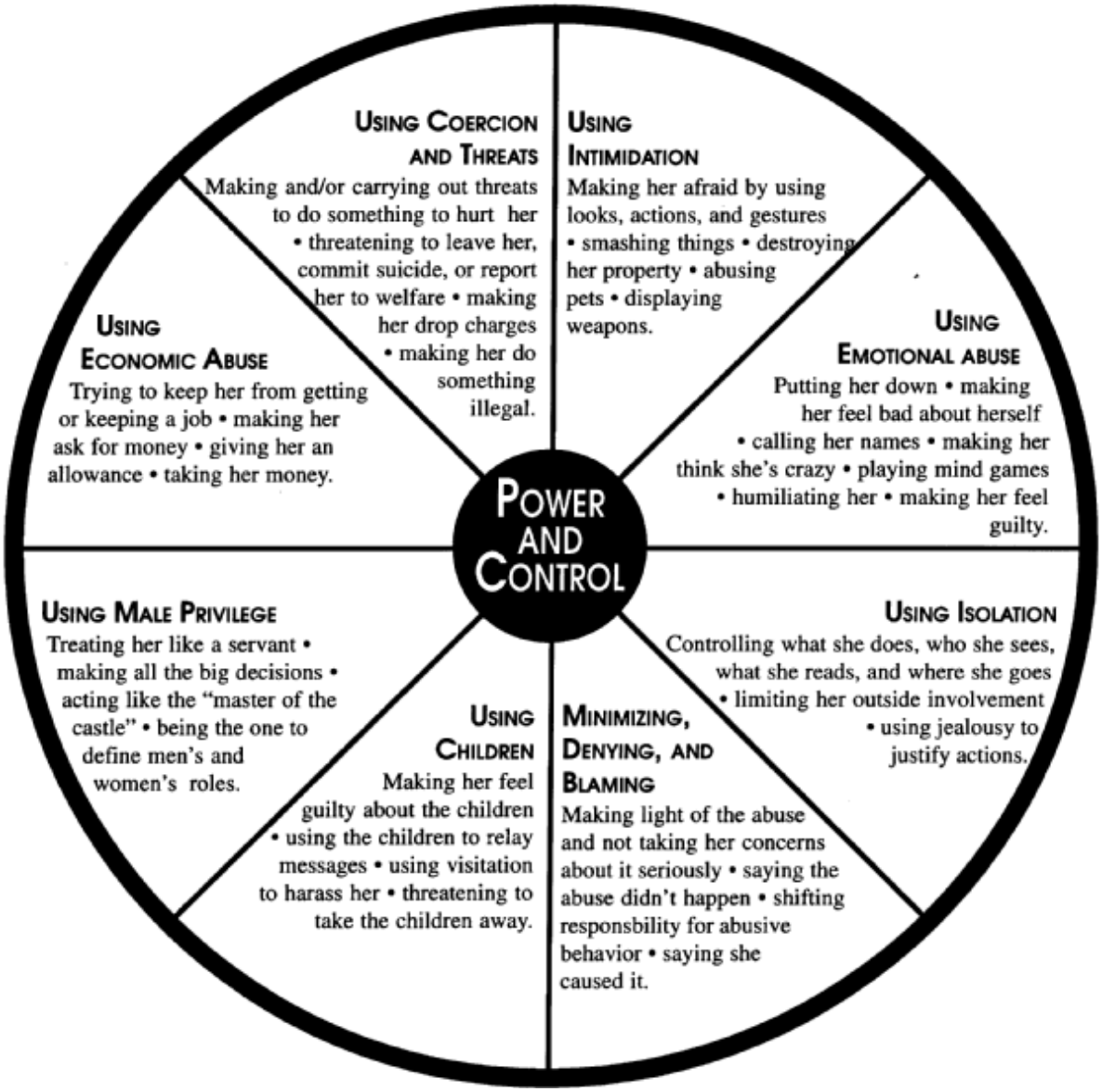
Physical and Sexual Violence



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NATIONAL RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE STATISTICS

- **According to a 2000 UNICEF study, 20-50% of the female population of the world will become the victims of domestic violence.**
  Sushma Kapoor (June 2000). Domestic Violence Against Women and Girls. UNICEF: Innocenti Research Centre. (www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/pdf/digest6e.pdf)

- **Within the United States, 1 out of every 4 American women will experience violence by an intimate partner sometime during her lifetime.**
  Patricia Tjaden & Nancy Thoennes (2000). Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control, Washington, DC (NIJ Grant #93-IJ-CX-0012). Available from the U.S. Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office. (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo)

