

# **Mother & Baby Safety Risks: Healthy New Moms Webinar**

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# Content Warning

- We will be discussing increased risks during the prenatal and postnatal periods. We will be focusing on intimate partner violence and child abuse
- This content may be distressing, please feel free to take breaks, leave the discussion, or reach out afterwards to process the content

# Objectives

- To understand the meaning of Intimate Partner Violence as well as the types of abuse that can occur during this time period
- To begin to understand the dynamic between Intimate Partner Violence and child maltreatment
- To begin to recognize warning signs of non accidental trauma in the newborn period

# What is Intimate Partner Violence?



- A pattern of coercively controlling behaviors that exist in an intimate relationship which are used to gain and maintain **power and control** over their partner in a relationship
  - Behaviors that:
    - Physically harm
    - Arouse fear
    - Do things by force, threats, and/or intimidation

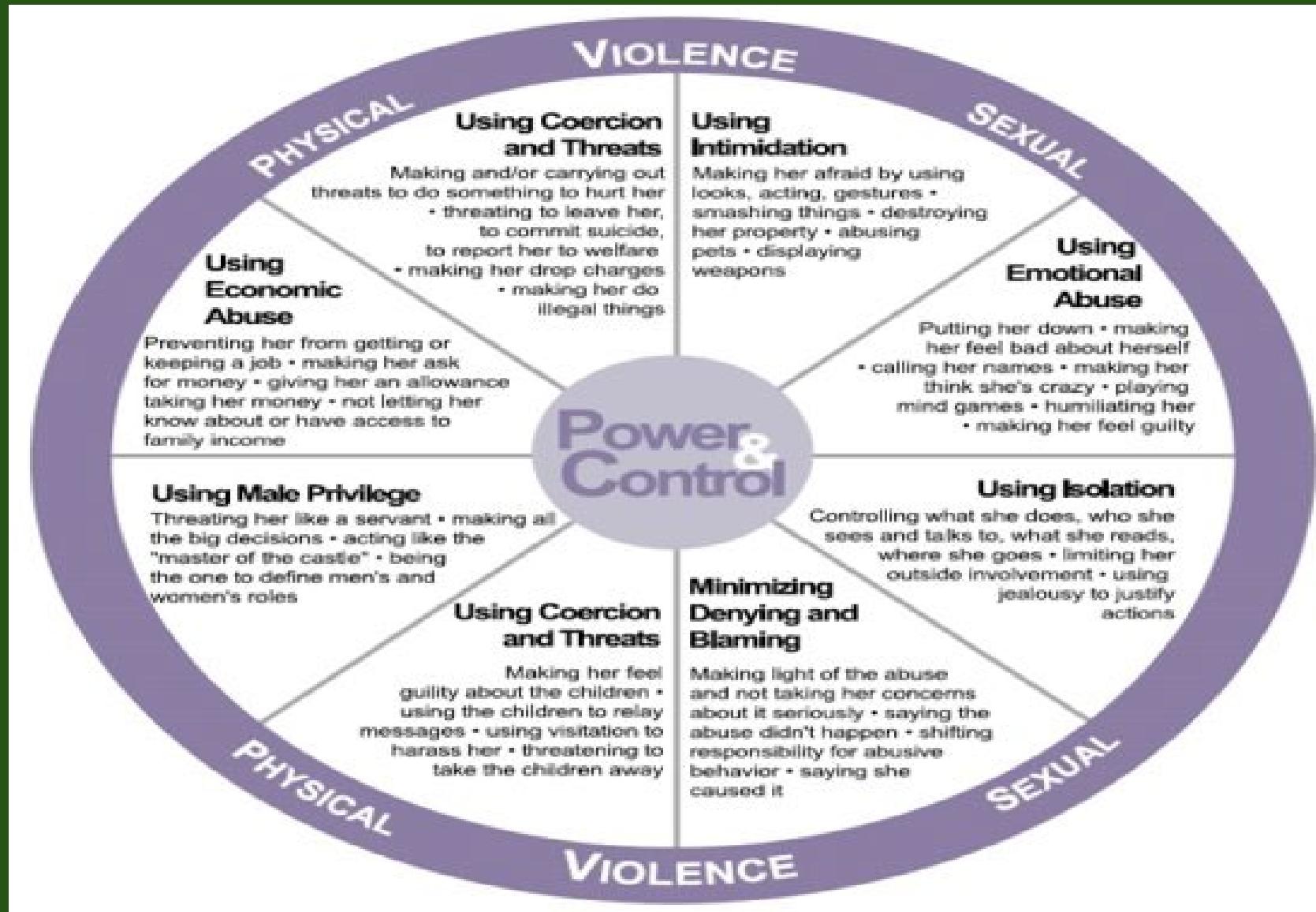
- Domestic Violence does not discriminate!
  - Victims are found in all socioeconomic levels, educational, racial, and age groups. Abuse occurs in same-sex, as well as heterosexual relationships.

