

## Health Consequences

- The victim may have left the abusive relationship but may not be free from the long lasting health consequences from abuse.
- *For the Children:* living with abuse, children are more likely to exhibit aggressive behaviors, hostility, poor academic performance, and psychological problems, such as: depression, anxiety, and withdrawal.
- The Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study
  - *For the Children,* later in life these children who grew up with domestic violence in the home are more likely as adults to have lung disease, obesity, liver disease, attempt suicide, become a victim of abuse, and/or depression than those who did not grow up in a home with domestic violence.
- Typically, health consequences for abused women, on average, cause about **7 lost days of work, and for sexual assault may cause up to 8 days of lost work.** In this regard women are re-victimized, first by the initial abuse, then by the loss of their financial resources.

## Long Lasting Health Consequences

- Stress
- Anxiety
- PTSD
- Depression
- GI problems
- Heart disease (even high cholesterol)
- Headaches
- Eating disorders
- Sleep problems
- Pelvic pain
- Urinary infections
- Sexuality transmitted infections (STIs)
- Complications during pregnancy: miscarriage, preterm birth, low birth weight
- Risky behaviors: increase in substance use, smoking, unsafe sex (even HIV) , increase in alcohol usage
- Suicidal ideation, suicide attempts
- **DEATH: via homicide, suicide, or maternal mortality**

## Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)

- Alteration in brain function: there is link between abuse and mild TBI (mTBI)
- Multiple hits to the head.
- Mild traumatic brain injuries increase risk for having central nervous system symptoms such as:
  - Memory loss, ears ringing, dizzy spells, vision problems, hearing problems, and even difficulty concentrating.

## Strangulation (NF-IPS)

- Non-Fetal Intimate Partner Strangulation
  - Sometimes no visible injury
  - Symptoms: hoarseness, petichiae, bruises in the clavicle area, seizures, difficulty swallowing, voice changes, broken jaw, even memory loss
  - Other symptoms and long lasting health consequences: anxiety, depression, PTSD
- **Significantly increases the risk of the victim being murdered by their intimate partner.**