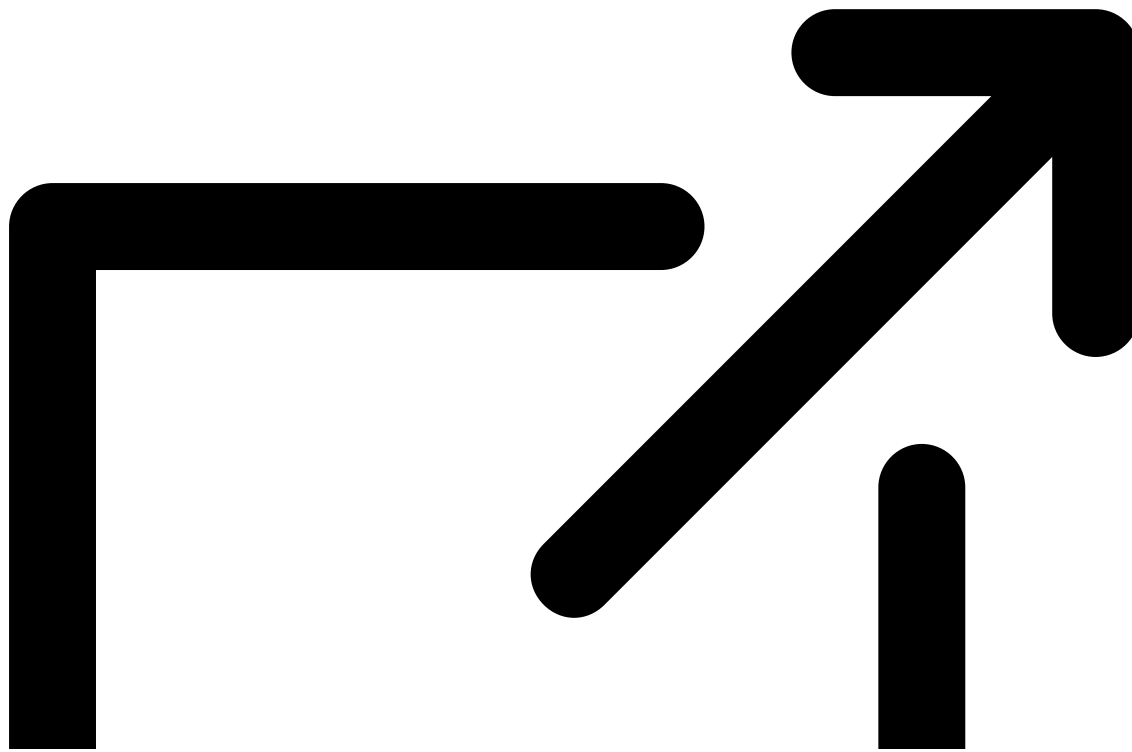


Domestic Violence

[Quick Exit](#)



Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or threats of actions or other patterns of coercive behavior that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

Examples of Abusive Behavior Include

Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, sex, or gender identity. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Domestic violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, dating, or share a child.

Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, are among those seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life - therefore, increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers.

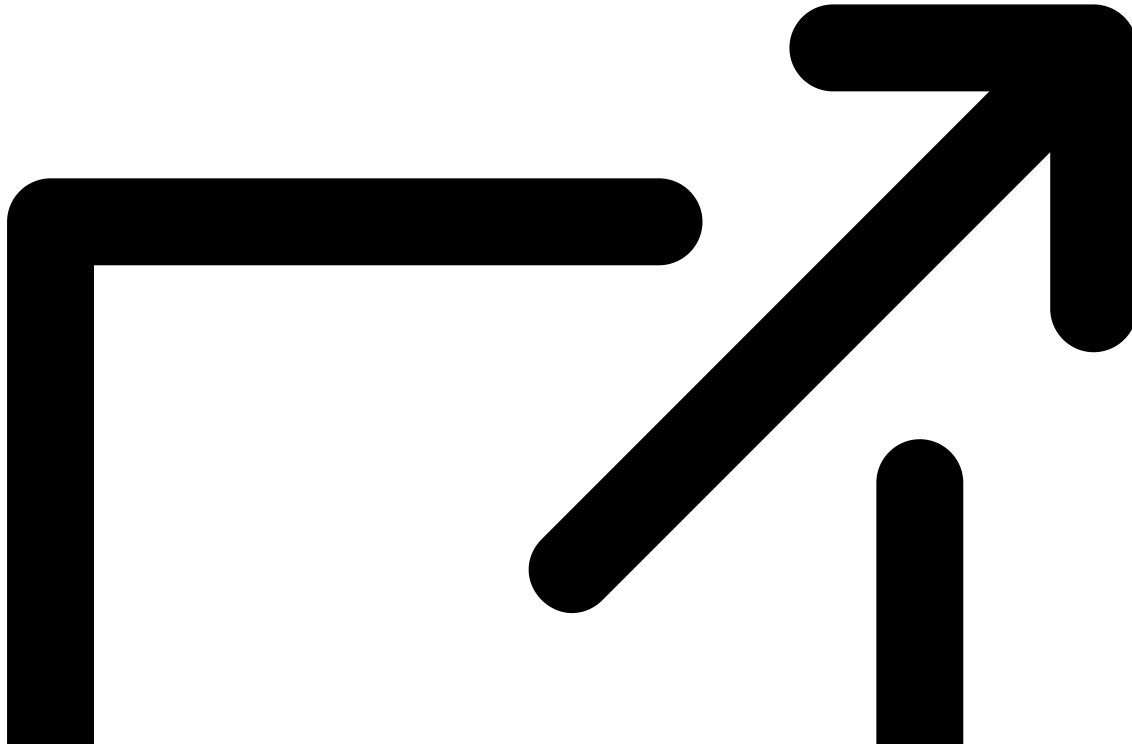
This discussion of domestic violence is intended to educate the public about the dynamics of abuse in intimate partner relationships, as well as to help victims understand their experience and family and friends of victims to recognize signs of abuse in the relationships of their loved ones. The Violence Against Women Act contains a definition of domestic violence that governs the programs funded under the Act. The discussion here does not alter the definition in VAWA.

