The Learn More Series is distributed by the Grants to Encourage Arrest (GTEA) project.

The GTEA is coordinated by the Rural Crime and Justice Center (RCJC) at Minot State University, in partnership with the ND Dept. of Health.

The purpose of this Learn More Series is to provide information regarding issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault among communities in the northwest region of North Dakota.

For more information on the Learn More Series and/or the GTEA project contact:

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Understanding Domestic Violence
Prepared by: Lisa Dooley

Domestic violence remains a frequent call to law enforcement departments in North Dakota. According to Council on Abused Women’s Services North Dakota (CAWS ND), 5,177 domestic violence incidents were reported to crisis intervention centers in North Dakota in 2013. Of those incidents, law enforcement officers responded 53% of the time. In at least 42% of those incidents, an arrest was made. Subsequently, victims were referred to domestic violence programs. Research has indicated that police responses illustrate the outcome in combating intimate partner violence.

It is essential that law enforcement officers understand they are a critical link in the survival of domestic violence victims. The North Dakota Family Violence Option mandates screening for domestic violence. It provides referral for specialized services, and provides temporary exemptions from program requirements to enable battered women to have the time, services, and support they need to address domestic violence.

Law enforcement officers are required by the North Dakota Century Code 14.07.1-12 and 50-09-31 to:

- Make a written report of the investigation of any allegation of domestic violence regardless of whether an arrest was made.
- Screen all applicants to identify past or present victims of domestic violence or at risk of further domestic violence.
- Refer these individuals to a local domestic violence sexual assault organization for safety planning and supportive services; and
- Determine if good cause exists to waive work requirements or time limits on receipt of benefits of domestic violence.

With the growing population of North Dakota and an increase in violent crime, collaboration between law enforcement departments and crisis centers remains invaluable when serving victims. To find a local domestic program in your area contact the North Dakota Council on Abused Women’s Services at 888-255-6240/701-255-6240 and or by visiting their website at http://www.ndcaws.org/resources/.

Resources

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