

[WHAT YOU CAN DO]

# Who sees more domestic violence than the police?



“After 20 years, I’ve learned to look beyond black eyes: behind the ears to see if she’s been slapped hard on the side of her head, at her arms and neck for bruises and choke marks. Just acknowledging that I see her injuries can be very powerful. It starts her thinking. Recognizing together that her situation is serious allows her to begin taking steps to free herself.”

—Barbara J. Arnold, MD  
Eye Physician and Surgeon, Sacramento



“After the Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry started its ‘Give Back A Smile’ program, I called WEAVE and told them I’d treat women they sent me who needed cosmetic dentistry as a result of abuse, free of charge. Naturally, I fully support the Sacramento District Dental Society’s program to spot domestic violence when its symptoms are presented through the need for oral surgery.”

—Bryan Judd, DDS  
The Art of Dentistry, Sacramento



“Domestic violence can begin or escalate in pregnancy. I interview women alone to keep the batterer from controlling their responses. When I inquire, ‘Have you been hit?’ most respond with relief that someone finally asked. When women understand they are not alone and that support is available, what they do to protect themselves and their children is really heroic.”

—Deborah Solliz, MSW  
Perinatal Social Work Supervisor, CommuniCare Health Centers, Yolo Co.



“I try to screen all women fourteen or older. It isn’t always obvious signs that alert me. Subtle clues like depression, sleep or eating disorders make me look deeper. I let victims know it’s safe to talk to me, that there’s no way they should have to take abuse. I’m working hard to have the medical community adopt universal screening standards for domestic violence, just as the AMA has recommended.”

—Jeffrey Thompson PA-C, MHA  
Deputy Director, Ambulatory Care Service, San Joaquin General Hospital



“I look for red flags. Not always bruises. Very guarded behavior, timidity beyond what cultural differences might account for. I say things like, ‘Are you okay? It’s important for me to know you’re safe.’ I leave the door open so they can talk to me and refer them to the Women’s Center for specific help.”

—Gina Marie Morris, Prevention Outreach Specialist  
El Dorado County Public Health Department



“It just comes up. One patient told me recently, ‘Something happened and now my teeth only touch in one spot.’ When I asked what happened, she said, ‘I must have bitten down wrong.’ So I asked directly, ‘Did someone hit you?’ She seemed relieved when she said, ‘Yes.’ Why do I serve patients referred by area women’s centers at my own expense? Women robbed of their smiles are silenced.”

—Gerard T. Ortnier, DDS  
Sutter Terrace Dental Group, Sacramento

**H**ealth care providers. Physical therapists, nurses, doctors, dentists, ophthalmologists.

Women who seek medical help because of an assault are three times as likely to have been hurt by their partners than by strangers.

But physical injury isn’t the only hint of domestic violence.

It lies behind many illnesses. Vision or hearing loss. Anxiety and depression. Substance abuse. Problems in pregnancy. To name just a few.

Abuse is not only physical, not always obvious. It can strike anyone, of any background.

That’s why health care professionals should routinely talk with their patients about domestic violence. Identifying and treating the root cause of a condition is responsible medical practice.

Want some guidelines? The providers pictured here are among many in this region who routinely screen *all* their patients for domestic violence.

Because today, they know how to help. Confidently. And confidentially.

Simply making information about domestic violence available in your office or clinic can make all the difference for patients or family members. It can even save lives.

So, please, call for your free Action Kit today. And visit these professional resources on-line anytime.



