



Domestic Violence Characteristics and Beliefs



Minimizing the Violence

- Victims may minimize or even deny the effects of violent behavior:
 - ▶ “it wasn’t that bad.”
 - ▶ “I overreacted.”
 - ▶ “I will try harder to please him.”
 - ▶ “It was my fault, I didn’t have dinner ready on time.”





Batterer Dependence

- The batterer needs and depends on the victim and the victim feels that she cannot leave.
- Victim is typically isolated from family, friends, co-workers, neighbors or anyone else who might influence her.
- Victim may lose touch with the outside world if isolation is extreme.





Victims often Suffer from...

- Migraines
 - Stomach disorders
 - Psychophysical complaints
 - Depression
 - Dependence on alcohol or drugs to “numb the pain.”
- 
- 





Issues of Isolation

- Limited access to vehicles
 - Roads are often impassable
 - Phone service that may be non-existent or inadequate
 - Emergency response slow and often operated by volunteers who are often neighbors/relatives
- 
- 





Issues of Isolation

- Limited contact with anyone outside the home including medical providers
 - Bruises/gashes will heal before anyone sees them
 - Nature of living in rural area provides ready excuses for any injury
 - Fear, distrust of, or lack of knowledge of, any of the services available
- 
- 




Why Victims Stay

- Believes that things will get worse when she tries to leave
 - The risk of severe injury and death increases dramatically when a victim leaves
 - Children's security
 - Financial cost
 - Where to go
- 
- 



Why Victims Stay

- When and how to leave
 - Don't have any transportation
 - What will family, neighbors, friends think
 - Religious beliefs - don't believe in divorce
 - Where will she be safe and him not find her
- 
- 