

DO YOU KNOW **THE FACTS** ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Decide whether you think each statement below is **TRUE** or **FALSE**, then look on the other side for **THE FACTS**!

1. **T** **F** Domestic violence is rare.
2. **T** **F** Domestic violence is usually a one-time event or an isolated incident.
3. **T** **F** Alcohol and drug abuse cause domestic violence.
4. **T** **F** Domestic violence only affects the adults in the household.
5. **T** **F** Men are sometimes victims of domestic violence.
6. **T** **F** Domestic violence causes serious injury.
7. **T** **F** If a domestic violence victim would leave her abusive partner, she would be safe.
8. **T** **F** The police can not do much about domestic violence.
9. **T** **F** It is possible for an abuser to stop abusive behavior.
10. **T** **F** Violence in someone else's family is not my business.

If you are in a violent relationship, help is available.
This is a free call to a domestic violence program in your area of Louisiana.

1.888.411.1333

Louisiana Domestic Violence Hotline
FREE • CONFIDENTIAL • 24 HOURS

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 77308
Baton Rouge, LA 70879
Ph: (225) 752-1296 | www.lcadv.org



THE ANSWERS

1. **False.** Domestic violence is a pervasive crime affecting millions of individuals across our nation regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, or education. 1 in 4 women will be the victim of domestic violence at some point in her lifetime. Domestic violence occurs at the same rate in same sex and opposite sex relationships.
2. **False.** Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that escalates in severity and dangerousness over time. Domestic violence can include physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, or financial abuse.
3. **False.** Substance abuse does not cause domestic violence. Domestic violence is caused by an abuser's choice to use violence. Many people who abuse substances do not perpetrate domestic violence, although abusers have statistically high rates of substance abuse.
4. **False.** Children are particularly vulnerable as both victims and witnesses to domestic violence. Children exposed to violence are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs, and run away from home. Men exposed to domestic violence as children are almost 4 times more likely than other men to have perpetrated domestic violence as adults.
5. **True.** Men can also be victims of domestic violence, but women are 90-95% more likely to experience domestic violence. One study showed that 85% of domestic violence victims were women with a male abuser, while the other 15% included domestic violence in same sex relationships and men who were abused by a female partner.
6. **True.** Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in the United States. Approximately 37% of women seeking injury-related treatment in hospital emergency rooms were there because of injuries inflicted by a current or former partner. Many injuries, such as strangulation, can have long-lasting health effects.
7. **False.** Women are at an increased risk of harm shortly after separation from an abusive partner. A victim's risk of getting killed greatly increases when they are in the process of leaving or have just left. On average, 3 women are killed by a current or former partner every day.
8. **False.** Louisiana law permits a law enforcement officer who has reason to believe that domestic abuse has occurred to use all reasonable means to prevent further abuse, including immediate arrest. Law enforcement also plays an important role in protection order enforcement.
9. **True.** It is possible for abusers to change, but it is not easy. Once an abuser has had all of the power in a relationship, it is difficult to change to a healthy relationship with equal power and compromises.
10. **False.** Domestic violence not only severely impacts victims and their families, but also results in huge financial costs that affect our entire society.

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