Sources: National Domestic Violence Hotline, National Center for Victims of Crime, and WomensLaw.org.

How To Get Help

If you are in immediate danger, call 911. OVW does not provide services directly to the general public. [Find local help on our map](#) or call the national hotline:

[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

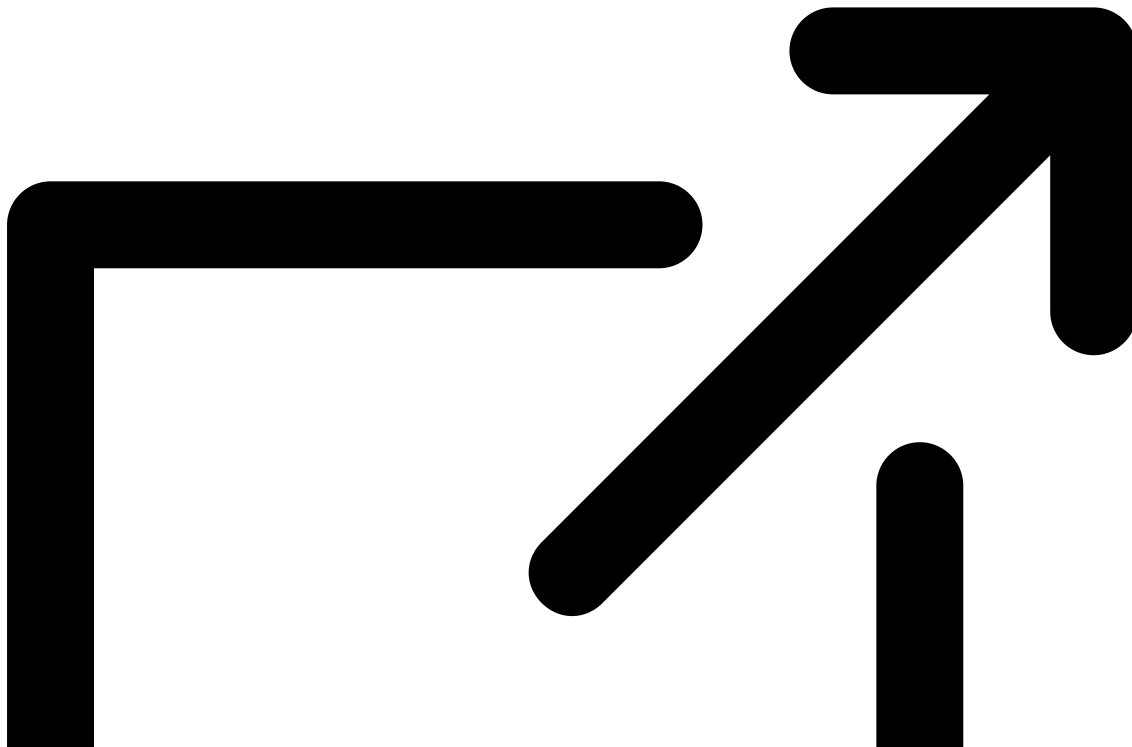


800-799-SAFE (7233)

800-787-3224 (TTY)

