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## Relationship Violence

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Relationship Violence is **physical behavior, threats of abuse, or emotional abuse** directed toward a current or former partner/spouse, family or household member (including roommates). Behaviors are used by one person in a relationship to control and hurt the other. Relationship violence affects people of all identities, and can occur within any community.

### Behaviors can include:

- **Physical abuse or Threats of abuse:** slapping, pulling hair, punching, etc. threatening to hit, harm, or use a weapon on another, or other forms of verbal abuse
- **Sexual abuse:** unwanted touching, ignoring partner's requests about sex, forced sex, etc
- **Emotional abuse:**
  - Damage to one's property
  - Name calling
  - Harassment directed toward a current or former partner/spouse
  - Driving recklessly to scare someone
  - Controlling what a person does or whom he/she sees or talks to
  - Humiliating one in public

### Did you know?

- ❑ 1/3 of American women (31%) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives (The Commonwealth Fund, 1999).
- ❑ In figures reflective of the general population, 1 in 4 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) people are battered by a partner (Jane Doe, Inc.).
- ❑ Women of all races are about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate partner (National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Department of Justice, 1995).
- ❑ Females are more likely to be victimized at a private home (their own or that of a neighbor, friend or relative) than in any other place (Ibid).

### Resources and Options:

- Call the **Everywoman's Center** 24-hour hotline for free and confidential safety planning and counseling: (413) 545-0800 or (888) 337-0800 (local long distance).
- Contact the **UMPD Sensitive Crimes Unit** for information about restraining orders and other legal options: (413)545-3888.
- Contact the **Dean of Students Office** for assistance or information about the campus judicial system: (413)545-2586.
- Contact **University Health Services** (24 hours, 7 days/week) for emergency care and information about contraceptives, STI's, etc.: (413)577-5000.
- If you are concerned that your behaviors may be abusive or if you would like to get information about ending violent behavior contact the **MOVE Program** (Men Overcoming Violence) at the **Men's Resource Center** in Amherst: (413)253-9588.