- Who does it effect?  
**EVERYONE!!**  
!

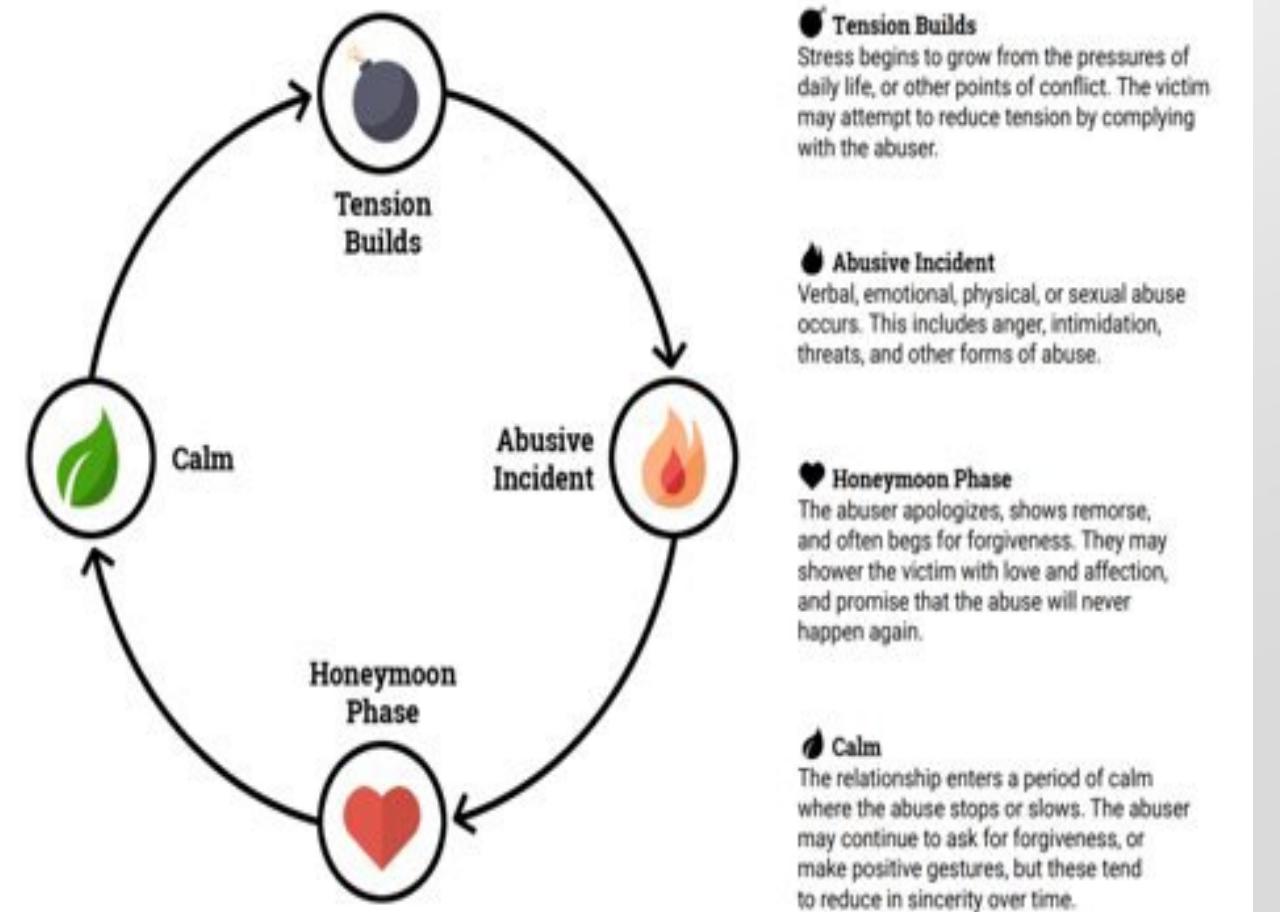


Who Does IPV impact?

