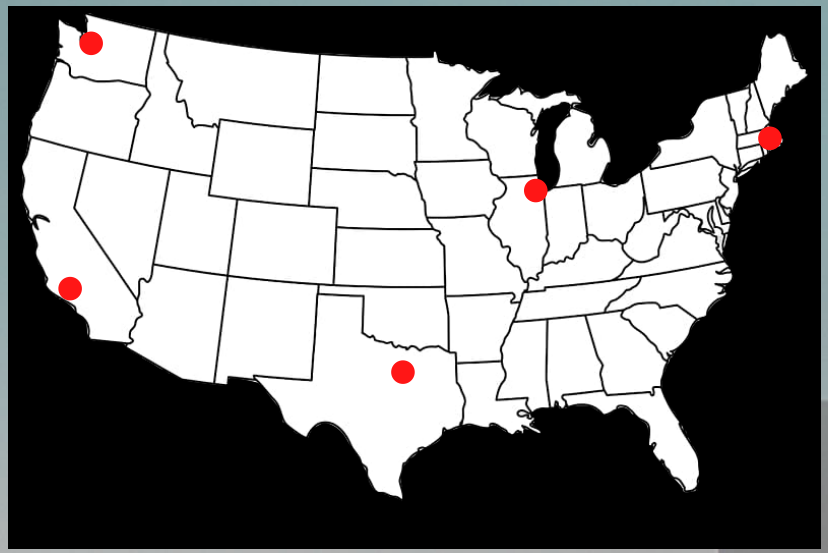


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMID COVID-19

COVID-19 has changed the way the world operates. People all over the world have been told by their governments to stay at home to 'flatten the curve'. While stay-at-home orders are vital in keeping the population safe from infection, it may be detrimental for those in abusive relationships.



Countries all over the world including the USA, UK, India, France, South Africa, Australia, Lebanon, China, and many more, have reported major increases in domestic violence (D.V.). Within the United States, police departments all over the country have been seeing sudden surges in domestic violence cases.

- CHICAGO reported a 14.6% increase of D.V. compared to the same time last year
- BOSTON reported a 22% increase of D.V. compared to the same time last year
- DALLAS reported a 20.3% increase of D.V. from February to March
- SEATTLE reported a 21% increase of D.V. compared to the same time last year
- LOS ANGELES reported a 20% increase of D.V. from January to March

95%

Of Americans are under stay at home orders

**1.9
MILLION**

Guns were sold in March

500%

The presence of a gun increases the risk of a D.V. situation becoming a homicide

TYPES OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

PHYSICAL ABUSE:

Any intentional act causing injury or trauma to another person or animal by way of bodily contact.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE:

A person subjecting or exposing another person to behavior that may result in psychological trauma.

SEXUAL ABUSE & COERCION:

Unwanted sexual activity that happens when you are pressured, tricked, threatened, or forced in a nonphysical way.

REPRODUCTIVE COERCION:

When a person tries to control your reproductive choices in order to control your life.

FINANCIAL ABUSE:

Include tactics to conceal information, limit the victim's access to assets, or reduce accessibility to the family finances.

DIGITAL ABUSE:

Harassment, the exertion of power and control, stalking, and other recognizably abusive behaviors all taking place using technology.

Mandatory stay-at-home orders have caused victims of D.V. to be in near constant proximity to their abusers. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to high unemployment rates, increased alcohol consumption, health concerns, stress related to child care, and increased firearm purchases, which can worsen the domestic abuse.

The pandemic has also made it very difficult for survivors of domestic abuse to receive help:

- Many judicial courts have postponed operations.
- Resources such as medical facilities and D.V. shelters are overloaded and underfunded.
- Many shelters are unable to take survivors due to risks of spreading the virus.
- Fear of contracting or spreading COVID-19 stops survivors from seeking medical help or help from loved ones.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: text or call at 1-800-799-7233