# Domestic Violence Action Center

SAFE FAMILIES ARE AT THE CORE OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

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# OUR VISION – Safe families are at the core of a healthy community!

For all women, children and men in our community to be safe and free from harm in their homes and relationships; with the freedom to make positive choices about their lives and the opportunity for stability and self-sufficiency

# Definition of **Domestic Violence**

- Domestic violence is a <u>pattern</u> of coercion and control that one person exerts over another
- Physical battering is only one method of control. Other tactics including threats, economic deprivation, psychological abuse (isolation, intimidation) – are part of the pattern
- Assaults between intimate partners can be situational or mutual. This is not the type of domestic violence that community programs commonly focus on

# Intimate Partner Violence

# "Intimate partner relationship" refers to:

- ✓ Spouses or people who are married
- ✓ People who are separated or divorced
- ✓ Former partners or lovers
- ✓ People who have a child in common
- ✓ People who live together or who have in the past
- ✓ People in a dating relationship or have been in the past
- ✓ <u>Heterosexual or same gender of all these relationships</u>

# Clarifying Types of Violence

Intimate Partner Violence: the patterned use of coercion, intimidation, and control to exert dominance and maintain power over an intimate partner

Resistance Violence: in response to domestic violence pattern of power and controlmay look like domestic violence but warrants further investigation

**Situational Violence**: no use of power and control

Pathological Violence: violence due to mental illness, drugs or alcohol abuse, but no use of power and control

## PHYSICAL VIOLENCE SEXUAL USING COERCION USING AND THREATS INTIMIDATION Making and/or carrying out threats Making her/him afraid by using to do something to hurt her/him looks, actions, gestures . threatening to leave her/him, smashing things • destroying to commit suicide, to report her/his property • abusing USING her/him to welfare . pets • displaying USING makingher/him drop weapons **ECONOMIC EMOTIONAL** charges • making her/him do ABUSE ABUSE illegal things Putting her/him down • making Preventing her/him from getting her/himfeel bad about or keeping a job . making her/him herself/himself • calling her/him ask for money • giving her/him an names | making her/him think she's/he's allowance • taking her/his money • not crazy playing mind games • humiliating letting her/him know about or have access **POWER** her/him making her feel guilty to family income AND CONTROL **USING MALE PRIVILEGE** USING ISOLATION Treating her/him like a servant • making all Controlling what she/he does, who she/he the big decisions . acting like the "master see and talks to, what she/he reads, where of the castle" . being the one to she/he goes • limiting her/his outside define men's and women's roles involvement • using jealousy to justify actions USING MINIMIZING, CHILDREN DENYING Making her/him feel guilty AND BLAMING about the children • using Making light of the abuse the children to relay messages and not taking her/his concerns using visitation to harass her/him about it seriously . saying the · threatening to take the abuse didn't happen • shifting children away responsibility for abusive behavior saying she/he caused it PHYSICAL VIOLENCE SEXUAL

# Myths and Misconceptions Prevail

Domestic violence occurs in certain types of families – low income, undereducated, unemployed, substance abusing...

Domestic Violence is a loss of control

Stress causes "battering" (pandemic - people experienced great deal of stress)

Domestic violence occurs in Low Income, Uneducated, Unemployed...

It isn't "real" unless a police report was made

If there weren't any injuries or blood, is it domestic abuse?

Two parent families are best, for children

Domestic Violence doesn't hurt children

Men are abused as much as women

Misuse of the process/false reporting

# MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT

# **VICTIMS**

- Leaving is the answer
- Victims were abused as children
  - Some victims like violence/drama
- Victims lie about abuse

# **ABUSERS**

- Abusers can't control their anger
- Stress, Alcohol, Drugs causes them to abuse
  - Abusers are mentally ill
  - You can tell an abuser by looking at them





TACTICS AND TYPES OF ABUSE

## Coercion and Threats

Arousing fear that everyone will die Focusing obsessively on COVID-19 Threatening to expose loved ones Forcing exposure on others

## **Economic Abuse**

Refusing to let partner work outside home Filing false COVID-19 reports Excessive COVID-19 spending Threatening to evict



## Intimidation

Demeaning social distancing efforts Exploiting fears and vulnerabilities Posting false social media reports Contaminating things



## **Emotional Abuse**

Lying about COVID-19 test results Defying public health directives Exposing family to COVID-19 Preying on fear of contagion Faking symptoms



## Male Privilege

Disrupting routines Keeping food or supplies to self Violating others' personal space Taking up all the work and study space



# Minimizing, Denying, and Blaming

Denying the pandemic Normalizing extreme control Using COVID-19 as an excuse Blaming victim for exposing family



# **Using Children**

Exposing children Declining to return children Refusing to provide care for kids Seeking COVID-19-based modifications to custody order



## Isolation

Monitoring activity Disabling internet / phone services Regulating internet and phone access Keeping victim from caring for family







DVAC has secured funding to operate a 24-hour Chat (www.domesticviolenceactioncenter.org) and a Text hotline (605-956-5680) that will allow our survivors to text and chat beyond normal business hours. Our 24-hr Chat and Text lines will provide immediate access to a live person who can support their needs at times of the call.

**APRIL** 2020 **2021 HELPLINE CALLS 179** 248 **SAFETY PLANS** 544 848 **CLIENT CONTACTS** 2017 2440

Current data being compiled and compared demonstrates increasing need for specialized services



# www.domesticviolenceactioncenter.org #itsgonnatakeallofus