# POWER & CONTROL WHEEL



# CYCLE OF ABUSE



ABUSIVE  
EVENT



TENSION  
BUILDING





# PHYSICAL ABUSE

- PULL YOUR HAIR OR PUNCH, SLAP, KICK, BITE, STRANGLE, OR SMOTHER YOU.
- FORBID OR PREVENT YOU FROM EATING OR SLEEPING.
- USE WEAPONS AGAINST YOU, INCLUDING FIREARMS, KNIVES, BATS, OR MACE.
  - PREVENT YOU FROM CONTACTING EMERGENCY SERVICES, INCLUDING MEDICAL ATTENTION OR LAW ENFORCEMENT.
- HARM YOUR CHILDREN (PREGNANCY/POSTPARTUM) OR PETS.
- DRIVE RECKLESSLY OR DANGEROUSLY WITH YOU IN THE CAR OR ABANDON YOU IN UNFAMILIAR PLACES.
- FORCE YOU TO USE DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE A HISTORY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE.
- TRAPPING YOU IN YOUR HOME OR PREVENTING YOU FROM LEAVING (FALSE IMPRISONMENT).
- THROW OBJECTS AT YOU

# EMOTIONAL/VERBAL ABUSE



- CALLING YOU NAMES, INSULTING YOU, OR CONSTANTLY CRITICIZING YOU.
- ACTING JEALOUS OR POSSESSIVE
- ISOLATING YOU FROM FAMILY & FRIENDS.
- MONITORING YOUR ACTIVITIES WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING DEMANDING TO KNOW WHERE YOU GO, WHO YOU CONTACT, AND HOW YOU SPEND YOUR TIME.
- ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL WHAT YOU WEAR, INCLUDING CLOTHES, MAKEUP, OR HAIRSTYLES.
- HUMILIATING YOU IN ANY WAY, ESPECIALLY IN FRONT OF OTHERS.
- THREATENING YOU, YOUR CHILDREN, YOUR FAMILY, OR YOUR PETS (WITH OR WITHOUT WEAPONS).

# EMOTIONAL/VERBAL ABUSE CONT....



- DAMAGING YOUR BELONGINGS, INCLUDING THROWING OBJECTS, PUNCHING WALLS, KICKING DOORS, ETC.
- BLAMING YOU FOR THEIR ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS.
- ACCUSING YOU OF CHEATING OR CHEATING THEMSELVES AND BLAMING YOU FOR THEIR ACTIONS.
- CHEATING ON YOU TO INTENTIONALLY HURT YOU AND THREATENING TO CHEAT AGAIN TO SUGGEST THAT THEY'RE "BETTER" THAN YOU.
- TELLING YOU THAT YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE WITH THEM OR THAT YOU'LL NEVER FIND SOMEONE BETTER
- **GASLIGHTING** YOU BY PRETENDING NOT TO UNDERSTAND OR REFUSING TO LISTEN TO YOU; QUESTIONING YOUR RECOLLECTION OF FACTS, EVENTS, OR SOURCES; TRIVIALIZING YOUR NEEDS OR FEELINGS; OR DENYING PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OR PROMISES..



# FINANCIAL ABUSE

- PROVIDING AN ALLOWANCE AND CLOSELY MONITORING HOW YOU SPEND IT, INCLUDING DEMANDING RECEIPTS FOR PURCHASES.
- DEPOSITING YOUR PAYCHECK INTO AN ACCOUNT YOU CAN'T ACCESS.
- PREVENTING YOU FROM VIEWING OR ACCESSING BANK ACCOUNTS.
- PREVENTING YOU FROM WORKING, LIMITING THE HOURS THAT YOU CAN WORK, GETTING YOU FIRED, OR FORCING YOU TO WORK CERTAIN TYPES OF JOBS.
- MAXING OUT YOUR CREDIT CARDS WITHOUT PERMISSION.
- STEALING MONEY FROM YOU, YOUR FAMILY, OR YOUR FRIENDS..
- LIVING IN YOUR HOME BUT REFUSING TO WORK OR CONTRIBUTE TO THE HOUSEHOLD.
- REFUSING TO PROVIDE MONEY FOR NECESSARY OR SHARED EXPENSES LIKE FOOD, CLOTHING, TRANSPORTATION, MEDICAL CARE, OR MEDICINE.

