



Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Is Domestic Violence an Issue for EMS?

- ❖ **Nearly one-third of American women (31 percent) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives (commonwealth Fund, Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health, May 1999).**
- ❖ **In 2003, member projects of MCEDV received approximately 29, 826 hotline calls and served 13, 588 individuals (88% women and 5% men).**
- ❖ **In 2002, women experienced an estimated 494,570 rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault victimizations at the hands of an intimate, while men were victims of about 72,520 violent crimes by an intimate partner (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics).**
- ❖ **Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages 15 and 44 in the US, more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined (Federal Bureau of Investigations).**
- ❖ **22%-35% of women seeking care for any reason in the Emergency Department are battered. (Maryland Physicians Campaign Against Family Violence. Domestic Violence Module, 1994. The Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland and the Medical Education Group, Inc. Baltimore MD.)**
- ❖ **20% -25% of pregnant women are in battering relationships. And battering affects not only the mother, but also the fetus. Battered women have an increased incidence of "spontaneous" abortions, preterm labor, fetal injuries and low birthrate babies. (Taliaferro, Ellen and Salber, Patricia. Domestic Violence Slide Program. Physicians for a Violence Free Society. Dallas, TX, 1994)**
- ❖ **The U.S. Department of Justice reports that 37% of all women who sought care in hospital emergency rooms for violence-related injuries were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.**