
Boston Medical Center
HEALTH SYSTEM

Understanding and Responding to Domestic Violence and Stalking

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Boston Medical Center



“First do no harm”

Myths



- Abuse is easy to recognize
- Abusive people are easy to recognize
- Leaving an abusive relationship is easy
- **Leaving will automatically make you safer**

Facts



- Any act can be used to control or instill fear in someone
- Anyone can be abusive, and abusive people can hide in plain sight
- **Women are at the greatest risk when leaving**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RfojD5WHWl>

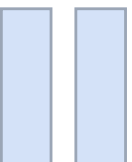
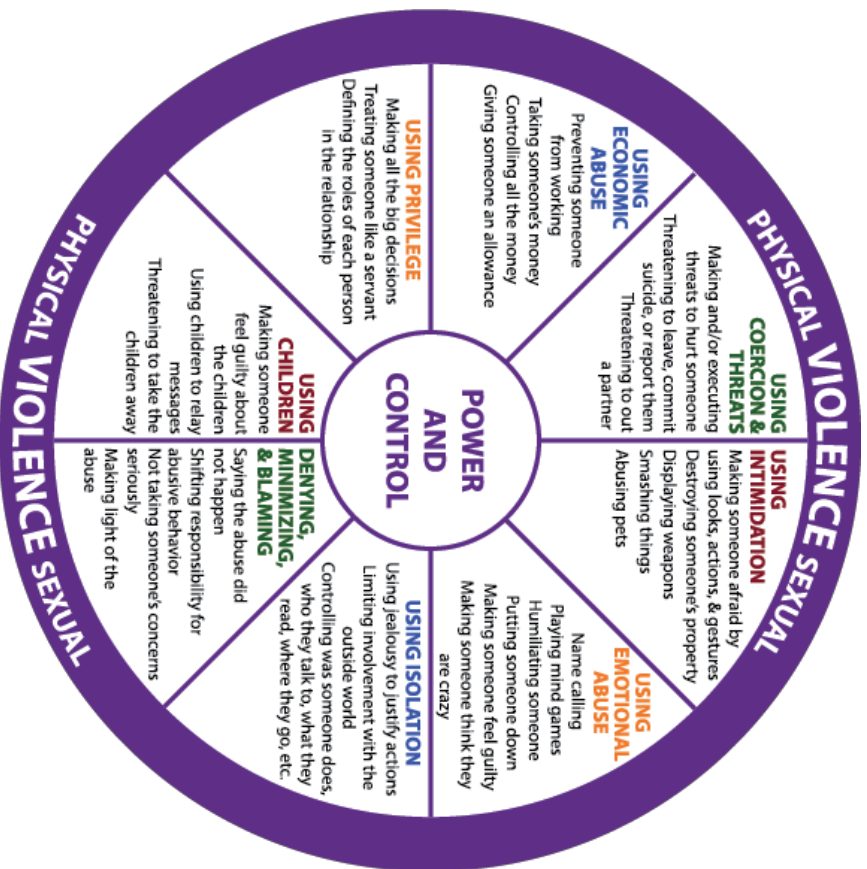


What is Domestic Violence?



Abusive and controlling people...

- Use a variety of tactics and strategies based on what they want to accomplish and what will work.



Abusive and controlling people...

- Manipulate others' perceptions of themselves as well as their partner.
- Use apologies, promises to change, “best behavior” along with denial, threats, and violence to achieve the desired response by their partner.
- Exploit vulnerabilities in those they want to control; hold double standards.
- **Escalate violence frequency and severity over time**, often when they learn partner is telling others or seeking help.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcf07rEcBig>



