

References



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2. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, Girlfriends*, No. NCJ-167237 Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1998.
3. National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Women and Drug Abuse*, NIDA Capsule Series Rockville, MD: NIDA, 4, p. 122, 1994.
4. G. K. Kantor and N. Asdigian, *When women are under the influence: does drinking or drug use by women provoke beatings by men?* Recent Developments in Alcoholism, vol.13: Alcohol and Violence. Ed. M. Galanter, New York: Plenum Press, p. 315-336, 1997.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV/Aids Surveillance Report*, No. 2, 1997.
6. M. Cohen, *Counseling Addicted Women, A Practical Guide*, Sage Publications, Inc., 2000.
7. Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, *Safety First: Battered Women Surviving Violence When Alcohol and Drugs are Involved*, Minneapolis, 1992.
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Services

Addictions Hotline of New Jersey:

800-322-5525 or 800-225-0196, 24 hours - 7 days a week.

Women For Sobriety: 215-536-8026,

M-F 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Gambling Crisis Hotline: 888-850-8888,

24 hours - 7 days a week.

Gay Helpline of GAAMC: 973-285-1595,

TTY: 973-285-0889, 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

7 nights a week.

NJ Women & Aids Network: 732-846-

4462.

NJ AIDS Hotline: 800-624-2377, 24 hours

- 7 days a week.

CDC Information: 800-342-AIDS (2437),

Spanish: 800-344-7432, Deaf Access:

888-232-6348, 24 hours - 7 days a week.

Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline:

800-572-SAFE (7233), Bilingual V / TTY

Accessible. 24 hours - 7 days a week.

Division of Youth & Family Services:

Statewide Child Abuse Hotline: 800-792-

8610, 24 hours - 7 days a week.

NJ Coalition for Battered Women : 609-

584-8107, TTY: 609-584-0027, M-F 9:00

a.m. - 5:00 p.m. www.njcbw.org.

Substance

Abuse

Domestic

Violence

Do You

REALLY Know

the Connection?



New Jersey Coalition

for Battered Women

Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse

Battering is a socially learned behavior, and is not the result of substance abuse or mental illness. Batterers frequently use substance abuse as an excuse for their violence. They attempt to rid themselves of responsibility for the problem by blaming it on the effects of alcohol or drugs.

Many batterers do not use substances and many substance abusers do not beat their partners. Some abusers with substance abuse problems batter when drunk, and others when they are sober.

Alcoholism treatment does not “cure” battering behavior; both problems must be addressed separately, however, provisions for the woman’s safety must take precedence.

Men living with women who have substance abuse problems often try to justify their violence as a way to control them when they are drunk. A woman’s failure to remain substance free is never an excuse for the abuser’s violence.

Substance abuse and battering do share some similar characteristics, including: both may be passed from generation to generation; involve denial or minimization of the problem; involve isolation of the family; occur in all socioeconomic and ethnic groups and on every educational level; and both are potentially lethal.

Statistics

Two thirds of victims who suffered violence by intimate partners (current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends) reported that alcohol had been a factor.¹

More than half of both prison and jail inmates serving time for violence against intimate partners had been using drugs, alcohol, or both at the times of the incidents for which they were incarcerated.²

Many women who use drugs have faced serious challenges to their well being during their lives. About 70% of women who report using drugs also report having been abused sexually before the age of 16 (years) and more than 80% had at least one parent addicted to alcohol or one or more illicit drugs.³

There is little research to support the notion that women’s alcohol use provokes assault by their partners. Most women who are victims of domestic violence had not been drinking at the time of the incident of domestic violence. Women who are victims of domestic violence more commonly report drinking after abuse, suggesting that they drink partly as a way to cope with their physical and emotional pain.⁴

Among women diagnosed with AIDS in the United States in 1997, most acquired HIV infection through sexual contact with men with or at risk of HIV infection (38%) or through injection drug use (32%).⁵

HIV infection can result from women’s sexual involvement with infected intravenous drug-abusing partners and the difficulties women might have in setting limits and practicing safer sex in what can be dangerous and abusive relationships.⁶

In the cases in which battered women report that the level of physical abuse (by batterers) decreases, they often report a corresponding increase in other forms of coercive control and abuse; the threats, manipulation and isolation intensify.⁷

Men who drink alcohol and have a predisposition for physical violence toward their female partners are more likely to be violent on the days they drink alcohol.⁸

Children from alcoholic families are more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs during adolescence.⁹

