



WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- ▶ Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive and threatening behaviors that may include physical, emotional, economic and sexual violence as well as intimidation, isolation, and coercion.
- ▶ Domestic violence can include threats of violence, physical harm, attacks against property and pets or other acts of intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, and use of children as a means of control.
- ▶ Domestic violence is intentional behavior. The purpose of domestic violence is to establish and exert power and control over another. Men most often use it against their intimate partners, which can include current or former spouses, girlfriends, and dating partners.
- ▶ Batterers use a wide range of coercive and abusive behaviors against their victims. Some of the abusive behaviors used by the batterers result in physical injuries that both harm the victim physically and involve emotionally abusive behaviors. While these behaviors may not result in physical injuries, they are still psychologically damaging to the victim.