Domestic Violence During the Pandemic

Womanspace
Who is Womanspace?

Emergency Services

24-Hour Hotline
609-394-9000
800-572-SAFE (7233)

For Shelter
609-394-9000
Clients can stay in our safe house (confidential location) for 4 weeks.

Crisis Intervention

DVVRT
Trained volunteers who meet with victims of DV at police stations at the time of an incident. Contact via police dept.

SASS Advocates
609-394-9000
Trained volunteers who accompany SA victims to the hospital to get evidence collected or to make a police report.

Counseling & Support Services

Individual Counseling
609-394-2532
For survivors of DV and SA

Support Groups
609-394-2532

Court Advocacy
609-394-2532

Legal Clinic
609-394-2532

Transitional Housing

Barbara’s House
3-6 Months

Next Step
1-2 years

Safety Planning     Empowerment     Support/Validation
Resources     Referrals     Spanish/English

www.womanspace.org
Definition of Domestic Violence

- Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive control that includes the use of emotional, physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse.

- Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors and not usually a single incident.

- Batterers use whatever strategies or combination of strategies that are necessary to control their partner.
Statistics

- 537 Gun related domestic violence fatalities this year
- 20% of the women in the United States have been raped
- 20,000 calls are placed a day to a DV hotline
- 10 million people a year are physically abused by their intimate partner

https://ncadv.org/statistics
Physical & sexual assaults, or threatens to commit them, are often linked to other abusive behaviors.
“I don’t think you even know when it starts if you are in that situation. You are already in it and you don’t know it is even happening.”

—CA Adult

Developed by: Domestic Abuse Intervention Report

Adapted by: Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services
There is no “typical” victim

- Victims of domestic violence come from all walks of life
- Varying age, all backgrounds, all communities, all identities, all education levels, all economic levels, all ethnicities, all religions, all abilities, all lifestyles
On average, more than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the US will experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner.
How abuse can feel...

**Compliance**
Willing to put up with anything in hopes their partner will change to keep kids safe

**Fear**
Not feeling safe, more than just physical fear and fear for children

**Insecurity**
Repeated “on/off” relationships and inability to make choices for themselves or kids

**Loneliness**
Feeling like they lost all their friends, relationships, and bond with children

**Depression**
Isolated, changes in sleeping or eating patterns, fatigue
What Changed During the Pandemic?

Police Stations closed their doors to our advocates

Domestic abuse became more prevalent

Municipal/Family Court closed their doors and went virtual

Access to resources dwindled
The Domestic Violence Victim Response Team of Womanspace

- Partnership of Womanspace, Mercer County, New Jersey law enforcement agencies, and community members
- **100% comprised of volunteers**
  - trained for 80 hours
- Volunteers meet with survivors of domestic violence at police stations to provide information & support at the time of a reported incident
Oppression is one of the root causes of violence.

This means that abusers, racists and anyone else who uses unjust treatment to silence, degrade and ostracize victims hold the same attitudes and beliefs.
Physical & sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are often linked to other abusive behaviors.
Remember...

HEALING PROCESS

Expectations  Reality
The mission of the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence is to lead collaborative community and systemic responses to domestic violence by providing public awareness, training, advocacy, policy development, technical assistance and supportive services.

Programs - NJ Coalition to End Domestic Violence (njcedv.org)
The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)'s mission is to lead, mobilize and raise our voices to support efforts that demand a change of conditions that lead to domestic violence such as patriarchy, privilege, racism, sexism, and classism. We are dedicated to supporting survivors and holding offenders accountable and supporting advocates.

Resources (ncadv.org)
Our Contact Information

- **Bri-Anne Gladd**, Counselor Advocate
  - Counseling & Support Services Office Number: 609-394-2532

- **Joshua Duncan**, Domestic Violence Victim Response Team Coordinator
  - Email: dvvrt@womanspace.org