Introduction

• Domestic violence is any threatening behavior, violence, or physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse between partners.
• Domestic violence during pregnancy can lead to miscarriages, premature birth, fetal injury and low birth weight.
• Abuse often continues after the baby is delivered, through verbal abuse, preventing the mother from getting a job, or withholding money to care for the baby.

We believe women should not be physically, sexually, or emotionally harassed or hurt when pregnant.

This behavior can cause lasting damages to a woman and fetus.

The emotional damage can greatly impact the unborn child as well as the mother.

A woman and her significant other should enjoy the pregnancy and be happy that she is expecting.

Every women should have a safe and healthy pregnancy, not one where she is being abused and mistreated due to her significant other.

Statistics

• 1.5 million women each year are abused by their partners.
• 1 our of 3 women worldwide will be physically or sexually abused during their lifetime.
• 1/3 of domestic violence starts when a women gets pregnant.
• Only 4-8% of pregnant women actually report violence during pregnancy to the police.
• Domestic violence during pregnancy endangers both pregnant women and the unborn baby.

Violence Against Women Act

• The Violence Against Women Act is a federal law drafted by then-Senator Joe Biden in 1994.
• The act mandates a tough criminal justice response for holding abusers accountable.
• The act also provides support and services for those who experience abuse so they can rebuild their lives.

Although the act was recently renewed, it was heavily opposed by conservative Republicans.

Advocates

A strong advocate for women experiencing abuse during pregnancy is the March of Dimes Foundation.

• The March of Dimes Foundation works to improve the health of mothers and babies.
• They teach that abuse can come in many forms.
• Emotional abuse may lead a woman to feel scared or depressed, eat unhealthy foods, or pick up bad habits such as smoking and drinking.

References


