

Battering is not just a one-time assault; it is a pattern of behavior initiated by the offender to control the victim.

- Every 13 seconds a woman is battered by someone who “loves her”.
- 85% of batterers learned this behavior in their own homes.
- Children who are raised in this environment are 1000 times more likely to be an abuser as an adult.
- 22% of officers are killed when responding to domestic disputes.
- 40 % receive some type of injury.

Emotional Violence/Abuse

This abuse is the glue that holds the other types of violence together. Many battered victims describe the emotional abuse as worse than the physical abuse because it never stops. It is the constant barrage of abuse -- name calling, asserting that the victim is crazy, or fat, or ugly, or a bad mother (or father), or no one else would want the victim -- that makes the victim feel inadequate and guilt-ridden. It is like being between a rock and a hard place. No matter what the victim does, the batterer will never be satisfied.

Of course, batterers cannot be arrested for emotional abuse -- but it is helpful to be aware of how emotional abuse is used to control the victim during those times when he (or she) is not physically or sexually abusive.

Property Damage

Batterers often destroy their victim's personal belongings. Their real message is, “I can do the same thing to you”. Watch for pet abuse as well. There is a strong correlation between pet abuse and domestic violence. In 1998, 71% of battered women in a shelter who owned a pet reported that their abusive male partners had threatened to harm or had actually harmed the family pet.

Physical Violence/Abuse

This violence includes all types, from a push to an aggravated assault. The law is clear; it is not OK to put a hand on another against his or her wishes.

Sexual Violence/Abuse

The victim is forced to have sex or to engage in types of sex that she (or he) doesn't want. Victims rarely volunteer this information. It is more prevalent than was formerly thought. Victims often do not consider themselves raped by someone, with who they have been previously intimate, even though they have been forced into sex.

Children:

- ✓ Children are present in 40-55% of homes where police intervene in domestic violence calls.
Capt. Dottie L. Davis, Davis Corporate Training, Inc., Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Annual Victim Conference, 2001
- ✓ 60% of murder victims aged 10 years or younger are killed by family members.
- ✓ 90% of children killed during a domestic violence incident are under age 10.
- ✓ 56% of children killed during a domestic violence incident are under age 2.
- ✓ 12% of children under age 15 are sexually abused.
Capt. Dottie L. Davis, Davis Corporate Training, Inc., Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Annual Victim Conference, 2001
- ✓ Fathers who batter mothers are 2 times more likely to seek sole physical custody of their children than are non-violent fathers.
Capt. Dottie L. Davis, Davis Corporate Training, Inc., Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Annual Victim Conference, 2001
- ✓ Nearly one in every three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner.
American Psychological Association
- ✓ Approximately four million American women experience a serious assault by an intimate partner during a 12-month period.
American Psychological Association

- ✓ In 1996, among all female murder victims in the US 30% were slain by their husbands or boyfriends.
Federal Bureau of Investigations, 1996
- ✓ 92% of all domestic violence incidents are crimes committed by men against women.
U.S. Dept. of Justice Statistics, 1994
- ✓ Each year it is estimated that over 3.3 million children are exposed to violence against their mothers or female caretakers by her partner.
Jaffe, Wolfe & Wilson, Children of Battered Women
- ✓ Between 50- 70% of men who abuse their partners also abuse their children.
U.S. Dept. of Justice
- ✓ 25% of pregnant women seeking prenatal care have been battered during pregnancy.
American Medical Association
- ✓ A child's exposure to his father abusing his mother is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.
Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence & The Family APA, 1996

Elderly:

- ✓ The U.S. has 44 million people age 60 or older, and 36 million people with disabilities.
- ✓ In the most recent year studied, Adult Protective Services completed 364,512 investigations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation involving older persons living at home (in private, non-institutional settings). Of these, an estimated 43% were confirmed.
- ✓ In the last decade, the number of domestic elder abuse reports investigated by Adult Protective Services across the nation has increased by more than 150%.
- ✓ Almost 62% percent of all cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of adults living at home involve mistreatment by other people and 38% involve self-neglect.
- ✓ Domestic elder abuse is a family problem – almost 90% of abusers were family members.
- ✓ Men were the abusers in over half of elder abuse cases.

Factors Inhibiting The Immigrant Domestic Violence Victim From Seeking Help

Power and Control Factors

- Did not know it was a crime
- Did not know system would protect them
- Did not know they could get support and still live with the abuser
- Language barrier; knowledge usually comes from the abuser
- Police/Courts are arm of repressive government
- Native woman's word not accepted in court

Religious and Cultural Factors

- Leaving home counter to beliefs of her role in home and family
- Women responsible for keeping family intact and suffering if necessary
- Extended family becomes nuclear family
- Family shuns her because she reports misdeeds by abuser
- Role in family and home is that of wife, mother, homemaker

Immigration Factors

- Perception of dependency on his status, OR victim is undocumented
- VAWA is unknown to them
- Call for help may result in abuser's deportation
- Jail for abuser ends support for family
- Family will hold the victim responsible for the deportation of the abuser by reporting