



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 pattern 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
- ✓ Heterosexual or same gender of all these relationships

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 control—may 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



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*

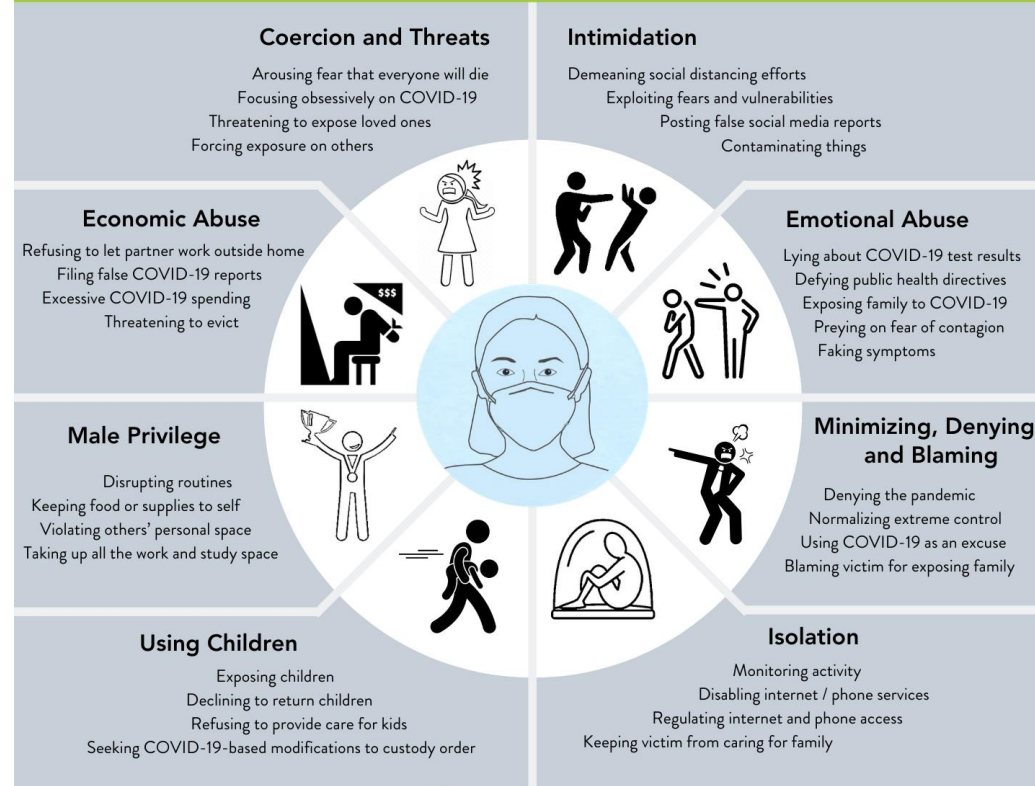
ABUSERS

- *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*



DV DURING COVID-19

TACTICS AND TYPES OF ABUSE



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