

The Facts

- ❖ Pregnant and recently pregnant women are more likely to be victims of homicide than any other cause of death.
- ❖ A significant proportion of all female homicide victims are killed by their intimate partners.
- ❖ Domestic violence during pregnancy puts your life *and* the life of your baby at risk.
- ❖ Domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to women.
- ❖ Abusive partners do not stop their violence after the baby is born.
- ❖ Abusive partners do not become good fathers after the baby is born.
- ❖ Domestic Violence is a crime.

MID-VALLEY WOMEN'S CRISIS SERVICE

Providing hope and safety since 1973

795 Winter St. NE

PO Box 851

Salem, OR 97308

24 Hour Hotline (503) 399-7722

Toll Free 1 (866) 399-7722

Business Office (503) 378-1572

Fax (503) 364-7998

Email: mvwcs@mvwcs.com

Website: www.mvwcs.com

Domestic Violence Pregnancy Trifold En V2 01/2007

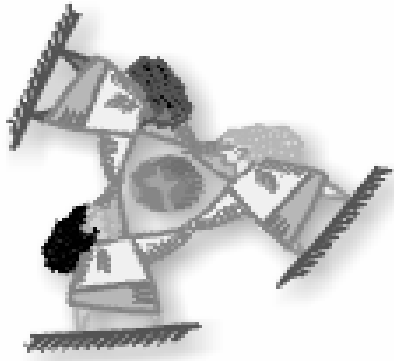


- ❖ 24-hour hotline
- ❖ 24-hour emergency shelter
- ❖ Information and referral services
- ❖ Adult domestic violence survivor support groups
- ❖ Adult sexual assault survivor group
- ❖ Crisis Counseling
- ❖ Advocacy
- ❖ Community education and outreach
- ❖ Transitional housing



Domestic Violence And *Pregnancy*

Double the Danger,
Twice the Threat.



Domestic violence can happen to anyone: women of all ages, races, religions, educational backgrounds, income levels, and in every part of the county. You are not alone and it is not your fault.

If you are a victim of domestic violence and are pregnant, you and your baby are at high risk of injury or murder.

No matter what form of domestic violence your abusive partner has chosen to use against you, he is affecting the emotional and physical welfare of yourself and your baby. It is also important to note that after the baby is born your abusive partner is not going to stop abusing you or your newborn. Abusive partners do not magically become good fathers after the baby is born. In fact, domestic violence is the number one predictor of child abuse.

Physical Effects of Violence During

Pregnancy:

(From the American Medical Association)

- Insufficient weight gain
- Vaginal/Cervical/Kidney infections
- Vaginal bleeding
- Abdominal trauma
- Hemorrhage
- Increase of chronic illness
- Complications during labor
- Delayed prenatal care
- Miscarriage
- Low birth weight
- Ruptured membranes
- Separation of the placenta
- Uterine infection
- Fetal bruising, fractures, and blood clots.

Other Risks:

(More specifically to mom)

- Stress
- Depression
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Physical injuries
- Suicide
- Murder

Safety Planning 101

Whether you're pregnant or not, an abusive partner is very dangerous. It is your decision if and when it is time to leave an abusive partner. We hope this information will be helpful in your decision making process. If you would like to make an in depth safety plan you can visit our office, contact our hotline, or access our website: all listed on the back of this pamphlet.

Identifying Support: Are there people in your life whom you trust, have helped you before, and could help you now? If your abusive partner allows you to go to your prenatal appointments alone, that may be an ideal place to get help.

Survival Needs: Is there a safe place to go or live? How will you get there? Will you have food or a way to get food? If needed, is there safe and reliable child care?

What to Take: It's okay if you forget something. Many things are easily replaceable. Something to keep in mind are the immediate needs: medication, money/checkbook/credit or debit card, address book, change of clothes, house keys, identification.

Legal Options: Criminal charges against the abuser, restraining order, legal help.