

Education Update

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence: Did You Know?

- ◆ 1 out of every 4 women who enters the health care system is a victim of domestic violence.
- ◆ Almost 25% of pregnant women seeking prenatal care have been battered during pregnancy.
- ◆ Children living in homes where a mother is abused are more likely to be abused.
- ◆ Domestic violence affects people who are married, divorced, living together, dating, and adults from all social, economic, racial, religious, sexual and ethnic groups.
- ◆ Fewer than 1 in 10 cases of domestic violence are reported.



If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to your immediate supervisor or contact the Social Work Department.

Warning Signs of Domestic Violence:

- ◆ Injury to the face, neck, torso, breasts, abdomen or genitals.
- ◆ Bilateral or multiple injuries.
- ◆ Delay between onset of injury and seeking treatment.
- ◆ Explanation by the patient which is inconsistent with the injury.
- ◆ Any injury during pregnancy, especially to the abdomen or breasts.
- ◆ Prior history of trauma
- ◆ Chronic pain symptoms for which no cause is apparent.
- ◆ Psychological distress...depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, sleep disorders.
- ◆ A partner who seems overly protective...who will not leave the victim's side.

Types of Domestic Violence:

Physical

- ◆ Hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking, punching, human bite marks
- ◆ 1/3 of domestic violence assaults involve the use of a weapon: Gun, knife, belt, rope, chain, bat, frying pan etc.

Sexual

- ◆ Unwanted, forced sexual activity

Psychological

- ◆ Stalking, isolation, over-protectiveness, jealousy, threats

Emotional

- ◆ Put-downs...of partner, mother, employee roles, name-calling, humiliation

Financial

- ◆ Access denied to bank accounts, credit cards
- ◆ Access denied to personal property...car.