- **Women age 16 to 24 are most likely to be victimized by an intimate partner.**
  Callie Marie Rennison (2001). Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-1999. Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice. NCJ #187635. Estimates are provided from the National Crime Victimization Survey, which defines an intimate partner as a current or former spouse, girlfriends, or boyfriend. Violent acts include: murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ipva99.htm)

- **While women are less likely than men to be victims of violent crimes overall, 85% of women are victimized by a violent intimate partner.**
  Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003. *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001.* Washington, D.C.: Department of Justice. (http://www.endabuse.org/resources/facts/)

- **67% of women who killed their spouse did so to protect themselves and their children at the moment of the murder.**
  MN Coalition for Battered Women, 2001. (http://www.mcbw.org/)

- **About 4 in 10 female survivors of intimate partner violence live in households with children under age 12.**
  U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of justice Statistics, *Intimate Partner Violence* — May 2000, revised July 2000. (http://www.witnessjustice.org/news/stats.cfm)

- **Men who batter their spouses or partners physically abuse their children at a seven times higher rate than non-battering men and she sexually abuse their children at a six times higher rate than non-battering men.**
  Bancroft, L., Silverman, J (2003). The batterer as a Parent. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (http://www.kcsdv.org/stats.html)

- **Only 32% of survivors of relationship violence with physical injuries seek professional medical treatment.**
  Rennison, 2000. (http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/rsarp00.htm)

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Safety Plan

The following is a safety plan designed to assist those individuals in abusive relationships. This safety plan contains elements and questions that will not be applicable to all relationships. Please complete those portions you find most useful and relevant to your circumstances.

Those who are survivors of dating and domestic violence often lose their sense of what safety is and what safety feels like.

Safety is the freedom from abuse, danger, and harm, as well as freedom from the threat of harm.

Physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional abuse is damaging and dangerous. The abused partner is diminished in value and strength. She or he may be in danger of losing her or his mental health, physical ability, and/or life. When someone is violent and abusive, safety is obliterated.

Safety planning for the survivor is an essential tool whether leaving the abusive partner is temporary or permanent. We may not be able to stop someone's violence, but we can get ourselves out of danger as well as support others to get themselves out of danger.

Safety During an Argument or Violent Incident

If an argument seems unavoidable, try to move to a room or area that has access to an exit or a phone. Avoid the bathroom, kitchen, or anywhere near weapons.

Practice how to get out of your home safely. Identify which doors, windows, elevator, or stairwell would be best.

Have a packed bag ready and keep it in an undisclosed but accessible place in order to leave quickly.

Identify a neighbor you can tell about the violence and ask that she call the police if she hears a disturbance coming from your home.

Devise a code word to use with your children, family, and neighbors when you need the police.

Decide and plan where you will go if you have to leave home (even if you don't think you will need to).

Use your own instincts and judgement. If the situation is very dangerous, consider giving the abuser what he wants to calm him down. You have the right to protect yourself until you are out of danger.

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Safety with a Restraining Order

Keep your protective order on you at all times. Make extra copies to keep in your car, at work, in your school bag, briefcase, or purse.

Call the police if your partner or ex-partner breaks the protective order.

Think of alternative ways to keep safe if the police do not respond right away.

Inform trusted family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and/or employer that you have a restraining order in effect.

Safety on the Job and in Public

Decide whom at work you will inform of your situation. This should include office or building security and supervisor. Provide a picture of your abuser if possible to the security guard.

Arrange to have someone screen your telephone calls if possible. If the abuser attempts to contact you at work save the voice mail, email, and/or written message.

Devise a safety plan for when you leave work. Have someone escort you to your car or bus. If possible, vary your route home. Think about what you would do if something happens while going home (i.e. in your car, on the bus, etc.).

Personalized Safety Plan

Name _____

Date _____ Review Dates _____

The following steps represent my plan for increasing my safety and preparing in advance for the possibility of further violence. Although I do not have control over my partner's violence, I do have a choice about how to respond and how to best get myself (and my children) to safety.

Step 1: Safety During a Violent Incident

A. If we are having an argument, I can try to move to a space that is lowest risk, such as _____. (Try to avoid arguments in the bathroom, garage, kitchen, near weapons, or in rooms without access to an outside door).

B. If my partner frequently threatens to "out" me, I can _____.

C. If it is not safe to stay, I can _____. (Practice how to get out safely). What doors, windows, elevators, stairwells, or fire escapes would I use?

D. I can keep my important papers, keys, and clothing ready and put them _____ so that I can leave quickly.

E. I can tell _____ and _____ about the violence and ask them to call the police if she hears suspicious noises from my home or dorm room.