**On-line Domestic Violence Resources for Medical Professionals**

“Case Studies in Partner Violence,” Eyer and Cohen in American Family Physician, published by the American Academy of Family Physicians.  
<http://www.aafp.org/afp/991201ap2569.html>

“Improving the Health Care System’s Response to Domestic Violence: A Resource Manual for Health Care Providers,” American Medical Women’s Association. <http://www.dvcm.org/dvcourse2.HTM>

“HITS: A Short Domestic Violence Screening Tool for use in a Family Practice Setting,” Shearin, KM et al. from Family Medicine, Vol. 30, No. 7. “As summarized in Health Watch from the International Health Evaluation Association” <http://www.ihea.net/watch/>

“Physicians Who Acknowledge Abuse and Confirm Patient’s Worth are Most Helpful to Domestic Violence Victims,” a study by University of California San Francisco researchers funded by NIH.  
<http://www.ucsf.edu/pressrel/1999/09/092101.html>

“Screening to Prevent Violence,” Family Violence Prevention Fund.  
<http://www.fvpf.org/healthscreening.html>

“Training in Domestic Violence for the Healthcare Provider,” California Medical Training Center, UC Davis  
<http://web.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mesdtr/> or email: [irene.joo@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:irene.joo@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu)

“Domestic Violence Treatment Guidelines,” The American Medical Association.  
<http://www.s-t.com/projects/DomVio/amamatreatment.HTML>

**SAVE THIS DATE!**

The Healthcare Providers DV Network presents “The Many Faces of Domestic Violence”

Where: Sierra Health Foundation Sacramento

When: 8am-noon, Saturday Sept. 29, 2001

Register/Info: (916) 484-2156

Offered by Mercy Healthcare Sacramento, a CMAA-accredited provider. Physicians and RNs attending this course may report up to 4 hours of Category 1 credit toward the California Medical Association’s certificate in Continuing Medical Education and the American Medical Association’s Physician’s Recognition Award.



**Numbers To Keep**

Immediate Danger? Call: 911

For experienced assistance:  
(24 hours a day)

Sacramento County	(916) 920-2952
Placer County	(800) 575-5352
El Dorado County	(530) 626-1131
San Joaquin County	(209) 465-4878
Yolo County	(530) 662-1133

For your free confidential action kit:  
Please call toll-free (888) 303-4500

Break the silence on domestic violence.

The only people who don't believe domestic violence is a crime are the people who commit it.



But married or not, abusing someone you love is against the law. The consequences for you may include:

- Arrest and jail, even for a first offense.
- Loss of custody of your children.
- Ineligibility for a career in law enforcement, the military, or any job requiring a background check.
- Severe financial penalties through lost wages and fines up to \$10,000.
- Loss of the right to own a firearm.
- Mandatory year-long counseling program.
- Search and seizure of your home, car and person at any time.

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And maybe nothing will restore the love and respect of your partner and your children. Don't wait until it's too late! In Sacramento, call (916) 920-2952 to talk anonymously to an experienced counselor.

**Break the silence on domestic violence.**

[WHAT YOU CAN DO]

“Employers don't have to be experts on domestic violence. We just need to know where the experts



*are.* Any woman in any organization can be a target of violence at home. And 74% of abusers also harass their victims at work. At Mercy Healthcare Sacramento we began by educating our medical staff about domestic

violence. But we soon realized we needed to create an atmosphere of trust and safety for our 7,300 employees as well as our patients. We turned to local domestic violence experts and together we developed simple, practical solutions. Their help is just a phone call away for your business, too, large or small. Chances are,

someone who works for you isn't safe at home — *or* at work. You can learn more. Call toll-free (888) 303-4500 now and ask for your free Action Kit.”

— *Kathleen Montgomery,  
Mercy Healthcare Sacramento  
Women's Service Center*

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[WHAT YOU CAN DO]

“It was a repeat call, but there was nothing routine about it. I saw all of the red flags: a woman who was



terrorized into silence, convinced the abuse was her own fault. An arrest wouldn't end it. For her safety, she had to get out of that house. For half my shift, I sat there and we talked through what could happen, especially to her kids, if she stayed. I even called

WEAVE myself and handed her the phone. Months later, we heard from the woman herself, saying she was in a safe place, doing fine. She said it was because I took the time that day. But I knew she was out of danger because someone like you cared as much as we do and called 911 in time.

If you break the silence, we can all help stop domestic violence. Please, call (888) 303-4500 for your free Action Kit.”

