

## 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. Domestic violence is fueled by multiple, intersecting systemic oppressions and disproportionately affects women, girls and individuals who are gender non-conforming.

## Domestic Violence in Idaho

- Each day in Idaho more than 559 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 2016, there were 10 domestic violence related fatalities in Idaho. As of August 29, 2017 there have been 15 domestic violence related fatalities.
- In 2016, the Idaho State Police reported 6,084 incidents of violence between spouses, ex-spouses, and those in dating relationships.<sup>3</sup>
- The recent Idaho Needs Assessment highlights the need to develop services for underserved populations, identifying a lack of “services to underserved, vulnerable, and marginalized populations,” as a significant gap and stated that, “the need for and lack of access to services, and culturally sensitive services becomes more important amid survey data indicating that some victims have been denied access to services.”<sup>4</sup>

## Join the Movement 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. Community-based agencies, health care, educational, and governmental systems need to work more closely together to enhance safety for victims and their children and to create a world where everyone has the ability to thrive and reach their full potential.

## 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; 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. (2016). Census: '16 Domestic violence counts – Idaho summary. Retrieved from <http://nnev.org/docs/Census/DVCounts2016/D/Idaho.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 (2014). Crime in Idaho: Crimes against persons. Retrieved from <https://www.isp.idaho.gov/BCI/CrimeInIdaho/CrimeInIdaho2016/Crimes%20Against%20Persons.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Bostaph, King, Gillespie, and Goodson (2015). Crime Victims in Idaho: An Assessment of Needs and Services. Boise State University School of Public Service, Department of Criminal Justice.