

Definition of Intimate Partner Violence and Abusive Behaviors List

Intimate Partner Violence is

- ◆ The pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors,
- ◆ Including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion,
- ◆ What adults or adolescent use against their intimate partners.

Abusive Behaviors List

1. **Physical abuse:**

- Spitting, poking, shaking, grabbing, shoving, pushing, throwing, hitting open handed, hitting closed handed, restraining, blocking escape, choking, hitting with objects, beating, kicking, using weapons, burning, controlling a victim's access to health resources, etc.

2. **Sexual abuse:**

- Persistently pressuring for sex, coercing sex through a variety of tactics, forcing sex in front of others, forcing sex with children or third parties, physically forcing or harming the victim sexually, etc.

3. **Psychological attacks:**

- Violent acts against children or other to control the intimate partner; threats of violence against victims, others, or self; intimidation through attacks against pets or property; yelling; stalking; controlling the victim's activities; isolating the victim; controlling the victim through immigration status; controlling the victim's access to resources (e.g. health care, medications, automobile, friends, schooling, jobs, child care, etc.); emotional abuse; forcing the victim to do degrading things; controlling the victim's schedules, including health appointments, etc.

4. **Use of economics:**

- Withholding funds, spending family funds, making most financial decisions, not contributing financially to the family, controlling the victim's access to health insurance, etc.

5. **Use of children to control an adult victim:**

- Hostage taking of children; physical and sexual abuse of children; forcing children to engage in physical and psychological abuse of the adult victim; custody fights; using visitation with children to monitor the adult victim, etc.

Source: Ganley A, Schechter S. for *Domestic Violence: A National Curriculum for Child Protective Services*, Family Violence Prevention Fund, 1996.

