

DV a gender-based crime

Men, women violent in different ways

"It takes two to tango...She hits him, too ...The laws are biased against men...Women sometimes make up 'abuse' to get custody..."

Have you ever heard or thought this? You may even know a man who's abused by a woman. Yet, victim services are usually designed for women. Where is this apparent conflict coming from?

Heterosexual intimate partner violence (IPV) is a gender-based crime. Research shows that most battering is conducted by men, against women. However, there are different types of violence in intimate relationships.

Battering

Mostly committed by men, it is a **pattern** of ongoing control, intimidation, and physical, sexual or emotional abuse that instills fear. Batters take away their partners' basic rights to make everyday decisions. You may not be surprised that most of the situations we work with at Artemis fit this category. This type of violence leaves the victim paralyzed with fear. It often leaves her at an economic disadvantage, with serious injuries and sometimes dead. Children are often victimized as a way to control the mother. Safe escape is difficult, if not impossible.

Resistive Violence

Mostly committed by women, this is violence used to stop abuse, resist domination, or protect themselves, children or pets. These women may use force to survive. In this type of IPV, injuries are generally less severe. Others in the household are seldom subject to the abuse. We find that most women who are arrested for DV are using violence in this way.

If you're interested in learning how Artemis serves these victims who turn violent, please read the story on page 2.

Situational Violence

In these situations, one or both partners may be physically violent or emotionally abusive. What makes this violence different is that there is no long term pattern of control. This could account, for example, for violence that occurs when an infidelity is discovered. We don't see this type of violence at Artemis often because either party could choose to leave the relationship without significant fear. No safety planning is needed.

Men, women use violence differently

IPV experts recognize that men and women use different types of violence. Research shows that men generally cause more serious injuries and are less likely to report fear of

their partner. They are more likely to push, grab, strangle and beat their partners. Findings from the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project have shown there are very few cases in which a battered male in a heterosexual relationship is truly afraid to leave. Often, men can leave the relationship without the increase of violence that battered women usually experience.

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Women are more likely to throw things, slap or bite. Women do have a higher rate of using weapons. Some experts believe this is compensation for size or strength differences.

Many studies have also noted that males are more likely to downplay their use of violence, while women are more likely to exaggerate theirs. Accordingly, batterers will try to

manipulate the system and convince others their violence is “mutual” or caused by a mental/physical disease or addiction.

Why this matters to you

When people like you understand the complexity of violence in intimate relationships, they are more

likely to see the need to eliminate it. You appreciate that the right kind of help can save lives. As an Artemis supporter, you know the best way to help battered women is to accurately communicate the reality of their victimization and sometimes, their own use of force.

Artemis never condones the use of violence in a relationship. We know that women do sometimes batter. However, our experience after 25 years is that males are a small fraction of those who require help. Artemis Center remains committed to serving victims, regardless of their gender.

When victims turn violent

Artemis Works with Women Who Use Force Program teaches better ways to cope with dangerous relationship

You may remember the made-for-TV movie “The Burning Bed.” Farrah Fawcett’s character sets fire to the bed where her husband is sleeping. Perhaps you saw the 2002 film “Enough,” in which Jennifer Lopez plays an abused wife who fights back. If you’re over the age of 30, you most certainly recall the real-life drama of Lorena and John Bobbitt.

Each of these incidents represents a battered woman who uses violence against her abuser.

For nearly 15 years, Artemis Center has run a Women Who Resort to Violence (WWRV) group. “When domestic violence (DV) was made a crime, the harsher arrest laws that were put in place had an unintended consequence. They resulted in more victims being arrested for committing acts of DV,” explained Monika, Outreach Services Coordinator at Artemis Center. “We saw a need for a program for female victims of intimate partner violence who, themselves, resorted to violence with their abusive partners.”



Most of the WWRV group members used violence in one of the following ways:

- Self-defense: a partner is assaulting the woman and she uses force to save herself from further harm
- Delayed self-defense: a partner has assaulted or threatened

a woman and she responds sometime later. Example: Partner abuses her, and then threatens to kill her tonight. He falls asleep and she assaults him, believing he will hurt her when he wakes up if she does not take action.

