

NEW HAMPSHIRE NURSES' ASSOCIATION
POSITION STATEMENT ON SUPPORT OF THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

SUMMARY:

The New Hampshire Nurses' Association (NHNA) strongly supports the work of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV). The NHCADSV or the "Coalition" is a statewide organization that is a leader in the movement to end violence against women. It is the umbrella organization for a network of 14 independent member programs. The programs provide direct services and prevention and education programs and are supported by the Coalition's central office that provides funding, training, technical assistance, public policy advocacy and forums for resource sharing and networking. The Coalition seeks to create safe and just communities through advocacy, prevention and empowerment of anyone affected by sexual violence, domestic violence and stalking.

Domestic and sexual violence defined:

Domestic Violence, also known as intimate partner violence, is a pattern of coercive behavior used by one person to gain and maintain power and control over another in the context of an intimate or familial relationship. It can happen to anyone: adult women and men, teenagers, people who are mentally and physically disabled, and the elderly, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or economic status and may include physical and/or sexual violence, stalking, verbal, emotional, mental/psychological, and/or economic abuse, threats, pushing, punching, slapping, strangulation, shouting, and/or name-calling, harming or threatening to harm children or pets, and other violent or intimidating behaviors, isolation from family and friends. Rarely a one-time occurrence, domestic violence usually escalates in frequency and severity over time.

Sexual violence is forced, manipulated, or coerced sexual activity. It is a crime in which the assailant uses sex to inflict humiliation on the victim, to exert power and control over the victim, or to use the victim to attain sexual gratification without regard for the victim's consent.

The statistics are astounding:

- In calendar year 2016, 14, 805 individuals were served by one of the 14 NH crisis centers
- Nearly one in four women in New Hampshire has been sexually assaulted
- At least a third of New Hampshire women have been the victim of a physical assault by an intimate partner
- More than half of all women in our state have experienced sexual and/or physical assault over the course of their lifetime
- It is estimated that 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives. However, some national studies show that up to 70 per cent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime

(World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London
School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council,
2013.

At NHNA, we acknowledge that no one deserves to be beaten or raped or to live in fear of such interpersonal aggression. Intimate partner violence and sexual violence are major public health problems and violations of human rights. It is our belief that the Coalition is a highly effective organization with a mission that we support. NHNA members and in fact, all nurses, should work together to abolish this violence from our society.

ADOPTED: January 12, 2018