# KNOW MORE ABOUT

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

# THE FACTS

Domestic violence & sexual assault are all too prevalent in our society:

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men report experiencing violence from their partners in their lifetimes.
- About 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men in the United States experienced some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime.
- Nearly 23 million women and 1.7 million men have been the victims of completed or attempted rape at some point in their life.
- 1 in 15 children are exposed to domestic violence every year. 90 percent of these children are eyewitnesses to the abuse.
- Women are 16 times more likely to be killed with guns in the U.S. than in other developed countries.
- The majority of mass shootings 54% of cases - are related to domestic or family violence.

## A SILENT EPIDEMIC

Domestic violence and sexual assault occurs across all populations – regardless of gender identity, race, age, class, socio-economic or educational status, sexual orientation, religion or disability.

No one is immune: each year, 12.7 million people are physically abused, raped or stalked by their partners – 24 people every minute. Moreover, the health, social and economic impacts extend to families, communities and society as a whole.

### KNOW MORE

Silence and lack of knowledge about domestic violence and sexual assault play a large part in why they persist. We have to start talking openly about these issues to help remove the shame and stigma they carry.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A pattern of abusive and threatening actions used to exert power and control over an intimate dating partner or spouse. Domestic violence includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, stalking, emotional and psychological abuse, and financial control. It may also include:

- Physical abuse or the threat of abuse of the victim, children, or pets
- Rigidly controlling finances or withholding money
- Sabotaging a partner's job by making them miss work, constantly calling them at work, showing up uninvited, etc.
- Verbal insults that humiliate a partner
- Threatening to out a partner's sexual orientation
- Telling a partner who he/she can or can't hang out with, be Facebook friends with, or text
- Stealing or insisting on having a partner's Internet or bank passwords
- Isolating a partner from family and friends

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

Any unwanted sexual activity without consent, including rape, incest, sexual harassment, and molestation. Consent is the presence of a clear yes (not the absence of a no). Sexual assault perpetrators are motivated by the need to control, humiliate, and harm their victims.

Sexual assault can also involve exposing or flashing oneself in person, sending unsolicited, explicit pictures, forcing a sexual partner to have unprotected sex and engaging in any sexual activity with someone who is incapacitated by drugs or alcohol and incapable of giving consent.

**PHYSICAL** 

slapping, restraining,

strangling, or using the

threat of physical

violence to intimidate

(i.e. blocking exits,

pulling out a gun, driving

too fast)

**ECONOMIC** 

Controlling a person's income

or financial resources, misusing

a partner's credit or making it

difficult for a partner get or

maintain a job, not allowing a

partner to work or spend

money without permission.

Did you know that 90% of people in the U.S. fail to define repeated emotional, verbal, sexual abuse and patterns of domestic violence and abuse?

## HOW TO HELP

Everyone can play an active role in stopping domestic violence and sexual assault before it occurs by helping to establish an environment where healthy and positive relationships are based on respect, safety, and equality.

Taking steps to stop harassment or violence can make a significant difference in someone's life, and send a powerful message to society that violence is not acceptable.

#### RESOURCES

**National Domestic Violence Hotline** 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) www.ndvh.org

**National Sexual Assault Hotline** 1-800-656-4673 (HOPE) www.rainn.org

1in6 Online SupportLine for adult male survivors www.lin6.org

## **SEXUAL**

Pressuring or forcing a partner to have sex, using guilt or threats for sex, forcing a partner to engage in unprotected sex, get pregnant or receive an abortion, forcing a partner to watch or participate in Pushing, hitting, kicking,

unwanted sexual acts (i.e. inviting a friend to grope their partner)

# FORMS OF **ABUSE**

#### VERBAL

Yelling, using abusive language, swearing, constant arguing, aggressive interrupting, using loud and threatening verbal assaults to cause fear

#### **EMOTIONAL**

Constant criticism, name calling, using coercion or threats, constantly being jealous and possessive, controlling how their partner dresses, violating a partner's privacy by checking messages, email, social media accounts

#### **PSYCHOLOGICAL**

Denying or making light of abuse, making a partner think they're crazy or irrational for being upset by abusive tactics, shifting responsibility for abusive behavior by making partner feel like he or she caused the behavior



#### Resources

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf

Department of Justice, "Children's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Other Family Violence," 2011 https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/232272.pdf

Grinshteyn, E., & Hemenway, D. (2016). Violent death rates: the US compared with other high-income OECD countries, 2010. The American journal of medicine, 129(3), 266-273

Everytown. (2017). "Mass Shootings in the United States: 2009-2016," https://everytownresearch.org/reports/mass-shootings-analysis/

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs\_report2010-a.pdf

Liz Claiborne. (2006). Retrieved from http://www.ncdsv.org/images/New%20Poll%20Reveals%20Two%20in%20Three%20Ame ricans%20say%20it%20is%20Hard%20to.pdf