



Did You Know?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE



Oct 2012

October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month and Red Ribbon Week.



Did You Know

- Regular alcohol abuse is one of the leading risk factors for intimate partner violence.
- A battering incident that is coupled with alcohol abuse may be more severe and result in greater injury.
- Alcoholic women are more likely to report a history of childhood physical and emotional abuse than are nonalcoholic women.
- Domestic violence and drug and alcohol addiction frequently occur together.
- Alcoholism treatment does not "cure" abusive behavior.
- Women who have been abused are fifteen times more likely to abuse alcohol and nine times more likely to abuse drugs than women who have not been abused.
- 51% of domestic violence program directors agree that a woman's use of alcohol can be a barrier to leaving a violent relationship.
- 87% of domestic violence program directors agree that the risk of intimate partner violence increases when both partners abuse alcohol or drugs.

WHY IT MATTERS

While substance abuse does not cause domestic violence, there is a statistical correlation between the two issues. Studies of domestic violence frequently indicate high rates of alcohol and other drug use by perpetrators during abuse. Not only do batterers tend to abuse drugs and alcohol, but domestic violence also increases the probability that victims will use alcohol and drugs to cope with abuse. The issues of domestic violence and substance abuse can interact with and exacerbate each other.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND BATTERERS

- The U.S. Department of Justice found that 61% of domestic violence offenders also have substance abuse problems.
- Batterers living with women who have alcohol abuse problems often try to justify their violence as a way to control their victims when they are drunk.
- Men who batter frequently use alcohol abuse as an excuse for their violence. They attempt to rid themselves of responsibility for their violence by blaming it on the effects of alcohol.
- A 2004 study conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice on murder in families found that more than half of defendants accused of murdering their spouses had been drinking alcohol at the time of the incident.

Source of Information: SAMSHA

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CHILDREN

- Children of substance abusing parents are more likely to experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse than children in nonsubstance abusing households.
- A survey of public child welfare agencies conducted by the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse found that as many as 80% of child abuse cases are associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Children who have experienced family violence are at greater risk for alcohol and other drug problems later in life than children who do not experience family violence.
- Evidence suggests that children who run away from violent homes are at risk of substance abuse.