F. I can use _____ as my code word with my children and/or my friends so they can call for help.

G. I can teach my children how to use the telephone to contact the police and the fire department.

H. If I have to leave my home or dorm room, I can go to _____ or _____ or _____. (Decide this even if you don't think there will be a next time).

Continued…

Use your judgement. If the situation is very serious, give the perpetrator what he wants. You have the right to protect yourself until you (and your children) are out of danger.

Step 2: Safety when Preparing to Leave

Survivors of domestic violence frequently leave the residence they share with the battering partner. Leaving must be done strategically in order to increase safety. Batterers often strike back when they believe that their partner is leaving the relationship.

A. I can leave money and an extra set of keys with _____ so that I can leave quickly.

B. I can keep copies of important documents or keys and some extra clothes with _____.

C. I can open a savings account to increase my independence. (Preferably opened in a separate bank than the one you and your partner use jointly).

D. Other things I can do to increase my independence include _____.

E. The domestic violence program's hotline number is _____. I can keep change for phone calls with me at all times. I understand that if I use my telephone credit card, the following month's telephone bill will tell my batterer those numbers that I called after I left. To keep my telephone communications confidential, I can either use coins, or I might get a friend to permit me to use her telephone credit card for a limited time when I first leave.

F. I can check with _____ and _____ to see who would be able to let me stay with them or lend me money.

G. I can rehearse my escape plan and, as appropriate, practice it with my children.

Remember: If you tell your partner that you'll leave if he ever hits you again, think about whether you're giving the abuser permission to hit you "just one more time."

What I Need to Take When I Leave:

___Driver's license
___Children's birth certificates
___My birth certificate
___Money
___Power of Attorney documents
___Lease, rental agreement, house deed
___Mortgage payment book
___Bank books
___Check books
___Credit cards
___Insurance papers
___Keys – house/car/office
___Medications for me and my children
___Small saleable objects
___Address book
___Pictures
___Medical reports for all family members
___Social Security cards
___Welfare identification
___School records
___Work permits
___Green card
___Passport(s)
___Divorce papers
___Jewelry
___Children's favorite toys, books, and/or blankets
___Items of special sentimental value

Continued…

Step 3: Safety in my Own Residence

A. If my partner takes away or threatens to deprive me of essential medication or medical care, I can _____.

B. If my partner no longer lives with me, I can act to increase my safety and my children's safety at home.

1. I can change the locks on my doors and windows as soon as possible.
2. I can get an unlisted phone number.
3. I can install security systems including additional locks, window bars, poles to wedge against doors, an electronic system, etc.
4. I can install smoke detectors and purchase fire extinguishers for each floor in my home.
5. I can install outside sensor lighting that lights up when a person comes close to my home.

C. I can inform _____ and _____ and _____ that my partner no longer resides with me and she should call the police if she observed near my home.

D. I can teach my children to _____ when I am not available.

E. I can inform _____ and _____ and _____ about who has permission to pick up my children.

F. I can teach my children how to use the telephone to make a collect call to me and to _____ in the event that my partner abducts them.

Step 4: Safety with an Order for Protection

A. I can keep my Order for Protection _____. (Always keep it on or near your person. If you change clothes, purses, briefcases, etc., that is the first thing that should go in).

B. If my partner breaks the order, I can _____.

C. If the police are not responsive, I can _____.

D. I can inform _____ and _____ that I have an Order for Protection.

E. If my partner destroys my Order for Protection, I can get another copy from the County Court.

Step 5: Safety on the Job and in Public

A. If my partner threatens to "out" me at work or other important places, I can _____.

B. I can inform _____ and _____ and _____ at work of my situation.

C. I can use voice mail, the receptionist, or a co-worker to help screen my telephone calls at work.

D. When leaving work, I can _____.

E. If problems occur when I am driving home, I can _____.

F. If I use public transportation, I can _____.

Continued…

Step 6: Safety and Drug or Alcohol Consumption

The use of any alcohol or other drugs can reduce a survivor's awareness and ability. Furthermore, the batterer's use of alcohol or other drugs may give him an excuse to use violence.

A. If I am going to consume alcohol or other drugs, I can do so in a safe place with people who understand the risk of violence and are committed to my safety.

B. If my partner is consuming, I can _____.

The legal outcomes of using illegal drugs can be very hard on battered women, may hurt the relationship with her children and put the survivor at a disadvantage in other legal actions with the battering partner. Therefore, women should carefully consider the potential cost of the use of illegal drugs.

Step 7: Safety and Emotional Health

A. If I feel down, lonely, and ready to return to a potentially abusive situation, I can _____.

B. When I have to communicate with my partner in person or by telephone I can _____.

C. I can use positive self-talk with myself and be assertive with others. I can tell myself that I don't deserve to be beaten or abused whenever others are trying to control or abuse me.

