

Who Can? You Can. Stop Domestic Violence



RESOURCE SHEET

from the Kaua'i Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force

WHY IT MATTERS

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetuated by one intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.

CHILDREN WHO WITNESS

- Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.
- Boys who witness domestic violence are *twice as likely* to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.
- 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.

HOMICIDE AND INJURY

- Almost **one-third of female homicide victims** reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner.
- In 70-80% of intimate partner homicides, no matter which partner was killed, the man physically abused the woman before the murder.
- Less than one-fifth of victims reporting an injury from intimate partner violence sought medical treatment following the injury.
- Intimate partner violence results in more than **18.5 million mental health care visits** each year.

FAMILY SAFETY & SUPPORT RESOURCES

YWCA Domestic Violence Crisis Line 245-6362

YWCA Sexual Assault Crisis Line 245-4144

YWCA Alternatives to Violence Program 245-5959

Access (Suicide/Crisis Intervention)
1-800-753-6879

Mental Health Kokua 632-0466

Child Welfare Services 1-800-494-3991

Adult Protective Services 241-4470

Prosecuting Attorney's office 241-1888

Victim Witness 241-1898

Women In Need 245-1996

Legal Aid 245-7580 / 245-4728

Family Court 482-2300

Immigration 1-800-375-5283

VINE (for notice of convicted offender's release)

1-877-846-3444

WEB SITES:

www.hscadv.org

www.ncdsv.org

www.endabuse.org

www.nnedv.org

www.stopfamilyviolence.org

www.ncadv.org

www.saiv.net

www.loveisnotabuse.org

www.ywcakauai.org

HOW TO HELP

Offer Support to a Victim of Domestic Violence with these supportive words:

1. "I'm afraid for your safety."
2. "I'm afraid for your children's safety."
3. "It will only get worse."
4. "I'm here for you when you are ready for change."
5. "No one deserves to be abused."

APPROACH, ACKNOWLEDGE, ASK AND LISTEN

- Approach the subject in a non-blaming way. Tell her she is not alone and that she is courageous to talk about her experience.
- Acknowledge that it is scary and difficult to talk about domestic violence.
- Ask instead of telling and don't tell her what to do. "I have plenty of time, whatever you want to talk about I'm here for you." ... "What would you like to happen?"... "What is it like for you?"... "What do you need?"
- Listen instead of talking ... "I won't tell anybody what you tell me, unless you want me to or we decide it would be helpful."
- Be an active listener by responding to her – but avoid anger, disappointment or judgments.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN TALKING WITH A VICTIM

- Believe the victim.
- Respect her choices.
- Empathize with her emotional strain, stress and disappointment.
- Acknowledge the difficulty of her situation.
- React to what she tells you with compassion.
- Be prepared for anything – a short, unrevealing answer or the flood gates opening. She could deny she needs help or recite a full-blown list of immediate needs.
- Take it slow and break it down into manageable steps.
- Try again if she's reluctant to or won't confide in you.

5 THINGS TO SAY TO AN OFFENDER

1. "I'm afraid for your partner's safety."
2. "I'm afraid for your children's safety."
3. "It will only get worse."
4. "I'm here for you when you are ready for change."
5. "No one, including you, has the right to abuse another."

For more information about the Kaua`i Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force,
Email dvtaskforce@ywcakauai.org or call coordinator, Linda Pizzitola at 245-5959 x 244