DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a violent crime committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner (or someone similarly situated) or any other person against a victim who is protected from that person’s acts under state domestic or family violence laws.

FACT

According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2010 Summary Report, more than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the U.S. will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

FACT

On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls, approximately 15 calls every minute.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of domestic violence/abuse can be occurring at any one time within the same relationship.

WHY DO PEOPLE ABUSE?

Domestic violence and abuse stem from a desire to gain and maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abusive people believe they have the right to control and restrict their partners, and they may enjoy the feeling that exerting power gives them. Abuse is a choice, and it’s not one that anyone has to make. While outside forces such as drug or alcohol addiction can sometimes escalate abuse, it’s most important to recognize that these issues do not cause abuse. No matter why it happens, abuse is not okay and it’s never justified.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

rainn.org
domesticshelters.org
wadvocates.org
newhopeforwomen.org
thehotline.org
helpguide.org
ncadv.org

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