D. I can call _____ and _____ and _____ as additional resources to support me.

E. I can read _____ , _____ , _____ to help me be more educated about domestic violence and to feel stronger.

I CAN KEEP THE ITEMS CONCERNING ME IN ONE LOCATION. IF I HAVE TO LEAVE IN A HURRY, I CAN GRAB THOSE ITEMS QUICKLY.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Police/Sheriff's department: _____

Shelter Programs, 24 – hour crisis lines: _____

Outreach Domestic Violence Programs: _____

Other: _____

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13 Ways You Can Help End Domestic Violence

1. Cultivate a respectful attitude toward women in your family and at your workplace. Avoid behaviors that demean or control women.

2. When you are angry with your partner or children, respond without hurting or humiliating them. Model a non-violent, respectful response to resolving conflicts in your family. Call a domestic violence or child abuse prevention program for their help if you continue to hurt members of your family.

3. If you have a friend or co-worker who is afraid of her partner or who is being hurt, offer her your support and refer them to the 24-hour, toll-free, National Domestic Violence Hotline number at 1-800-799-SAFE.

4. Learn about domestic violence services in your community. Contribute your time (volunteer!) resources, or money. Call 1-800-END-ABUSE to find out more.

5. Call the police if you see or hear violence in progress.

6. Talk to your friends and neighbors when they belittle women, make a joke about violence, or ignore a battered woman.

7. Ask your local government to collaborate with domestic violence programs to conduct a safety audit of your community.

8. Write to music producers, movie companies, Internet businesses, video games producers, and TV stations to speak out about violence against women.

9. Develop a women's safety campaign in your workplace, neighborhood, school or house of worship. Build a consensus among your colleagues and neighbors that abusive behavior and language is unacceptable.

10. Bring together your local domestic violence program staff, parents, teachers, students, and school administrators to start a discussion about developing a school-based curriculum on dating and family violence.

11. Ask that physicians and other health care professionals receive training about domestic violence and follow the diagnostic and treatment guidelines about domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse developed by the American Medical Association.

12. Co-sponsor a citizens' monitoring group with your local domestic violence program to insure that law enforcement officer, judges, and probation and parole personnel receive training about domestic violence and enforce the law.

13. Examine your own life for violence and oppressive behaviors. Try to live a violence-free life.

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Young Women Most Vulnerable to Domestic Violence

By Jennifer Loven, Associated Press
Pioneer Press, Monday, October 29th, 2001

Women in their high-school years to their mid-20s are nearly three times as vulnerable to attack by a husband, boyfriend, or former partner as those in other age groups, a Bureau of Justice Statistics study shows. Domestic violence victims between ages 35 and 49 are most likely to be killed, the Justice Department said, citing statistics from 1999.

Julie Fulcher, director of public policy for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, said her group's experience shows younger women are indeed at higher risk. She said their slightly older counterparts are probably more likely to die at the hands of a partner because they are more likely to live with their abusers, leaving them more exposed to their violence.

"We do know that domestic violence as a pattern of behavior tends to…escalate over time," Fulcher said. "Domestic violence doesn't generally begin on a first date. It begins with some controlling behaviors."

There were a total of 791,210 "intimate partner violence" victims in 1999. Eighty-five percent of the attacks were against women, including 1,218 murders, 91,470 rapes and sexual assaults, 65,970 robberies, 68,810 aggravated assaults and 444,860 simple assaults, the report said. The information on murders came from FBI data, which is based on reports made to 17,000 police agencies nationwide. All other statistics were gleaned from interviews with more than 650,000 people older than 12, adding data on the larger number of crimes that go unreported. The report defined "intimates" as current or former husbands or wives, boyfriends or girlfriends, or same-sex partners.

A little more than half of domestic violence crimes – against men and women – between 1993 and 1999 were committed by a current boyfriend or girlfriend, a third by a spouse and the rest by an ex-spouse. About 10 percent of domestic crimes against men and 2 percent of domestic crimes against women were committed by a partner of the same gender, the report found.

Overall, six women out of 1,000 were survivors of domestic violence in 1999, a 41 percent decrease since 1993, mirroring a nationwide crime drop over the decade. Sixteen of every 1,000 women between ages 16 and 24 were attacked by an intimate in 1999, the highest rate of any age group, the report said.

Eighty-one percent of all female survivors faced an unarmed offender, but half the attacks resulted in injury, the vast majority of them minor, the report said. Victimization rates were similar between racial groups, except black women between 20 and 24 years old tended to experience more attacks than white women.

Online: Justice Department Bureau of Justice Statistics: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: www.ncadv.org

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