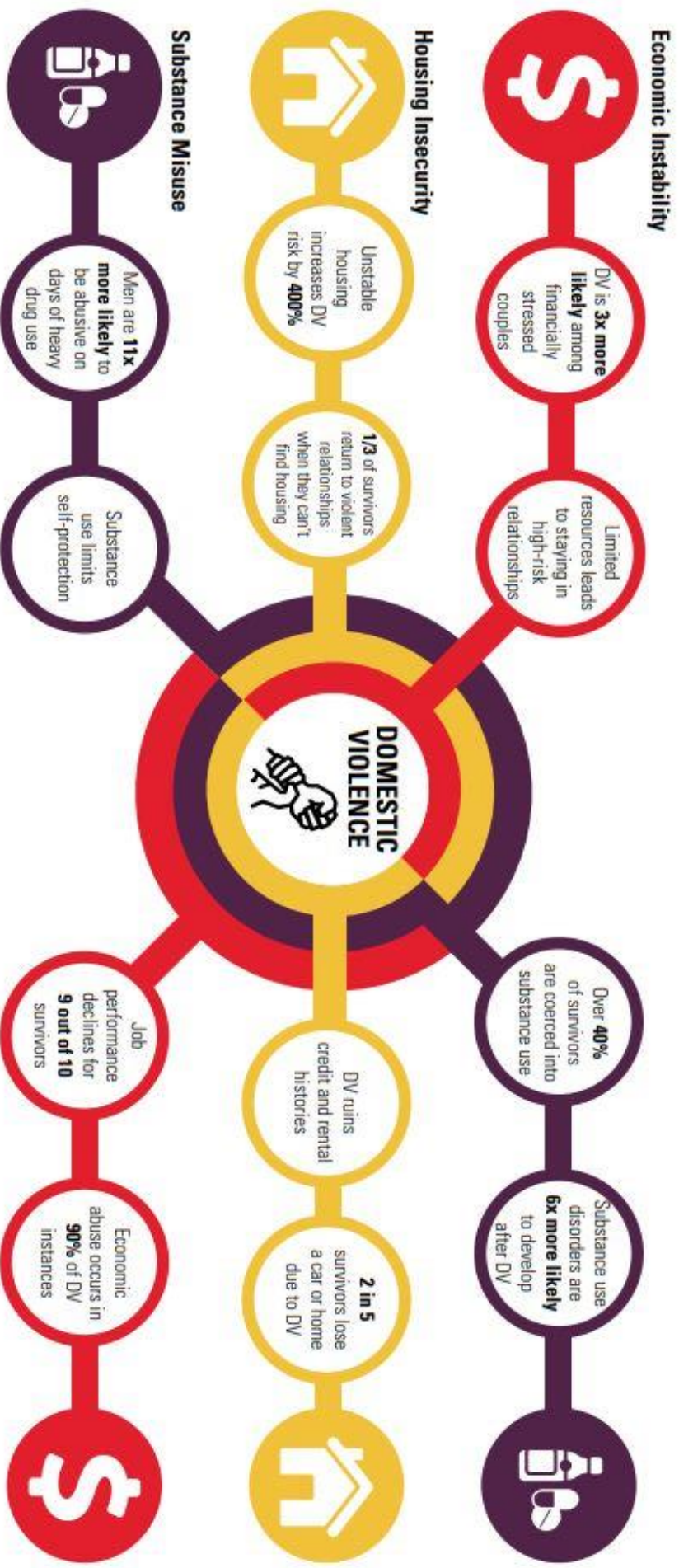
1 in 4: Who are Victims of Domestic Violence?



CAUSE & EFFECT:

The Interconnection of Social Issues and Domestic Violence

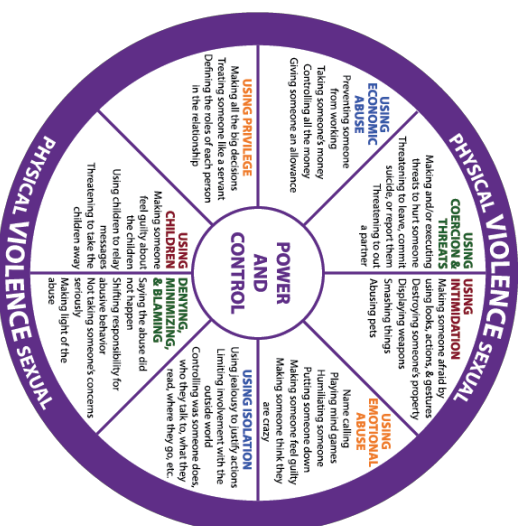
One in three women will experience domestic violence (DV) in her lifetime. DV does not occur in isolation; pathways exist to and from a whole spectrum of social issues. Individuals, families and communities experience these issues as deeply entwined and simultaneous, which calls for an integrated approach to addressing DV. The graphic below depicts three pathways from a much broader set of social issues.



Broader structural factors, such as discriminatory policies and cultural norms, shape the expression of these social issues and their relationship with DV. This results in disparities and inequities based on race, ethnicity, geography, socio-economic status, sexual identity, among many others. **It's time for leaders from multiple sectors to look at the whole picture and work together to develop bold response strategies that account for the complexity and scale of the issues.**

Survivors face additional risks when they are...

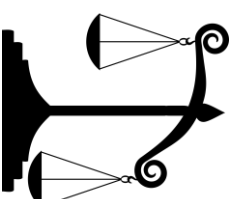
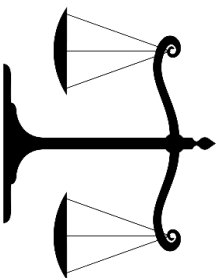
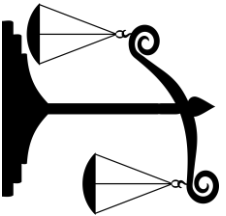
- blamed, shamed, or not believed.
- pressured (or even required) to do certain things, some of which may actually put them at even greater risk.



- experiencing intersecting forms of oppression, discrimination, etc.

“Why do victims stay? Why don't they leave?”

- Many do leave, or end the relationship, or have made attempts.
- Decision-making process complicated by control and fear.
- “Staying” may mean survival; “leaving” may take time, planning, and lots of support.



STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING THE CONNECTIONS:

OVER HALF OF STALKING OFFENDERS ARE CURRENT OR FORMER INTIMATE PARTNERS.1



Because of the possibility of multiple perpetrators, combined percentages might exceed 100%.

- 31.5% – Acquaintances
- 16% – Strangers
- 9% – Family Members
- 2.5% – Person of Authority

OFTEN CO-OCCURRING?

If an abuser follows, tracks, watches, excessively contacts, shares images of, gathers information about, threatens and/or otherwise scares their intimate partner, it is domestic violence AND stalking.

Stalking can happen before, during and/or after a domestic violence relationship.

WHEN DOES PARTNER STALKING OCCUR?



BOTH STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE PREVALENT IN THE U.S.



ALL STALKERS CAN BE DANGEROUS... BUT INTIMATE PARTNER STALKERS, ON AVERAGE, POSE THE GREATEST THREATS TO THEIR VICTIMS.2

They are more likely than non IP stalkers to physically approach the victim, use weapons, escalate behaviors quickly, follow through on threats and re-offend.

85%

Stalking often precedes intimate partner homicide. In 85% of completed and 75% of attempted femicides, there was at least one episode of stalking the year prior.

81% of women who were stalked by a current or former husband or cohabiting partner were also physically assaulted by that partner.

2 The average duration of intimate partner stalking is 2 years.

1. Bates, S.L., Thomas, L., Alameda, M.T., Brown, M., Murphy, M., & O'Leary, T. (2018). Stalking: Prevalence, Impact, and Treatment. Retrieved from <https://www.catholiccharithestrenton.org/stalking-minimized-crime-deadly/>.
2. Browne, K. (2002). Prevalence and predictors of partner violence and stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 17*(1), 100-110.
3. Browne, K. (2002). Prevalence and predictors of partner violence and stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 17*(1), 100-110.
4. Browne, K. (2002). Prevalence and predictors of partner violence and stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 17*(1), 100-110.
5. Browne, K. (2002). Prevalence and predictors of partner violence and stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 17*(1), 100-110.
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8. Browne, K. (2002). Prevalence and predictors of partner violence and stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 17*(1), 100-110.
9. Browne, K. (2002). Prevalence and predictors of partner violence and stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 17*(1), 100-110.
10. Browne, K. (2002). Prevalence and predictors of partner violence and stalking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 17*(1), 100-110.

**Stalking Prevention and Resource Center (SPARC) funded by DOJ's
Office on Violence Against Women**

<https://www.stalkingawareness.org/awareness-educators/>

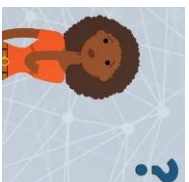
WHAT IS STALKING?

Behavioral Definition

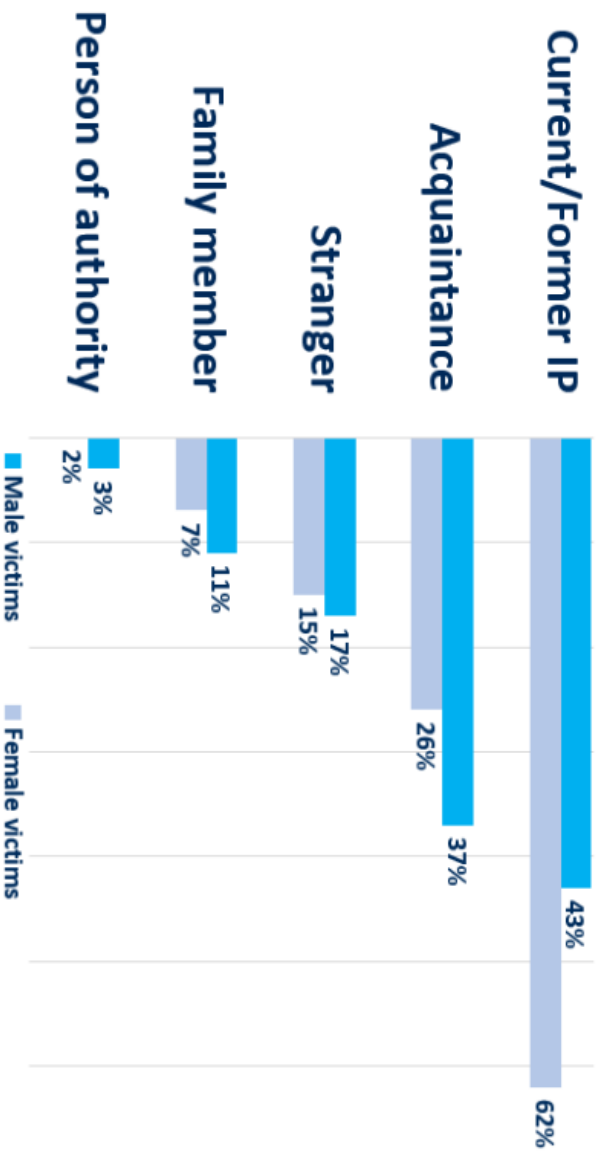
Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.

