



What is domestic violence

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is abuse of any kind that occurs in the home between intimate partners. Intimate partners include current or former spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, etc.

The abuse can be physical, emotional or sexual. Physical abuse may involve pushing, slapping, punching, kicking, the use of a weapon, or any type of force that causes pain or injury. Emotional abuse is threats of harm to a partner or to the partner's family, friends, pet or possessions, such as:

- Deprivation of money, sleep, or affection

- Harassment at work or at home
- Insults or other verbal abuse, any pattern of behavior that causes emotional pain

Sexual abuse can take place in the form of rape or any unwanted sexual mistreatment.

Who are the Victims of Domestic Violence?

According to the Center for Disease Control, each year from 1992 to 1996, an average of eight in 1,000 women and one in 1,000 men age 12 or older in the United States were victims of violence perpetrated by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.

Women are reportedly more often the victims of intimate partner violence. Yet it is important to note that men can also be victims of violence perpetrated by their intimate partner. It should also be acknowledged that children who live in a household where such abuse is taking place are also victims of the abuse, even if they are not physically harmed by it. A child can suffer long term emotional damage as a result of watching one parent abuse the other.

How Can I Have an Impact on Ending Domestic Violence?

- Be aware of the warning signs that abuse is taking place
- Be willing and able to confront the issue
- Be willing to help a person who is being abused by a domestic partner