

Statistics

- Half of the men in batterer intervention programs presented with substance abuse issues (Gondolf, 1999)
- Approximately half of partnered men entering substance abuse treatment have abused a partner in the past year (Chermack, Fuller & Blow, 2000; Fals-Stewart & Kennedy, 2005)
- 55-99% of women experiencing substance abuse issues have been victimized at some point in their life; and 67-80% of women in substance abuse treatment are domestic violence victims and survivors (Cohen et al, 2003; Downs, 2001)
- Across studies of women seeking alcohol treatment, 47-87% of women report having experienced violence by a male partner (Stuart, O'Farrell, & Temple, 2009)
- Women who have been abused are 15 times more likely to abuse alcohol and 9 times more likely to abuse drugs than women who have not been abused (Shipway, 2004).

Help #endDVinNJ

Please consider a donation to the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence to support all victims and survivors of domestic violence. We can end domestic violence together for everyone in our state.

Visit www.njcedv.org to donate securely online or you may send a check to:

NJCEDV
1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Road
Trenton, NJ 08690

**Get Help:
Call 1- 800- 572-SAFE (7233)**



P: 609-584-8107 F: 609-584-9750

 [Facebook.com/NJCEDV](https://www.facebook.com/NJCEDV)  [Twitter.com/NJCEDV](https://twitter.com/NJCEDV)

References

Bland, P. (2014) *Trauma-Informed Services: It takes time and effort to build trust*. Chicago, IL: National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Mental Health./ Cohen, J.B., Dickov, A., Horner, K., Zweben, J.E., Balabis, J., Vandersloot, D., Reiber, C. (2003). Abuse and violence history of men and women in treatment for methamphetamine dependence. *American Journal on Addictions*, 12, 377-385./ Downs, W.R. (2001). *Alcohol problems and violence against women: Report of summary findings*. United States Department of Justice, Document Number 188267, Grant No. 96-WT-NX-0005./ Downs, W.R., Department of Social Work, University of Northern Iowa. Personal communication with Patricia Bland, April 2002./ Schumacher, J. A., & Holt, D. J. (2012). *Domestic violence shelter residents' substance abuse treatment needs and options*. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 17(3), 188-197./ Shipway, Lyn. (2004). *Domestic Violence: A Handbook for Health Professionals*. London, UK: Routledge./ Stuart, O'Farrell, and Temple. (2009). Cited in: Schumacher, J. A., & Holt, D.J. (2012). *Domestic violence shelter residents' substance abuse treatment needs and options*. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 17(3), 188-197.

Substance Abuse

www.njcedv.org



1-800-572-SAFE (7233)
Statewide Hotline

**Providing leadership,
support and resources
on the prevention of
domestic violence for
all victims in New Jersey**



What is the connection?

It is a common misconception that substance or alcohol use causes domestic violence. Substance use and an individual's choice to use abusive behavior against an intimate partner are two separate behaviors.

Treatment for substance or alcohol use does not “cure” abusive behavior against a partner; both circumstances must be addressed separately.

Victim Safety

It is important that individuals and their providers understand how substance use may impact the victim's safety.

Victims may find that alcohol or substances help them cope with violence and trauma, however, their use can also impact their ability to safety plan and access services.

- Victims may blackout making it difficult to recall abusive incidents or their safety plan
- Victims may not call police or reach out for services out of fear of being arrested
- There are limited resources available that address both domestic violence and substance abuse
- Victims often experience stigma from first responders, service providers and court personnel because of their history.

Dynamics of Power and Control

Perpetrators of domestic violence may use alcohol or substances; it is not uncommon for victims of domestic violence to use substances themselves. Victims and survivors may use substances in an effort to self-medicate and cope with the chronic and ongoing trauma they experience.

Abusive partners may use a victim's substance use to further their control and abuse over the victim. It is important for victims and their providers to understand how this control impacts the victim's safety.

- Using the victim's intoxication to justify their violence and control over them
- Threatening to report the victim to police, child protection, or other authorities
- Controlling the victim's access to substances
- Withholding substances to cause withdrawal symptoms
- Threatening to have the victim hospitalized
- Sabotaging the victim's sobriety by preventing the victim from attending meetings, disrupting appointments, or keeping alcohol or substances in the home
- Introducing the partner to drugs
- Forcing or coercing the victim into using
- Coercing the victim into illegal activities (sex work, dealing, stealing).

Family, Friends & Providers

- Providers should be prepared to screen and assess their clients for current or ongoing abuse.
- Providers, family members, and friends should consider how ongoing abuse may impact the victim's safety and recovery.
- Providers, family members and friends should reach out to NJCEDV to find their local domestic violence program and learn about the services available in their county.

It is important to remember that victims experiencing substance abuse often need our services the most, yet are often the least likely to reach out for help or to get the services they need to stay safe and in recovery. (Bland, 2014)

- **NJ Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline:** 800-572-SAFE (7233), Bilingual V/TTY Accessible. 24 hours-7 days a week
- **ReachNJ:** 844-REACH-NJ (844-732-2465)
- **New Jersey Mental Health Cares:** 866-202-HELP (4357) TTY 877-294-4356
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** 800-273-TALK (8255)
- **Veterans Counseling Hotline:** 866-VETS-NJ4 (866-838-7654)