Overview of stalking

SPARC



Who are Stalkers?



Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. CDC.

SPARC

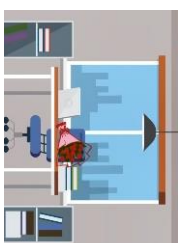
More about stalking

NIPSVS, more citations available at SPARC

- At least 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men experience stalking in their lifetime.
- In vast majority of cases, the victim knows the person stalking them.
- Women are more likely than men to experience stalking.
- The majority of victims report the stalker is male, regardless of the victim's sexual orientation.
- Fewer than 40% of stalking victims report it to law enforcement.

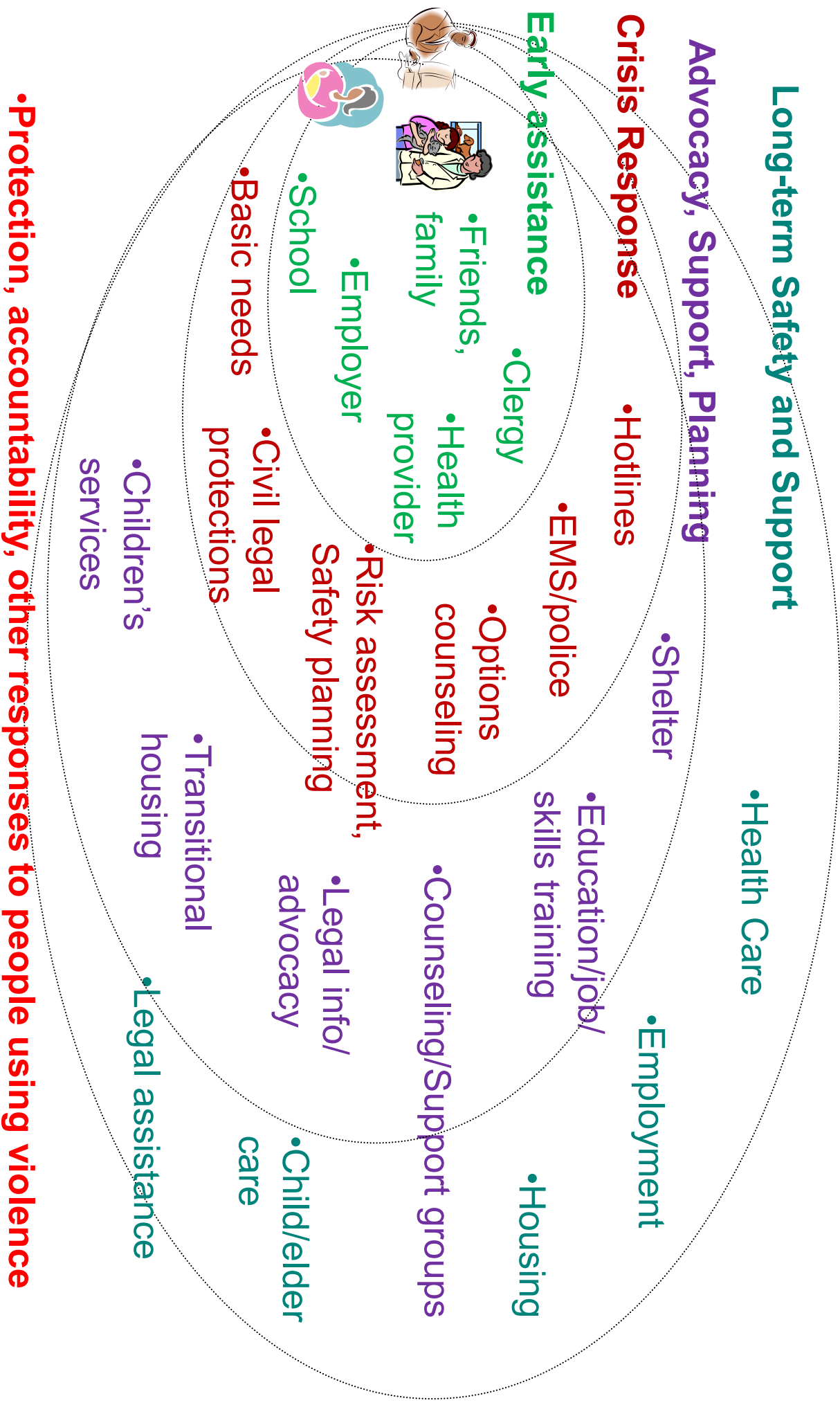
Context is critical

SPARC



Continuum of support for survivors

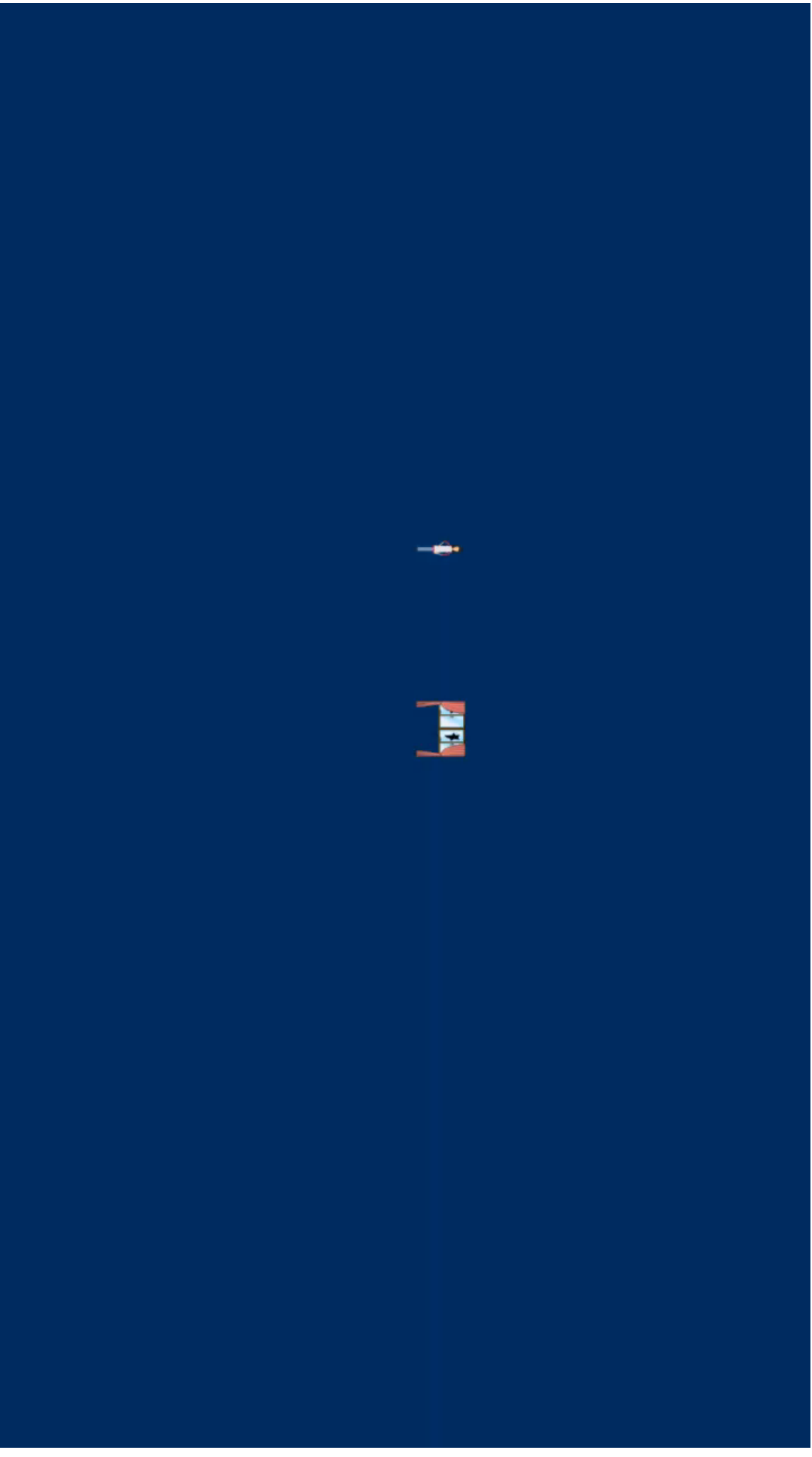
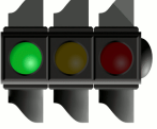
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (1997)



• **Protection, accountability, other responses to people using violence**

Supporting those experiencing DV or stalking

SPARC



Common pitfalls to avoid



- Reacting out of our own fear or a desire to “rescue”
- Assuming that leaving is the survivor’s goal, or that leaving will automatically make them safer
- Taking steps or actions on behalf of the survivor without their knowledge or permission
- Trying to mediate or intervene with the abusive person

Offering resources



NOT RECOMMENDED

- Couples/family counseling
- Mediation
- Anger management
- Individual counseling only



RECOMMENDED

- DV hotlines
- Community-based advocacy programs
- Health care-based advocacy programs
- Providers who are DV knowledgeable



DV shelters

- Space is hardly ever immediately available
- Many people can't or don't want to go to a shelter

Support survivor in calling hotline themselves, assist with brainstorming other safe people they might stay with temporarily.



