WHAT IS SUBSTANCE ABUSE?
According to the World Health Organization, substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. The use of psychoactive substances can result in dependence syndrome, which includes: difficulties in controlling use of the drug, strong desire to take it, persisting in its use despite consequences, physical withdrawal, and a higher priority given to drug use than to other activities.

DID YOU KNOW?
- Alcohol and other substance abuse disorders are more prevalent among perpetrators and victims of intimate partner violence.
- Harmful use of alcohol is associated with a 4.6 times increased risk of exposure to intimate partner violence.
- The frequency of a batterer’s drunkenness increases the likelihood that a victim fears them by nearly 4 times.

WHY IT MATTERS
Studies have indicated a substantial co-occurrence of intimate partner violence and substance abuse. While substance abuse does not directly cause domestic violence, the two issues can interact with and exacerbate each other. Among victims, intimate partner violence increases the risk of substance abuse, and battered women who engage in substance abuse may be at an increased risk for harm. Among perpetrators, substance abuse may increase the frequency or severity of violence.

CHILDREN
- Adverse childhood experiences such as witnessing intimate partner violence or being physically or sexually abused increase the risk of a substance abuse problem as an adult.
- Children of substance abusing parents are more likely to experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse than children in non-substance abusing households.

IF YOU NEED HELP,
DIAL THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE AT:
1-800-799-SAFE
PERPETRATORS

- Among men enrolled in batterer intervention programs, over half reported using illicit substances in the past year.⁹
- A study of men entering domestic violence treatment programs found that physical violence was 11 times more likely on days of alcohol use than on days with no alcohol consumption.⁵
- Opioid dependent fathers report a greater prevalence of physical, sexual, and psychological aggression directed at the mother of their youngest biological child than non-opioid dependent fathers.¹⁰
- Male alcoholic patients who engage in intimate partner violence have stronger beliefs in the link between alcohol consumption and relationship problems versus male alcoholic patients who are non-violent.¹¹
- Men who abuse alcohol and cocaine are more likely to engage in violence than men with cannabis and opioid disorders.¹²
- Studies show that both the chronic and acute effects of substance abuse can impact men’s use of intimate partner violence.⁵

VICTIMS

- Women with opioid disorders are at an increased risk of intimate partner violence victimization.²
- A victim’s use of alcohol and drugs increases the degree criminal justice professionals attribute responsibility to her for her own victimization.¹³
- Among low-income urban women, crack or cocaine use in the past 6 months is associated with an increased likelihood of injurious intimate partner violence.¹⁴
- Heroin use among low-income urban women in the past 6 months increases the likelihood of experiencing an injury from intimate partner violence by 2.7 times.¹⁴
- Illicit substance abuse increases the risk of future assault among women, and assault increases the risk of subsequent substance abuse, creating a vicious circle of substance abuse and revictimization.⁵
- Between 67 and 80% of women in substance abuse treatment are victims of intimate partner violence.⁵

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OR VISIT:
http://www.thehotline.org
REFERENCES