— Deputy Joe Millican  
Sacramento Co. Sheriff's Department

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[WHAT YOU CAN DO]

“High schools aren't bubbles untouched by the domestic violence and emotional abuse around them. By



9th grade, girls may already be with guys who take complete control of what they wear, where they go, and who they talk to 24-7. This is a warning sign of trouble to come, like date rape and abuse. That's why I helped set up a special

hotline in Lodi, with teens trained to talk about relationship violence in high school, because that's where it starts. Teens call us because we take their issues seriously. We don't lecture. We offer pathways out. The main thing? We let teens know they have a voice. Breaking the silence.

It can be as safe and easy as putting up a poster at work or at school. Call toll-free (888) 303-4500 for your free Action Kit.”

—Melissa Fisher, 18,  
Founder, Lodi Teen Hotline

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“With domestic violence, we don’t look the other way. We report it. And we encourage



our 2500 tenants to do the same. Our policy against domestic violence is right in our rental agreement — another reason people like to live in our properties. After all, we can’t hope for safety on our streets if

there’s no peace in our homes. Whether it’s verbal or physical abuse, we let women know they’re not alone, that help is available. We keep notices with help line numbers in our laundry rooms and common areas. Our staff gets regular training in safe, easy and effective ways to prevent it. It works for us and it can work for you, too, whether you live in an apartment or manage one. Nearly everything we do and more is in a really good Action Kit you can get for free by calling toll-free (888) 303-4500.”

— Carol Foerster, Administrator  
Community Housing Opportunities Corp.

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“Domestic violence? Your conscience won’t let you walk away.”



— Sylvia Fletcher, Del Paso Heights School District Healthy Start Resource Center

“If a mother is being abused, of course I tell her where to find help. Her life is in danger. So are her children.

But it takes the whole community to *prevent* domestic violence. Over 170 women and men came to the first school district domestic violence conference

we organized for Southeast Asians. Response in the African-American community has been just as remarkable. And we’re planning another conference for Latino parents this spring — a chance to break the silence and save lives.

It’s about acting on what all people believe:

It shouldn’t hurt to be a human being. And children need to see respect to learn it.

Two things you can do right now? Clip these numbers to share. And call today for your own free Domestic Violence Action Kit.”

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# “Why is it so often the abuser who receives our forgiveness?”



—*Sherry Jarwin, Women's Ministry Lay Leader, Calvary Chapel, Elk Grove*

“I talk to many pastors who extend great understanding to men who have behaved abusively to their partners. They view it as a lapse, not as part of a dangerous pattern of control and abuse.

Well, a friend of mine was ultimately killed by her husband. She mistakenly believed that

it was God's will that she submit to the abuse. And so I suggest that faith communities consider extending grace to victims, too.

Wives held to standards of submission blame themselves for abuse. Quoting chapter and verse, they judge themselves and return with their vulnerable children to secretly terrifying situations. Some die never knowing that in the eyes of God, they are precious, too, and that there is safety out there for them.

We can change all that. The places we worship can be safe havens for the violated and abused, and a place where abusers are held accountable for their behavior. We cannot afford to lose another life to domestic violence. Call 1-888-303-4500 for your free action kit.”

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# “If we help one person, one time, it's worth it.”

—*John Green, Director of Labor Relations, City of Sacramento*

Sacramento has a new city motto: “Violence doesn't work here.”

Unveiled this spring, the city's “no tolerance” policy toward domestic violence in the workplace unites Sacramento's elected officials and all of its 4,500 staff.



It's now mandatory for supervisors to learn warning signs of domestic violence and the proper interventions. Victims and abusers receive confidential assistance.

“It's about workplace safety and productivity,” says City Wellness Coordinator, Marti Wallace. “If we want to make Sacramento a safer city, let's start with our own house.”

“Private and public employers have come to recognize that work life and home life are connected,” says John Green.

“Employers large and small can call their local domestic violence center or (888) 303-4500 for the planning help and ready-made tools to set up their own program.”

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