Restraining orders

- Offer a variety of protections under the law (Ch. 209A and Ch. 258E)
- Civil order, becomes a felony if violated – but still just a piece of paper
- Do not attempt to offer legal advice beyond your training

Always offer to connect with a DV expert for more information and safety planning



Mandated reporting

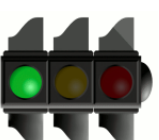


In MA, DV is not reportable to protective services unless it involves reportable forms of abuse:

- Abuse of a child under 18
- Abuse of a person age 60 or older
- Abuse of a person with disabilities

Disclose limits to confidentiality, consider risks associated with filing, connect survivor with DV expert for help with safety planning.

Help for people experiencing DV or stalking



- **National DV Hotline**

1-800-799-7233 (SAFE)

<http://www.thehotline.org>



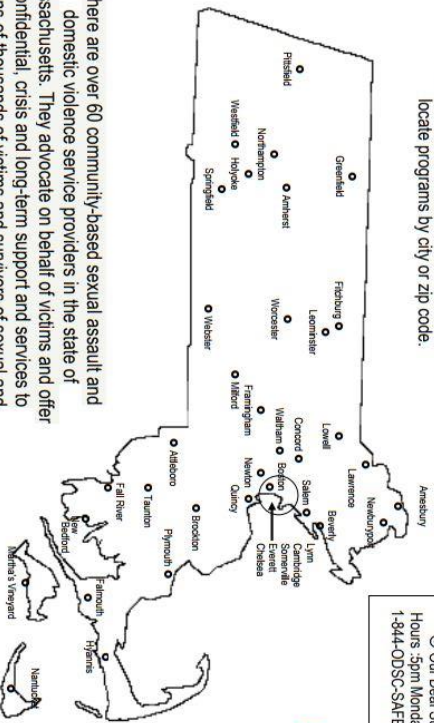
- **National Center for Victims of Crime Stalking Resource Center**

<https://victimsofcrime.org/stalking-resource-center/>

NETWORK OF SEXUAL ASSAULT & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Use this map to find free and confidential support and services at a sexual or domestic violence program near you.

You can also find programs by visiting www.janedoe.org/find_help/search for an interactive search engine which allows you to locate programs by city or zip code.



There are over 60 community-based sexual assault and domestic violence service providers in the state of Massachusetts. They advocate on behalf of victims and offer confidential, crisis and long-term support and services to tens-of-thousands of victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence and their families each year.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS	
If you are not sure where to call for help, call 411.	Toll-free statewide Domestic Violence Hotline PH: 877-785-2020 TTY: 877-521-2601
Our Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) 24-Hour Multilingual Helpline 617-338-2355 ES	* Llanamos y hablermos Toll-free Spanish Sexual Assault Helpline 800-223-5001
Our Deaf Survivors Center Hours :9pm Monday – 9am Saturday 1-944-ODSC-SAFE (1-944-637-2723)	Ending partner abuse in LGBTQ, SM and Poly communities PH: 617-742-4911 ES TTY: 617-338-SAFE (7833)
	MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers 617-864-7600
	SAHELL: Friendship for South Asian Women 868-472-4354

SYMBOL KEY	
Domestic Violence Program	24 Hour Free & Confidential Hotline
Sexual Assault / Rape Crisis Program	ES Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter
JDI members in bold	



NETWORK OF SEXUAL ASSAULT & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS IN MASSACHUSETTS

SYMBOL KEY	
Domestic Violence Program	24 Hour Free & Confidential Hotline
Sexual Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter	Sexual Assault / Rape Crisis Program
ES	Regions of Massachusetts
★	Sexual Assault / Rape Crisis Program

