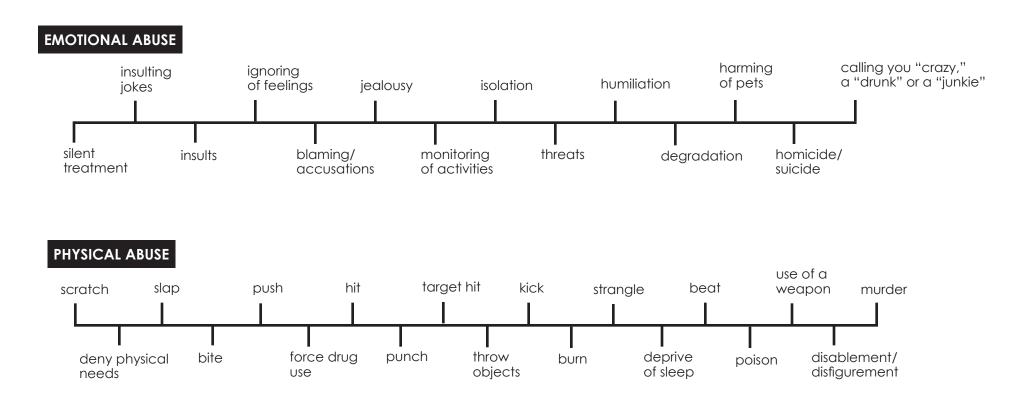
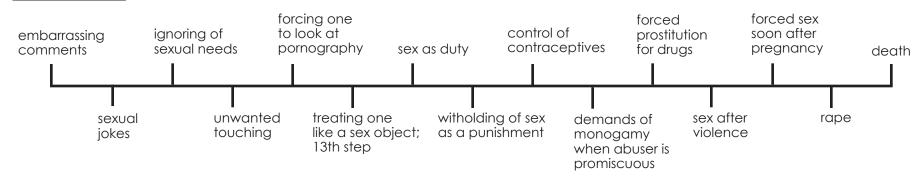
MANIFESTATIONS OF VIOLENCE

Abuse can occur in different forms. It can be physical, emotional, sexual, spiritual, social and/or economic. The diagrams below describe some of the abuse tactics batterers use as they attempt to gain or maintain power and control over their intimate partners. Abuse does not always progress in the steps shown here. Sometimes the abuse may advance from pushing or hitting directly to more severe physical violence such as the use of a weapon. Although each relationship is unique, any type of abuse must be considered a serious cause for concern. Despite different circumstances, it is important to remember that abuse can escalate (especially if there is no intervention). A coordinated community response holding batterers accountable for their abusive behaviors is essential, as is a response acknowledging and respecting the rights of victims of domestic violence.

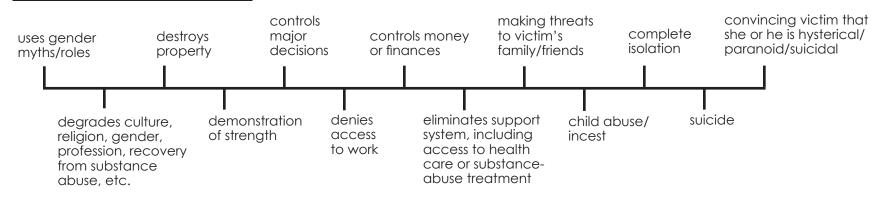
Exercise: It is helpful to be aware of the different manifestations of domestic violence. Circle the type(s) of abuse you are now experiencing (or that you have experienced). Notice if the violence is increasing in intensity, severity or frequency. Talk to a domestic violence advocate to develop or review your current safety plan or explore your options. Remember, domestic violence is never your fault, even if you were drinking or using drugs.



SEXUAL ABUSE



SOCIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL ABUSE



Credit: Patti Bland, New Beginnings for Battered Women and Their Children, Seattle, WA, presented at the National Conference on Crafting Individualized Services for Women: Responding to Multiple Challenges of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Mental Health Concerns and Substance Abuse, Hosted by the National Training Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Austin, Teas, September 10-12, 2001.

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