



Dating & Domestic Violence

Dating/domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Dating/domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Dating/domestic violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, or dating.

Dating/domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing violence, are among those seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life - therefore, increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers.

Types of Abuse in Relationships ¹²³

- **Dating violence:** Dating violence involves an assault, attack or aggressive behavior by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of romantic or intimate nature with the survivor. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (a) the length of the relationship, (b) the type of relationship, and (c) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
 - Dating violence is characterized by pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Dating violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.
- **Domestic Violence:** Domestic violence occurs when a person uses physical aggression, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation, stalking, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, or economic abuse to gain or maintain power and control over another person in a domestic or romantic relationship. This includes but is not limited to any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone. Domestic violence can be a single act or a pattern of behavior in relationships which could

¹ <https://www.womenslaw.org/>

² <https://victimsofcrime.org/>

³ <https://www.justice.gov/ovw>



include individuals who are currently or formerly married or in a domestic partnership, currently or formerly dating, currently or formerly living together, currently or formerly in a caregiver relationship, have a child in common, or are a family member.

- **Physical Abuse:** Hitting, slapping, shoving, grabbing, pinching, biting, hair pulling, etc are types of physical abuse. This type of abuse also includes denying a partner medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use upon him or her.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact or behavior without consent. Sexual abuse includes, but is certainly not limited to, marital rape, attacks on sexual parts of the body, forcing sex after physical violence has occurred, taking and/or distributing sexual pictures/videos without consent, or treating one in a sexually demeaning manner.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Undermining an individual's sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem is abusive. This may include, but is not limited to constant criticism, diminishing one's abilities, name-calling, or damaging one's relationship with his or her children.
- **Economic Abuse:** Is defined as making or attempting to make an individual financially dependent by maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding one's access to money, or forbidding one's attendance at school or employment.
- **Psychological Abuse:** Elements of psychological abuse include - but are not limited to - causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends; destruction of pets and property; and forcing isolation from family, friends, or school and/or work.
- **Abuse through Technology:** Elements of emotional, psychological, and sexual abuse can occur through texting, messaging, and calling. Additionally, publicly shaming or ridiculing can occur by posting images or content online where someone's friends, family, or the public can see.



Warning signs of an abusive relationship:

You may be in an abusive relationship if your partner does any of the following:

- Checks your cell phone or email without your permission
- Constantly puts you down
- Extreme jealousy or insecurity
- Explosive temper
- Isolating you from family or friends
- Makes false accusations about you
- Mood swings
- Physically hurts in you in any way
- Possessive of you and your time
- Tells you what to do
- Controls how you spend your money
- Controls how you spend your time

Why do people stay in abusive relationships? ⁴

Please bear in mind that this is not a comprehensive list; there are many reasons why someone might stay in an abusive relationship.

- Fear of what will happen if you leave
- Belief that the abusive behavior is normal
- Not recognizing the abusive behavior
- Embarrassment
- Fear that you will never find anyone else
- Love for the abusive partner
- Cultural/religious reasons
- Pregnancy/co-parenting
- The abusive partner controls the finances
- Pets and or children to consider

⁴ <http://www.loveisrespect.org/is-this-abuse/why-do-people-stay/>



Resources for Dating and Domestic Violence

| <u>Groups Served</u> | <u>Name of Organization</u> | <u>Phone Number</u> | <u>Website</u> | <u>Help Provided</u> |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Survivors of Dating Violence | Love Is Respect | 1-866-331-9474 | loveisrespect.org | How to help someone Resources for yourself Resources for healthy relationships Legal resources |
| Survivors of Dating Violence | Break the Cycle | 202-824-0707 | www.breakthecycle.org | |
| Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence (local) | The Women's Center – Waukesha | 262-542-3828 (Crisis) 888-542-3828 (Toll-Free) | www.twcwaukesha.org | Resources and safe housing |
| Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence (local) | Sojourner Family Peace Center(Milwaukee) | 414-933-2722 (24-hour DV hotline) | familypeacecenter.org | Resources and safe housing |
| Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence (local) | End Domestic Abuse WI | | www.endabusewi.org/ | |
| Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence (National) | The National Domestic Violence Hotline | 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) | www.ndvh.org | |



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| Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence (National) | National Center for Victims of Crime | 1-202-467-8700 | www.victimsofcrime.org | |
| Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence (National) | National Resource Center on Domestic Violence | 1-800-537-2238 | www.nrcdv.org and www.vawnet.org | |
| Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence (National) | Futures Without Violence: The National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence | 1-888-792-2873 | www.futureswithoutviolence.org | |
| Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence (National) | National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health | 1-312-726-7020 ext. 2011 | www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org | |
| For Women of Color: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | Women of Color Network | 1-800-537-2238 | www.wocninc.org | |
| For Women of Color: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence | | incite.natl@gmail.com www.incite-national.org | |
| For Latina/x/o: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | Alianza | 1-505-753-3334 | www.dvalianza.org | |



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| For Latina/x/o: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | Casa de Esperanza | Linea de crisis 24-horas/24-hour crisis line 1-651-772-1611 | www.casadeesperanza.org | |
| For Latina/x/o: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities | 1-651-646-5553 | www.nationallatinonetwork.org | |
| For Immigrants: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | The National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project | (202) 274-4457 | www.niwap.org/ | |
| For African American: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community | 1-877-643-8222 | www.dvinstitute.org | |
| For African American: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | The Black Church and Domestic Violence Institute | 1-770-909-0715 | www.bcdvi.org | |
| For LGBTQ+: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | The Audre Lorde Project | 1-178-596-0342 | www.alp.org | |
| For LGBTQ+: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | LAMBDA GLBT Community Services | 1-206-350-4283 | www.qrd.org/qrd/www/orgs/avproject/main.htm | |



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| For LGBTQ+: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs | 1-212-714-1184 | www.ncavp.org | |
| For LGBTQ+: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | National Gay and Lesbian Task Force | 1-202-393-5177 | www.nglftf.org | |
| For LGBTQ+: Survivors of Dating and Domestic Violence | Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse | 1-206-568-7777 | www.nwnetwork.org | |
| For Men | A Call to Men | 1-917-922-6738 | www.acalltomen.org | |
| For Men | Men Can Stop Rape | 1-202-265-6530 | www.mencanstoprape.org | |
| Legal Assistance | American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence | 1-202-662-1000 | www.abanet.org/domviol | |
| Legal Assistance | Battered Women's Justice Project | 1-800-903-0111 | www.bwjp.org | |
| For Abusers: Batterer Intervention (Local) | New Thresholds Center for Prevention of Violence | 262-547-5567 | herman.gates@va.gov | Treatment for abusers |
| For Abusers: Batterer Intervention (Local) | Family Services of Waukesha County | 262-547-5567 | swhitehead@fswaukesha.org | Treatment for abusers |