
HELP IS AVAILABLE...

The following are some general options that may be available to victims of domestic violence in the state of Nevada:

Advocacy and direct services. There are a variety of domestic violence programs around the state whose staff and volunteers can provide emotional support, as well as help for victims in obtaining necessary legal, counseling, and social services. Many of these programs have shelter services available, and may also hold support groups for victims of abuse. To find out about domestic violence programs in your area, call the ***Nevada Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline*** at ***1-800-500-1556***.

Legal protection. Nevada has a *mandatory arrest law* (NRS 171.137) which states that "whether or not a warrant has been issued, a police officer shall, unless mitigating circumstances exist, arrest a person when he has probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has, within the preceding 24 hours, committed a battery upon his spouse, former spouse, a person to whom he is related by blood, a person with whom he is or was actually residing, a person with whom he has had or is having a dating relationship, or with whom he has a child in common." Anyone arrested under this statute will be held in custody, even if bail is met, for a minimum of 12 hours.

Victims may also wish to get an *order of protection* (a court order that the abuser stop hurting, harassing, and threatening the victim), which can be obtained, without a lawyer, in a Family or District Court. Temporary orders last for up to 30 days, and extended orders last for up to one year. Violation of the terms of an order is a misdemeanor and arrest is mandated by law.

If you need help,
please call:

National Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

Se habla Español

The Phone Number for the
Domestic Violence Program
in your area is:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:



A Major HEALTH THREAT to Women



**Nevada Network Against
Domestic Violence**
220 S. Rock Blvd., Ste. 7
Reno, NV 89502
Voice/TTY (775) 828-1115
Fax (775) 828-9911
www.nnadv.org

THE FACTS...

- Estimates range from 691,710 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend per year¹ to three million women who are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend per year.²
- In 2001, about 85 percent of victimizations by intimate partners were against women and 15 percent of victimizations were against men.³
- The costs of intimate partner violence exceed \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health care services.⁴
- Each year, about 324,000 pregnant women in this country are battered by their intimate partners.⁵ Homicide is a leading cause of death for pregnant and postpartum women in the United States, accounting for 31 percent of maternal injury deaths.⁶
- A recent study found that 44 percent of victims of domestic violence talked to someone about the abuse; 37 percent of those women talked to their health care provider.⁷

¹ Rennison, C.M. & Welchans, S. 2003. *Intimate Partner Violence 1993-2001*. U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics. Washington, DC. www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ipv01.htm.

² *Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health*. 1999. The Commonwealth Fund. New York.

³ Rennison, C.M. & Welchans, S. 2003. *Intimate Partner Violence 1993-2001*. U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics. Washington, DC. www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ipv01.htm.

⁴ *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. 2003. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA. www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/ipv_cost/IPVBook-Final-Feb18.pdf.

⁵ Gazmararian, JA; et al. 2000. "Violence and Reproductive Health; Current Knowledge and Future Research Directions."

Maternal and Child Health Journal. 4(2):79-84.

⁶ Chang, J., Berg, C., Saltzman, L., and Herndon, J. 2005. Homicide: A Leading Cause of Injury Deaths Among Pregnant and Postpartum Women in the United States, 1991-1999.

American Journal of Public Health. 95(3):471-477.

⁷ The Dorchester Community Roundtable Coordinated Community Response to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence. 2003. RMC Research Corporation. Portsmouth, NH.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

IS VERBAL, SEXUAL, EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS OR INTIMATE PARTNERS

Physical abuse is the most visible type of domestic violence, but it is only part of the story. Verbal and sexual abuse are often considered the most permanently damaging, and verbal abuse is the most prevalent form of domestic violence. The battered woman's fear of serious injury or death for herself or her family and her fear of being unable to support her family economically continue to trap women in extremely violent and dangerous situations, particularly when children are involved.

If You Are Being Battered... help is available. There are people in your community that you can turn to for support and assistance. **You are not alone.**

No one deserves to be beaten or hurt. You did not make the other person hurt you. Violence is a choice. You cannot make him/her stop using violence, only they can do that. However, you can prevent the violence from hurting you. If it is dangerous for you to live at home, shelters for battered women can provide safety for you and your children. Courts can

provide help with an Order for Protection against domestic violence. You may also call the police - domestic violence is a crime.

If Someone You Know Is Being Beaten... you can help. Listen to what she says and believe her story no matter how strange or awful it may sound. Respect the danger of her situation and keep what she says confidential. Let her know that she is not the cause of the violence and that she does have choices. Allow her to find her own answers and to make decisions that are right for her. Support her during this time even if you do not agree with the choices she makes. Provide her with information about her alternatives. They may save her life.

Do not give up on her or stop giving her support. If you feel angry with her or are scared by the continuing abuse, don't blame her for what's happened or stop caring about what happens to her. Talk to someone else about your feelings. Like her, you need support too!

HEALTH EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OVER TIME ON...

Women: Mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) • Chronic neck, back and/or pelvic pain • Gastrointestinal problems, such as irritable bowel syndrome, indigestion, diarrhea or constipation • Arthritis • Migraine or other types of headache • Increased alcohol or drug abuse • Physical injuries, disfigurement, even death

Children: Symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), such as eating disorders, anxiety, fatigue, or withdrawal • Depression • Trouble sleeping, nightmares • Headaches, stomachaches, nausea • Greater risk of alcohol/drug abuse, teen pregnancy • Physical injuries, disfigurement, even death

Nevada Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-500-1556