



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

## Domestic Violence Affects Us All

### *On Our Streets and In Law Enforcement...*

- 1 of 3 referrals to the Dane County District Attorney's office by law enforcement are domestic violence related. However, less than 25% of domestic violence incidents against women will ever be reported to law enforcement. Domestic violence remains one of the most chronically underreported crimes.
- More than 60% of female homicide victims were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers. Victims of domestic violence are **six times** more likely to be killed by their abusers when attempting to leave the relationship than at any other time.
- Although the total number of domestic violence incidents is higher in urban areas, the rate of domestic violence victimization is higher in rural areas.
- Mandatory arrest laws apply when a perpetrator violates a restraining order, even if the victim invited the respondent into her or his home.
- Victim safety improves when law enforcement and victim advocacy agencies have strong and effective partnerships. 80% of victims surveyed in a pilot program collaboration between MPD and DAIS reported that they knew more ways to plan for their safety as a result of the program.

### *What Law Enforcement Can Do to Prevent Domestic Violence:*

- 1) Speak out on the issue. Demonstrate public support for victims and accountability for batterers.
- 2) Conduct thorough assessments of victim safety, and establish victim confidence. Educate yourself about the services offered by local victim advocacy agencies so you can offer victims information. Hold regular trainings for officers on updates in laws. Provide materials to victims in need.
- 3) Establish a relationship with DAIS or any other organization that works to help victims and survivors of domestic violence. Contact DAIS for more information or if you have any questions or concerns.

**"Domestic violence is the number one reason for physical assault and it is underreported. Unfortunately, domestic violence as a cause suffers from 'out of sight, out of mind.' We need to bring this issue forward so that everyone understands how domestic violence impacts us all – whether at work, at school, or in the community."** ~ MPD Chief Noble Wray