# DIGITAL ABUSE



- DEMANDING TO CHECK YOUR TEXTS, CALL HISTORY, EMAILS, & SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
- SENDING YOU NEGATIVE, INSULTING, OR THREATENING MESSAGES OR EMAILS
  - DEMANDING PHONE & SOCIAL MEDIA PASSWORDS.
- SENDING, REQUESTING, OR PRESSURING YOU TO SEND UNWANTED EXPLICIT PHOTOS OR VIDEOS, SEXTS, OR OTHERWISE COMPROMISING MESSAGES (*SEXTORTION*).
  - CONSTANTLY TEXTING YOU OR MAKING YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T BE SEPARATED FROM YOUR PHONE FOR FEAR THAT YOU'LL ANGER THEM..
- USING ANY KIND OF TECHNOLOGY (SUCH AS SPYWARE OR GPS IN A CAR OR PHONE) TO MONITOR YOUR ACTIVITIES
- CREATING FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES IN YOUR NAME AND IMAGE OR USING YOUR PHONE OR EMAIL TO SEND MESSAGES TO OTHERS PRETENDING TO BE YOU, AS A WAY TO EMBARRASS OR ISOLATE YOU.



# SEXUAL ABUSE

- **SEXUAL COERCION** LIES ON THE CONTINUUM OF SEXUALLY AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR, AND IT MAY VARY IN PRACTICE FROM BEGGING AND PERSUASION TO FORCED SEXUAL CONTACT. IT MAY BE VERBAL AND EMOTIONAL THROUGH STATEMENTS MADE TO PRESSURE, GUILT, OR SHAME.
- FORCE YOU TO DRESS IN A SEXUAL WAY YOU'RE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH.
- FORCE OR MANIPULATE YOU INTO HAVING SEX OR PERFORMING SEXUAL ACTS, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE SICK, TIRED, OR PHYSICALLY INJURED FROM THEIR ABUSE.
- CHOKE YOU OR RESTRAIN YOU DURING SEX WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.
- HOLD YOU DOWN DURING SEX WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.
- HURT YOU WITH WEAPONS OR OBJECTS DURING SEX.
- INVOLVE OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR SEXUAL ACTIVITIES AGAINST YOUR WILL..
- FORCE YOU TO WATCH OR MAKE PORNOGRAPHY.



# MEDICAL ABUSE

- PREVENT YOU FROM TAKING PRESCRIBED MEDICATION OR DENY YOU NECESSARY MEDICAL TREATMENT
  - WITHHOLDING MEDICATIONS &/OR ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTIONS, DOCTORS APPTS, INSURANCE INFO, ETC.
  - CANCELLING OR DENYING ACCESS TO MEDICAL TX, MONITORING DOCTORS VISITS (REFUSAL TO LEAVE), SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF PATIENT
- DENYING ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAL APPTS

- **REPRODUCTIVE COERCION** IS A FORM OF POWER AND CONTROL WHERE ONE PARTNER STRIPS ANOTHER OF THE ABILITY TO CONTROL THEIR OWN REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM
  - INTENTIONALLY BECOMING PREGNANT AGAINST YOUR WISHES OR FORCING YOU TO GET AN ABORTION OR PREVENTING YOU FROM GETTING ONE.
  - BREAKING OR REMOVING A CONDOM BEFORE OR DURING SEX OR REFUSING TO PULL OUT.
  - LYING ABOUT METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL (I.E. HAVING A VASECTOMY OR BEING ON THE PILL)



# IPV and the Impact on Children

Exposure to IPV increases a child's risk to other forms of abuse and violence  
Over one third of families with IPV will also have co-occurring child abuse

Children who witness IPV:

- 8x more likely to experience neglect
- 10x more likely to experience sexual abuse
- 20% have experienced physical abuse during the past year

Within families where violence is present, multiple forms of violence often coexist, all of which have an effect on children in affected homes

# Other Risk Factors In The Newborn Period

- Postpartum Depression/Anxiety
- Abusive Head Trauma (Shaken Baby Syndrome)
- Stress
- Sleep Deprivation
- Baby's never ending needs



ThePhoto by PhotoAuthor is licensed under CCYYSA.

## The Letters in **PURPLE** Stand for



Your baby may cry more each week, the most in month 2, then less in months 3-5



Crying can come and go and you don't know why



Your baby may not stop crying no matter what you try



A crying baby may look like they are in pain, even when they are not



Crying can last as much as 5 hours a day, or more



Your baby may cry more in the late afternoon and evening

The word **Period** means that the crying has a beginning and an end.



