

*Ending violence
is everybody's
business.....*

▶ Domestic Violence thrives because of the *lack* of public awareness and community response to the problem of domestic violence, as well a *lack* of acknowledgment and desire for change. Most of our social structures and institutions are based on a patriarchal system that dictates that men, by virtue of their gender, are entitled to control women and children.

End the Silence!



The Wyoming Division of
Victim Services
122 W. 25th, Herschler Bldg
1st Floor West
Cheyenne, WY. 82002
Phone: 307-777-7200
Fax: 307-777-6683
Web Site:
<http://victimservices.wyoming.gov>
VINE 1-866-WY-4-VINE

*What you
should know
about
domestic
violence*

▶ **Wyoming Office
of the
Attorney General**

**Division of Victim
Services**

***“Speaking as One
Voice for Crime
Victims”***

Information for employers & human service providers.

Q. *What is domestic violence?*

A. Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent behavior exercised by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It is *not* “marital conflict,” “mutual abuse,” “a lovers quarrel,” or “a private family matter.” It may consist of repeated, severe beatings, or more subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control.

Q. *Who are the victims of domestic violence?*

A. Statistics reflect that 95% of domestic violence victims are women, although men and children may also be victims.

Q. *How prevalent is domestic violence?*

A. Surveys indicate that domestic violence occurs in 28% of all marriages. Researchers believe this estimate is too low since most domestic violence incidents are unreported.

Q. *What are the four basic types of domestic violence?*

A. Physical Assault

Includes shoving, pushing, restraining, hitting or kicking. Physical assaults may occur frequently or infrequently, but in many cases they tend to escalate in severity and frequency over time.

Sexual Assault

Any time one partner forces sexual acts which are unwanted or declined by the other partner.

Psychological Assault

Includes isolation from family and friends, forced financial dependence, verbal and emotional abuse, threats, intimidation, and control over where the partner can go and what they can do.

Attacks Against Property and Pets

Destruction of property which may include household objects or treasured objects belonging to the victim, hitting the walls, or abusing or killing beloved pets.

Q. *How do I know if someone is a victim of domestic violence?*

A. Women who are being battered are as different from each other as non-battered women. They come from all walks of life, all races, and all educational backgrounds. Any experiencing any of the patterns of abuse listed is a victim of domestic violence.

Q. *Why does she stay?*

A. She stays because she is terrified that he will become more violent if she leaves, that he will take the children, that she can't make it on her own.

Q. *What can I do to be helpful if an abusive situation is revealed?*

- Listen to the women and believe her. Tell her the abuse is not her fault.
- Tell her she is not alone and that help is available.
- Seek expert assistance. Refer her only to specialized domestic violence counseling programs, not to couples counseling. Help her find a shelter, a safe home or advocacy resource which is available in every county in Wyoming. To suggest that she merely return home places her and her children in real danger.
- If she chooses to remain in the situation for now, encourage her to set up a safety plan of action (for example, hide a car key and money in a safe place, locate somewhere to go in case of emergency).

Q. *What can I do if I suspect someone is a batterer?*

A. Hold the abuser accountable. Don't minimize his abusive behavior. Support him in seeking specialized batterers

Stop asking ...

“Why does she stay?”

Ask...

“Why does he hit?”

.....