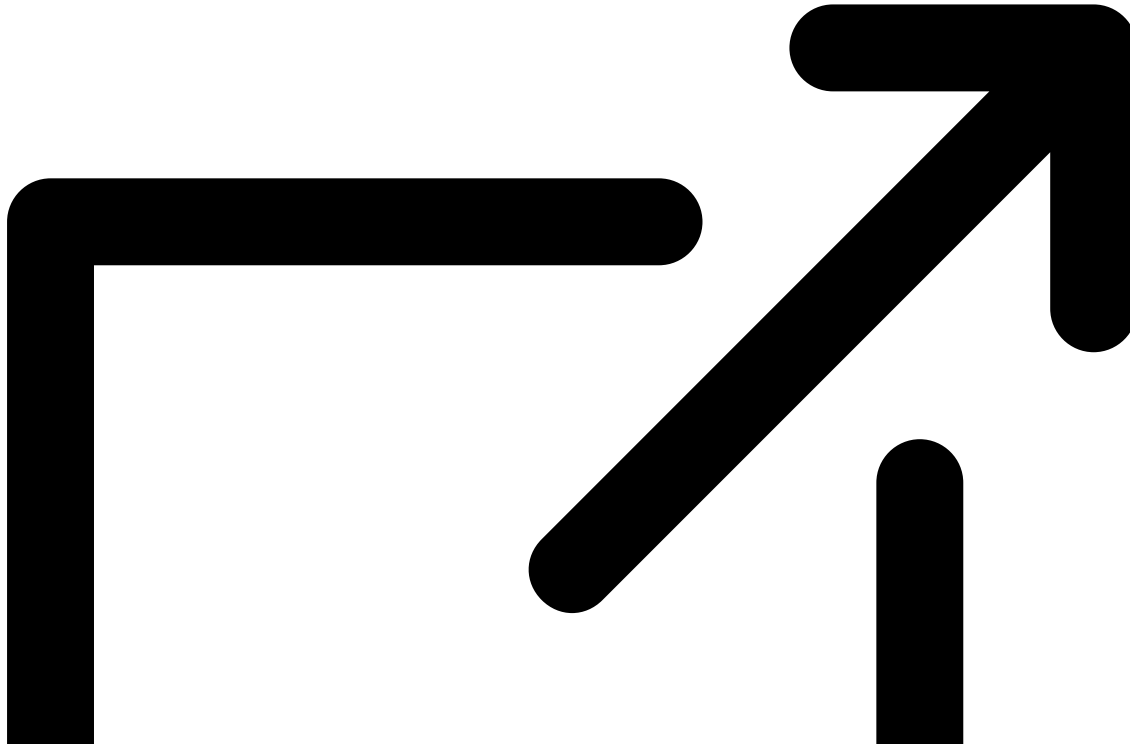
Advocates are also available to chat 24/7.

[National Center for Victims of Crime](#)



855-4-VICTIM (855-484-2846)

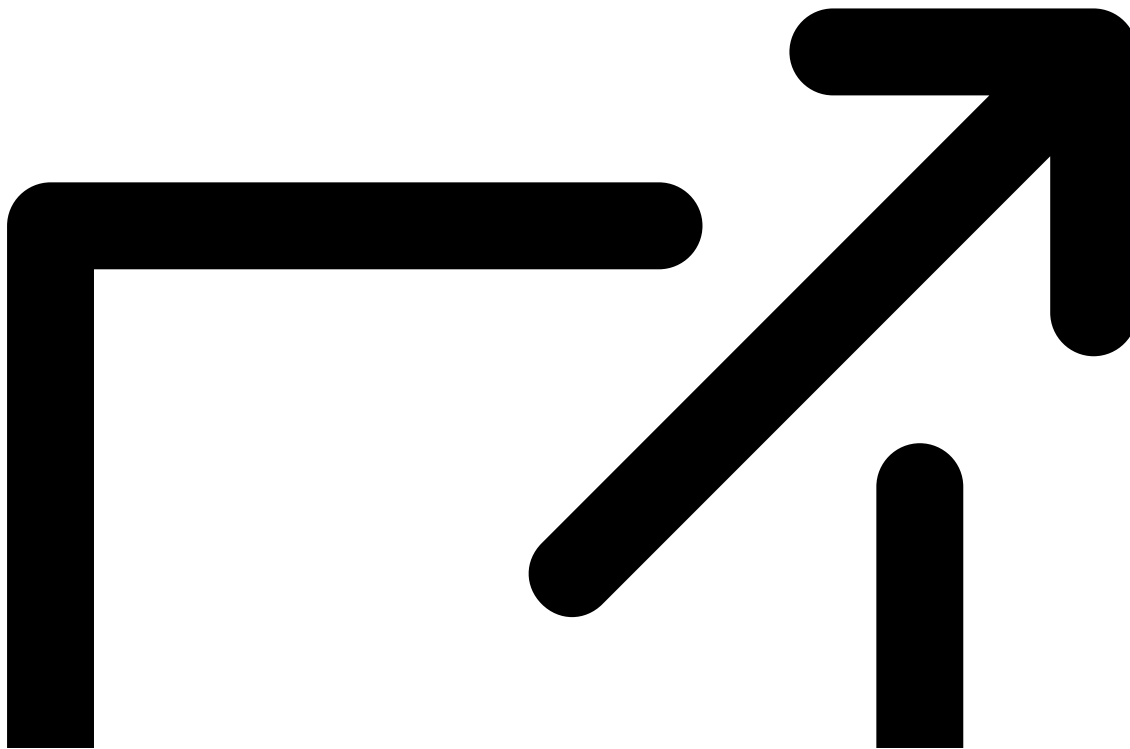
[StrongHearts Native Helpline](#)



844-762-8483

Domestic Violence Resources

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides information and resources about intimate partner violence. [Learn more](#)



If you're looking for information that used to be on OVW's website, you can also [visit OVW's archive](#).