# Key Developmental Milestones

- 2 months lifts chest off table
- 4 months rolls front to back
- 6 months unsupported sitting
- 8 months crawls, pulls up to stand
- 9 months cruises
- 12 months walks
- 21 months goes up steps

## Sentinel Injuries

- By definition a **sentinel injury** is a relatively minor injury in a pre-cruising infant that is poorly explained therefor concerning for non accidental trauma
- Does not occur in the normal care of newborns
- Are visible to the caregiver
- Typically heal quickly and completely without the need for medical intervention
- Bruising and intraoral injury are uncommon and unexpected in a typical host infant and often precede serious injury and potential death

(Sheets et al., 2013)

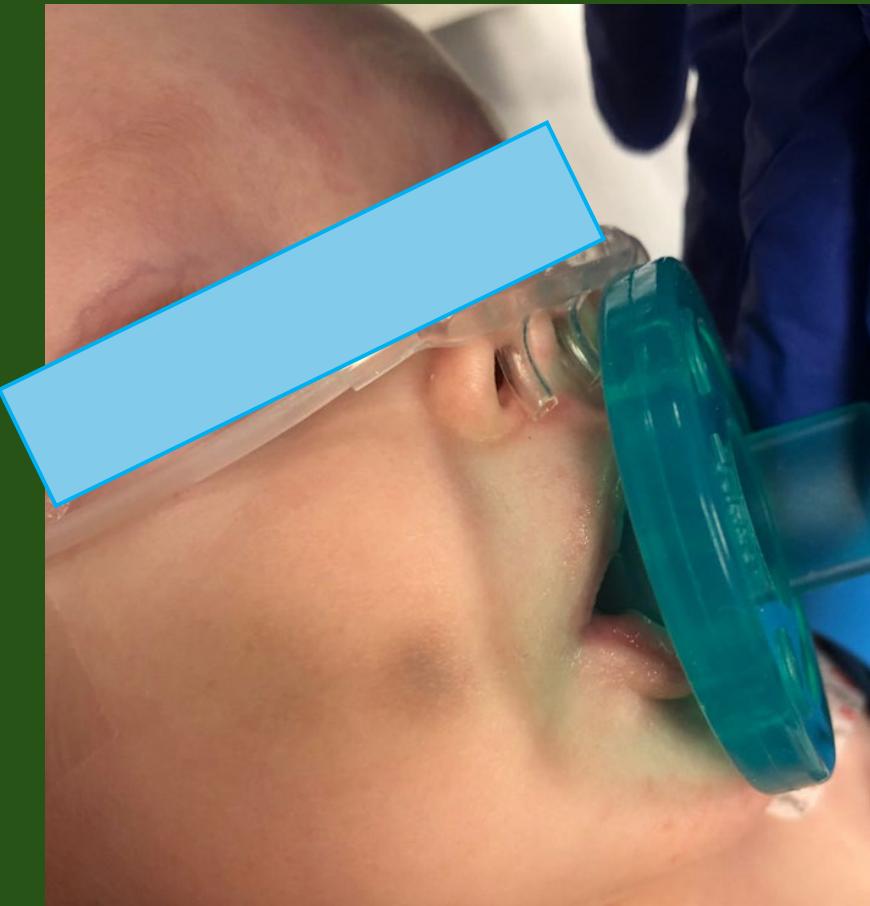
Warning: Pictures of babies with injuries

# Concerning Injuries in Newborns

- Burns
- Nursemaids elbow
- Red in the whites of the eyes
- Bruising
- Intraoral injury

(Sheets et al., 2013)