METRO BOSTON	
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence ES 24-Hour Multilingual Helpline: 617-338-2355	Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers: Boston, Cambridge and Somerville: 617-864-7600
Association of Hispanic Women in Boston: Dorchester: (617) 287-0096	On The Run, Inc.: Cambridge: 617-467-7968
RADICE Program (Boston Children's Hospital): Boston: 617-353-5243 (Spanish Bilingual)	Our Deaf Survivors Center: Boston: 617-525-5243 (Deaf, Bilingual)
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC): Cambridge: 800-581-6271	Passageway at Brigham & Women's Hospital: Boston: 617-782-0733
Boston Medical Center Domestic Violence Program: Boston: 617-414-5457	RESPOUD Inc.: Somerville: 617-623-5900
Brookview: Dorchester: 617-869-5075	SAHELL: Friendship for South Asian Women: Newton: 617-262-2999
Casa Myra: Boston: 617-385-2020	The Elizabeth Stone House: Jamaica Plain: Boston: 617-469-5425
Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center: Boston: 617-680-8184	The Network/ La Red Finding partner abuse in LGBTQ, SM and Poly communities: Fall River: 508-675-0007
Community Advocacy Program of COCHERS: Boston: 617-373-4391	The Second Step: Newton: 617-558-9999
DOVE, Inc.: Quincy: 888-314-3683	Transition House: Cambridge: 617-661-7820
FINEX House: Jamaica Plain / Boston: 617-288-7054 (Also TTY)	Urbanman Universalist Urban Ministry: Roxbury / Boston: 617-586-6881
HardrockV: Chelsea: 617-884-9909	Violence Recovery Program (Fenway Health): Boston: 617-927-6250
HAVEN at MIT: Boston: 617-724-0854	
SOUTHEASTERN REGION	
A New Day/Prevalence's Place (Health Impaired): Brockton: 508-386-8853	New Hope, Inc.: Newton: 617-558-9999
A Safe Place: Weymouth: 781-938-5261	South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center: Weymouth: 508-746-2064
CONNECT to End Violence: Vineyard Haven: 508-699-7233	SPARK Women's Center: Fall River: 508-675-0007
Family & Community Resources: Brockton: 508-583-6486	The Women's Center: New Bedford / Fall River: 888-639-6636
Independence House, Inc.: Cape Cod and Fall River: 508-391-6630	
CENTRAL & METROWEST	
Domestic Violence Services Network, Inc.: Concord: 888-397-6111	Spanish American Center: Leominster: 978-574-5165
Forum to Safety (FCS): Waltham: 781-644-5227	The Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program of Rowen Woodbury Hospital: Newton: 617-243-6521
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS): Framingham: 617-864-7600	Voices Against Violence (SNOV): Framingham: 800-593-1125
New Hope, Inc.: Milford and Southbridge: 800-323-4673	Waydell Trauma Intervention Services: Milford: 800-511-5070
Pathways for Change: Worcester: 800-870-5905	YWCA Central Massachusetts Domestic Violence Services: WMA and Wapreack: Leominster: 508-755-9030
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence: Waltham: 800-899-4000	
NORTHEAST REGION	
Alternative House: Lowell: 888-291-6280	The Center for Hope & Healing, Inc.: Lowell: 800-542-2722
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) Lowell: 24-Hour Multilingual Helpline: 617-338-2355	Supporting Care, Inc.: Haverhill: 978-686-1300
HAVC – Healing Abuse Working for Change: Salem: 800-547-1649	YWCA Northeast Massachusetts: Weymouthport / Amesbury: 978-388-1880
Jeanne Galer Crisis Center: Weymouthport / Amesbury: 978-388-1880	YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center: Lynn: 877-600-9923
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS): Lowell: 617-864-7600	
WESTERN REGION	
Behavioral Health Network: Ware: 413-967-6204, Ext. 585532	The Sakihi Project: Greenfield: 437-794-3027
Center for Women & Community: Hampshire County: 413-526-9800	MonsieurHubert/Compassion: Hampden County: 413-537-9966
Elizabeth Freeman Center: Berkshire County: 860-497-2425	Violence Recovery Program (Fenway Health): Springfield: 413-273-6230
HELICIT: Franklin County/North Quebec: 413-772-0806	YWCA Western Massachusetts: Hampden County: 407-786-8771
Safe Passage: Hampshire County: 888-345-2320	

http://www.janedoe.org/find_help





Help for people who use abusive and controlling behaviors
against a partner https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xDQ8Vi5hZU

MA 10to10 Helpline

1-877-898-3411

<https://10to10helpline.org/>

**RATHER THAN
HARMING YOUR PARTNER,
CALL US FOR HELP.**

**10to10
HELPLINE**

**365 DAYS A YEAR
10am-10pm
Confidential & Anonymous**

**REAL TALK. REAL HELP.
877-898-3411**

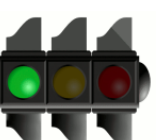
Language Translation Services Available

Serving Massachusetts Adults/Teens
247/365

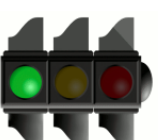
The graphic features a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders on the right side. The text is arranged in a clean, sans-serif font. The phone number 877-898-3411 is prominently displayed in large white letters. The background is a light gray with a subtle gradient.

Intimate Partner Abuse Education programs

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/intimate-partner-abuse-education-program-services>



- Designed for those who have been abusive, violent, or controlling toward a partner.
- Certified by DPH in MA, require certain components that prioritize offender accountability and victim safety.
- Take both court-referrals and self-referrals.



- **Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Center** provides free and confidential counseling and advocacy to Boston University students who have experienced a traumatic event (sexual assault, dating violence, and other types of interpersonal violence)

24/7 617-353-SARP (7277) <https://www.bu.edu/shs/sarp/>

- **BU Faculty and Staff Assistance Office** provides free and confidential support for employees and immediate family members dealing with work or personal challenges.

M-F 9-5 617-353-5381 <https://www.bu.edu/fsao/>

- **Domestic Violence leave** (MGL ch.260) option for employees

BMC Domestic Violence Program



Works across all BMC departments and disciplines to coordinate and improve the hospital's response to domestic violence.



