

# What You Should Know About Family Violence

- Family violence is the physical, emotional or psychological abuse or threat of abuse of a family or household member.
- Ohio law enforcement agencies received nearly 72,000 domestic dispute calls in 2006.
- Nearly 5.3 million intimate partner victimizations occur each year among U.S. women ages 18 and older.
- Annually, more than 300,000 pregnant women are abused by an intimate partner. Murder is the second leading cause of injury-related death for pregnant women.
- Nearly 60 percent of female victims and 30 percent of male victims are stalked by an intimate partner. Eighty-one percent of women stalked by an intimate partner are also violated by that partner.
- The costs of intimate partner victimization against women exceed an estimated \$5.8 billion a year.
- Family members commit 90 percent of verified incidents of domestic elder abuse and neglect.
- Children who witness domestic violence and receive counseling and treatment are less likely to become abusers or have other violence-related problems as they grow up.



OHIO DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
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## Family Violence Prevention Center

*Coordinating Ohio's Resources for Safer Families*

[www.fvpc.ohio.gov](http://www.fvpc.ohio.gov)

**1-888-448-4842**

# Stopping the Family Violence Cycle . . .

Safety planning is critical to ending an abusive relationship and is the first step in breaking the cycle of violence.

Some practical tips include:

- ✓ If you fear for your safety or are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.
- ✓ Identify and practice an escape route.
- ✓ Inform a trusted friend or neighbor about what is happening.
- ✓ Put important documents like driver licenses, Social Security cards, credit cards, bank account numbers, prescriptions, passports, school records, immunization cards and birth certificates in a readily accessible place.
- ✓ Pack a bag with necessities and hide it.
- ✓ Know where temporary shelter is available.
- ✓ Abusers can monitor the Web sites you have visited and even read your personal e-mails from their computer. **Be cautious:** Use a computer that the abuser does not have direct or remote access to, such as one at a trusted friend's house or library.
- ✓ Consider getting a cellular phone to call the police in case of emergency.
- ✓ Seek counseling when stressful situations are impairing your ability to respond non-violently to your children.

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[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov)

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**For Help, Call:**

**Ohio Domestic Violence Network**

**1-800-934-9840**

**Action Ohio Coalition for Battered Women**

**1-888-622-9315**