# Cutaneous Injury: TEN-4 FACES P

Trunk

Ears

Neck

4 years or younger

Frenulum

Auricular area

Cheek

Eyes

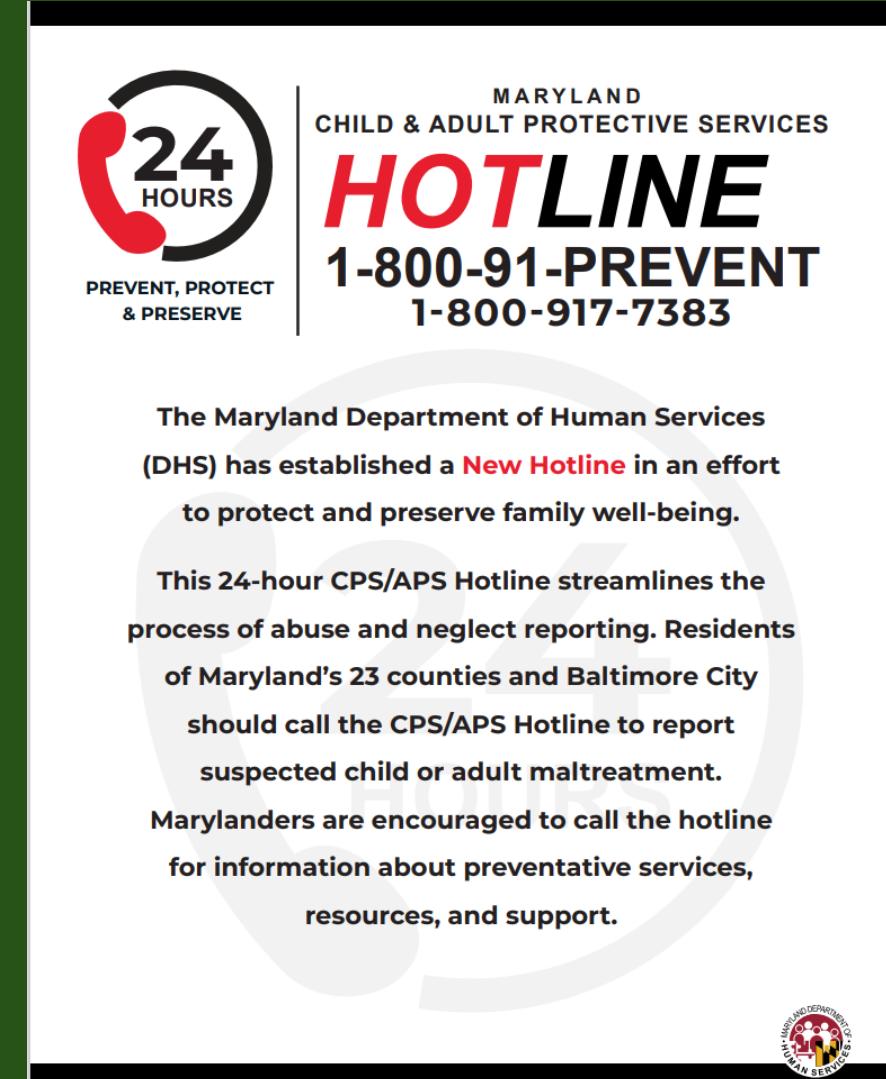
Sclera

Patterns



# What to do if you notice concerning injuries? What resources are available?

- 911
- Take pictures & keep notes (don't wait, injuries can change quickly)
- Utilize your Primary Care Provider: call them, ask questions, routine visits
- **Child Protective Services Hotline:**  
1-800-91-PREVENT
- **Maryland Children's Alliance-** Find your local Child Advocacy Center



The graphic features a large, faint watermark of the Maryland state seal in the background. In the upper right, there is a logo for "24 HOURS" with a red phone receiver icon, and the text "PREVENT, PROTECT & PRESERVE". To the right of this, the text "MARYLAND CHILD & ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES" is written in a small, sans-serif font. Below that, the word "HOTLINE" is written in large, bold, red capital letters. Underneath "HOTLINE", the phone number "1-800-91-PREVENT" is listed in large black capital letters, with the toll-free number "1-800-917-7383" listed directly below it in a smaller black font. In the lower right area, there is a block of text: "The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) has established a **New Hotline** in an effort to protect and preserve family well-being. This 24-hour CPS/APS Hotline streamlines the process of abuse and neglect reporting. Residents of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City should call the CPS/APS Hotline to report suspected child or adult maltreatment. Marylanders are encouraged to call the hotline for information about preventative services, resources, and support." At the bottom right corner, there is a small circular logo for the "MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES" with the state seal.

# Intimate Partner Violence: What can I do? What resources are available?

**911**

**Safety Planning:** Individualized for each person, usually completed with active assisting agency

**CHANA:** 410-234-0030 [www.ChanaBaltimore.org](http://www.ChanaBaltimore.org)

**DOVE** at Northwest Hospital: 410-496-7555

**Family Crisis Center:** 410-828-6390 [www.FamilyCrisisCenter.net](http://www.FamilyCrisisCenter.net)

**GBMC S.A.F.E. & Domestic Violence Program:** 443-849-3323

**House of Ruth Maryland, Inc:** 24-Hour Hotline 410-889-7884

**TurnAround, Inc.:** 24-Hour Helpline 443-279-0379; 24/7 Text Line 410-498-5956

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-799-7233

# Thank You!

To contact us further, please call:

443-849-3323