What we provide



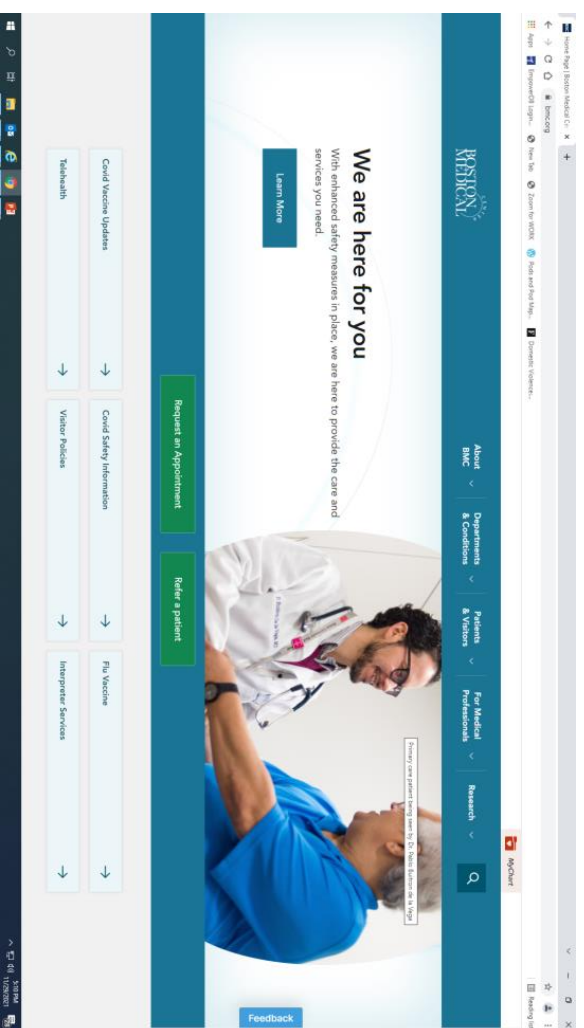
- Training and education
- Consultation and technical assistance
 - Policy, clinical practice, and research protocols
 - Identifying appropriate community resources for those impacted by DV
 - Concerns about an individual person or situation
- Safety and Support Advocacy Services

Safety and Support advocacy services

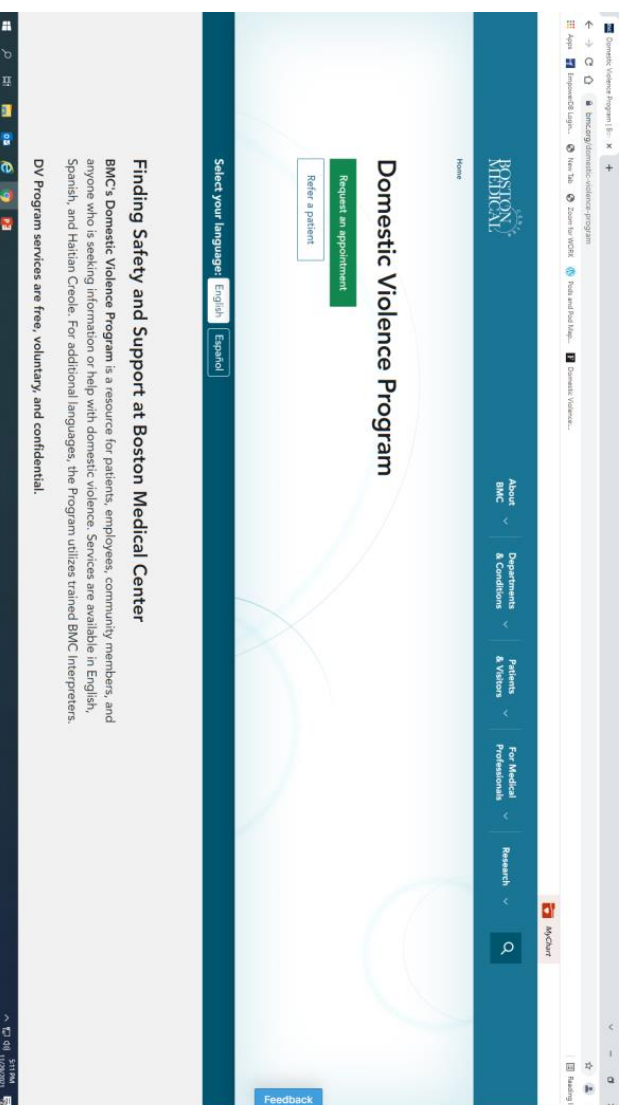


- Free, voluntary, and confidential (per state and federal statutes)
- Support survivor's priorities and goals, both short- and long-term
- Focus on risk assessment and safety planning regardless of relationship status; no requirement that they be planning to leave
- Provide advocacy, accompaniment, warm referrals to a wide range of additional resources

For more information <https://www.bmc.org/programs/domestic-violence-program>



Search “domestic violence”



14 languages

Questions?

Contact Information:

To reach a Safety and Support Advocate

617-414-5457

Joanne.Timmons@bmc.org

617-414-7734

Thank you!