



# Domestic Violence Endangers Pregnant People and Babies

Domestic violence is pervasive in our communities, with nearly one in three women experiencing physical violence by a partner over their lifetime. Domestic violence also includes emotional, sexual, and economic abuse.

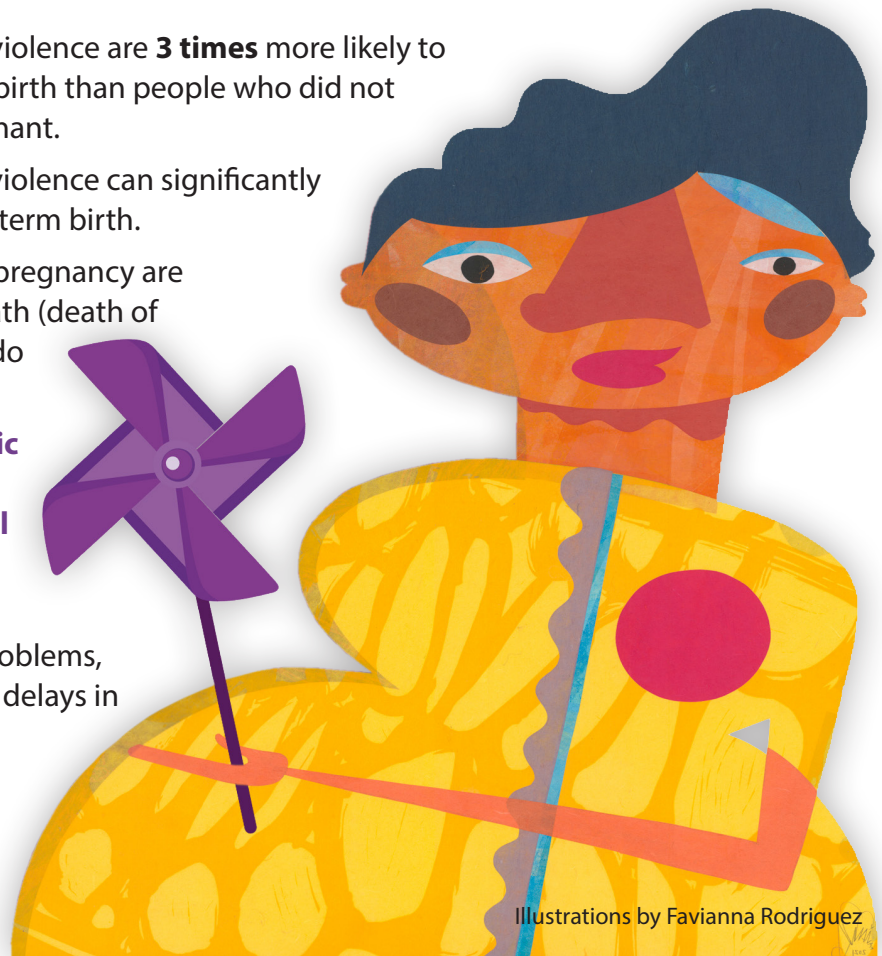
Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities are disproportionately harmed by domestic violence, compounded by the inequities in accessing health care and other economic and social supports they need for themselves and their families.

## Each year, 324,000 pregnant people are abused by their partner.

Domestic violence during pregnancy can hurt both the birthing parent and infant's health. Even though domestic violence is more common among pregnant people than other conditions for which they are routinely screened – such as gestational diabetes or preeclampsia – few providers screen pregnant patients for abuse.

## Domestic Violence Increases Risk of Pregnancy Complications and Poor Health for Birthing Parents and Babies

- Pregnant people who are abused are more likely to receive no prenatal care or to delay care until later than recommended.
- Pregnant people experiencing domestic violence are **3 times** more likely to report symptoms of depression after the birth than people who did not experience domestic violence while pregnant.
- Pregnant people's exposure to domestic violence can significantly increased risk of low birth weight and preterm birth.
- Pregnant people who are abused during pregnancy are **3 times** more likely to suffer perinatal death (death of fetus or new born baby) than those who do not experience domestic violence.
- **Homicide is a leading cause of traumatic death for pregnant and postpartum people, accounting for 31% of maternal injury deaths.**
- Infants exposed to domestic violence can show signs of trauma, including eating problems, sleep disturbances, higher irritability, and delays in development.



# How to Support Pregnant People and their Babies Who Are Experiencing Abuse

**Pregnant People** – Recognize you are in an abusive relationship. Tell someone you trust — a family member, a friend, a clergy member, a health care provider, or counselor. Contact your local community or tribal domestic violence programs below for help in developing a safety plan for you and your baby.

**Family and Friends** – Let the pregnant person know that you are concerned for them and that the abuse is not their fault. Be non-judgmental. Encourage them to get help.

**Health Care Providers** – Consistently screen all pregnant and postpartum people for domestic violence, receive training on trauma-informed care, and offer warm referrals to community-based, culturally, and linguistically appropriate services for people that need them.

## Local Idaho Domestic Violence Programs

### Advocates Against Family Violence

Caldwell (208) 459-4779

### Advocates for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Hailey (208) 788-6070

### Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse

Moscow (208) 883-4357

### Bingham Crisis Center

Blackfoot (208) 681-8712/ Spanish (208) 681-8715

### Boundary County Youth Crisis and DV Hotline

Bonnars Ferry (208) 267-5211

### Coeur d'Alene Tribal STOP Violence Program

Plummer (208) 686-0601

### Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Center

Idaho Falls (208) 235-2412

### Elmore County Domestic Violence Council

Mountain Home (208) 587-3300

### Family Crisis Center

Rexburg (208) 356-0065

### Family Safety Network

Driggs (208) 354-7233

### Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho

Pocatello (208) 251-4357

### Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition

Boise (208) 630-6601

### Lemhi County Crisis Intervention

Mahoney House – Salmon (208) 940-0600



### Oneida Crisis Center

Malad (208) 766-3119

### Priest River Ministries

Priest River (208) 290-6529

### ROSE Advocates

Weiser (208) 414-0740

### Safe Passage

Coeur d'Alene (208) 664-9303

### Shoshone County Women's Resource Center

Wallace (208) 556-0500

### Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Victims of Crime Assistance Program

Fort Hall (208) 339-0438

### Shoshone Paiute Tribes STOP Domestic Violence Program

Owyhee, NV (775) 757-2013

### 'Uuyit Kímti Program (New Beginnings)

Lapwai (208) 621-4778

### Voices Against Violence

Rupert/Burley (208) 733-0100

### Voices Against Violence

Twin Falls (208) 733-0100

### Women's & Children's Alliance

Boise (208) 343-7025

### YWCA of Lewiston-Clarkston

Lewiston (208) 746-9655



[www.IdahoCoalition.org](http://www.IdahoCoalition.org)

**National Domestic Violence Hotline** 1(800)799-7233/1(800)787-3224 (TTY)

Adapted from <https://nationalpartnership.org/report/intimate-partner-violence/>

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