

## What Is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any intimate relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over the other partner. Domestic violence can involve physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions. Several types of abusive behaviors may occur together and can continue even after one partner has ended the relationship. Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence regardless of age, gender, economic status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or education. Domestic violence is never the victim's fault. It's important for victims to know that they are not alone.

## Domestic Violence in Idaho

- Each day in Idaho more than 638 victims of domestic violence and their children seek safety and services from community-based domestic violence programs.<sup>1</sup>
- Nationally, one in four women will experience domestic violence over her lifetime.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2011, there were 18 domestic violence related fatalities in Idaho – *even one is too many!*
- In 2011, the Idaho State Police reported 5,715 incidents of violence between spouses, ex-spouses, and those in dating relationships.<sup>3</sup> One *reported* violent incident every 88 minutes.
- In 2011, Idaho courts received 4,675 petitions for domestic violence civil protection orders. That is one civil protection order for every 340 people.<sup>4</sup>

## One is Too Many: Connect to End Domestic Violence

Join us. Be a part of the solution. Individuals need to reach out to family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors who are in abusive relationships and encourage them to get help for themselves and their children. Criminal justice, health care, educational, governmental, and community-based systems need to work more closely together to enhance safety for victims and their children and to hold offenders accountable.

## Idaho Risk Assessment of Dangerousness

While there is no way to predict an abusive partner's behavior, the following factors are warning signs of increased dangerousness in the relationship, with lethality factors in red:

1. History of Domestic Violence – **forced sex or strangulation**
2. Prior police contact of offender
3. Threats to Kill Victim or Children by offender
4. Threats of Suicide by offender
5. Separation – **recent separation**
6. Coercive/Controlling Behavior – **extreme possessiveness**
7. Alcohol or Drug Abuse

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1 (800) 799-7233 / 1(800) 787-3224 (TTY)

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence [www.engagingvoices.org](http://www.engagingvoices.org)

<sup>1</sup> National Network to End Domestic Violence. (2011). *Census: '11 Domestic violence counts – Idaho summary*. Retrieved from [http://innedv.org/docs/Census/DVCounts2011/DVCounts11\\_StateSummary\\_ID.pdf](http://innedv.org/docs/Census/DVCounts2011/DVCounts11_StateSummary_ID.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Black, M., et al., (2012). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report. Atlanta, GA: *National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.

<sup>3</sup> Idaho State Police (2011). Crime in Idaho: Crimes against persons. Retrieved from <http://www.isp.idaho.gov/BCI/CrimeInIdaho2011/Crimes%20Against%20Persons.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Idaho State Police, & the Idaho Statistical Analysis Center. (2011). *Domestic violence in Idaho: A compilation of court filings and police reported incidents – 2005-2010*. Retrieved from <http://www.idahoperinatal.org/documents/Intimate-Partner-Violence-2010.pdf>.