

Two-thirds of women physically assaulted by an intimate said they were victimized multiple times by the same partner in a 12-month period. (National Violence Against Women Survey, July 2000.)

### Myth #3

Domestic violence only occurs in poor, urban areas.

**Facts:** Women of all cultures, races, occupations, income levels, and ages are battered by husbands, boyfriends, lovers, and partners (Surgeon General Antonia Novello, as quoted in *Domestic Violence: Battered Women*, publication of the Reference Department of the Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge, MA.)

Approximately one-third of the men counseled (for battering) at Emerge (Perpetrator's Intervention Program) are professional men who are well respected in their jobs and their communities.

These have included doctors, psychologists, lawyers, ministers, and business executives. (*For Shelter and Beyond*, Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups, Boston, MA, 1990.)

### Myth #4

Domestic violence is just a push, slap, or punch; it does not produce serious injuries.

**Facts:** More than one-third of all rapes and physical assaults committed against women by intimates result in injuries that require some medical care. (National Violence Against Women Survey, July 2000.)

Most research reports that violence against women escalates during pregnancy. One study found that 37 percent of obstetric patients were physically abused during pregnancy. (A. Helton, "Battering during pregnancy," *American Journal of Nursing*, August 1986.)

Each year, medical expenses from domestic violence total at least \$3 to \$5 billion. (Domestic

✦ Violence for Health Care Providers, 3rd Edition, Colorado Domestic Violence Coalition, 1991.)

## Where to Get Help

No one, married or single, deserves or has to put up with abuse. All 50 states have laws and shelters that protect individuals from abusive spouses. Help is available if you just ask.

If something about your relationship with your spouse scares you and you need to talk, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY). Assistance may also be obtained by e-mailing the National Domestic Violence Hotline at [ndvh@ndvh.org](mailto:ndvh@ndvh.org), though this is not an emergency e-mail contact. Help and information can also be requested by contacting the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 334-832-4842.

\*All above information is from the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence Web site ([www.acadv.org](http://www.acadv.org)) and is used with permission thereof.

