

# POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

## INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

### The Problem

Interpersonal violence is violence inflicted by an individual or a group upon a person. It can include intimate partner violence, elder maltreatment, violence against persons with disabilities and child abuse. Physical problems like scratches and bruises are the most apparent injuries, but interpersonal violence can lead to disabilities, suicide or death at the hands of the perpetrator. Victims may abuse drugs, alcohol, smoke or engage in other risky behaviors in an effort to cope with the abuse.



### Four Types of Behavior

- **Physical Violence** – Hurting or trying to hurt another person by hitting, kicking or other physical force.
- **Sexual Violence** – Forcing a person to engage in a sexual act when there is no consent.
- **Emotional Abuse** – Threatening to harm possessions, loved ones, or mental harm such as stalking, name calling, intimidation or isolation.
- **Threats of Violence** – Physical or sexual violence used to communicate the intent to cause harm.

### The Numbers

- Nationally, women experience almost 5 million physical assaults and rapes a year. Men are the victims of almost 3 million partner-related physical assaults each year.
- In 2007, Arkansas ranked fourth in the nation for violence against women and girls.
- Approximately 700,000 to 3.5 million older Americans are abused, neglected or exploited each year. This abuse may occur in a person's own home, in nursing homes and assisted living facilities and in hospitals.
- Abuse can also occur in individuals with disabilities that count on others for their care. People with disabilities are four to 10 times more likely to be victims of crime. Children with disabilities are more than three times more likely to be abused or victimized than children without disabilities.

### Risk Factors

- Trauma symptoms.
- Alcohol and/or drug abuse.
- Violent or aggressive behavior.
- Seeing or being a victim of violence as a child.
- Unemployment or other life events that may cause stress.

### For More Information

- [www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention](http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention)



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Sources: Center for Disease Control and Prevention