- Retaliation: a partner has been violent over time. She

eventually fights back, not to defend herself at that moment, but to show her own power to control her life or express her anger/frustration

Goals of the 12-week WWRV group include education about DV and enhanced safety without the use of violence.

DV Education

Women living with domestic violence often fail to recognize the full extent of the danger. The

WWRV group addresses these risk factors, the effects DV has on children, healthy versus unhealthy relationships, and resources to help them with a variety of needs. This new understanding helps reduce their feelings of isolation and hopelessness.

Enhanced Safety without Use of Violence

WWRV participants are first and foremost victims of violence. They often stay with their abusive partners and therefore remain in danger.

Group work includes evaluating their level of danger and creating a safety plan to use when they need it. Members also learn anger management tools that can keep a volatile situation from turning violent.

Said Monika, “At Artemis Center, we never condone the use of violence. We hope this group presents survivors with more options and reduces the chance that women will get hurt or die, or that they will injure or kill their partners.”

Artemis Center Observes Silver Anniversary

Founding Mothers’ work leads to hope, safety

Looking Back

In 1985, a group of dedicated volunteers recognized the need for services to victims of domestic violence that went beyond the traditional shelter. The results were the original Artemis House – a place where victims could come for support, understanding and referrals to community resources. The founders chose the name Artemis for the goddess of Greek mythology who was the protector of women and children.

From the original group of volunteers, Nancy Grigsby was selected to be the first executive director. Over the years, Artemis House became Artemis Center. We added vital services, like children’s therapy to help the youngest victims of DV cope with their trauma. An estimated 80,000 victims have turned to Artemis for safety and

support.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Founding Mothers – Nancy Grigsby, Connie Davis, Margaret Knapke, Kate O’Connor- and so many others who gave birth to Artemis 25 years ago.

Looking Forward

In appreciation of our founders’



efforts, Artemis Center’s Board of Directors have turned their attention forward. With an eye toward Artemis’ survival through

the next 25 years, the board recently approved a partnership with the Dayton Foundation’s Legacy program. This is a proven program to give staff the tools they need to secure planned gifts for the agency’s future.

Artemis Center's executive director, Patti Schwarztrauber, and the Dayton Foundation’s Beth Redden will begin meeting privately with loyal supporters to discuss ways they can support Artemis far into the future. Through wills, insurance policies, and other vehicles, donors can help assure that Artemis Center will be here as long as there are victims of domestic violence who need us.

For more information on Artemis Center’s *Legacy of Hope* program, please contact Patti at 531-5726.

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Support Artemis through the purchase of handmade jewelry. Visit www.cords4cause.com

Peacekeeper Awards Luncheon **October 15, 2010** **The Mandalay Banquet Center**

11:30 am -1:00 pm

Lunch, Keynote Speech & Awards

1:15-2:15 pm

Optional workshop, "DECONSTRUCT THIS! Images of Women in the Media"

Peacekeeper Award Honorees

Claire M. Renzetti, PhD, University of Kentucky

Deputy Bryan Cavender, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department

Sponsored by:

Sheriff Phil Plummer
University of Dayton

Tickets are \$30. For reservations, call 531-5709.

Local Social Service Programs in Jeopardy

You already do so much for Artemis and your neighbors who need a helping hand. The coming weeks will bring two opportunities for you to do even more.

For Montgomery County voters, the Human Services Levy is on the ballot this fall. This replacement levy assures that thousands of county residents will continue to receive vital services. We have a proud history in this area of taking care of those who face hard times. Money from this levy protects children from abuse, delivers meals to the elderly, serves people with mental disabilities and brings millions of state and federal dollars into our county. All that for less than \$16.00 per year for owners of a \$100,000 home.

To find out more, go to www.KeepOurHumanServices.com

[KeepOurHumanServices.com](http://www.KeepOurHumanServices.com)

You can be a hero! Vote "YES" on the Human Services Replacement levy.

United Way Needs You!

Can you imagine what our town would be like if even one of the agencies you support ceased to exist? It's no secret that this community has been hit hard by economic conditions. At a time when more people need help, there are fewer dollars to pay for services. The region is in very real danger of losing vital programs.

The United Way of the Greater Dayton Area is asking you to dig a little deeper this year when you make your pledge.

Visit www.dayton-unitedway.org for more information.