Sometimes We Wonder/Answer Guide

Take a moment and reflect on the following statements. Mark T, F or M (maybe) on the line next to the statement if you find it true, false or true some of the time.

F 1. Most of the time reports of domestic violence are overblown.

Domestic violence is a crime. Every act of DV needs to be taken seriously. DV often escalates over time

F 2. Victims provoke the violence. If she acted right none of this would happen.

This is a common misconception. Abusers maintain control of the relationship and victim by deliberate acts and with thought. Use of violence is learned behavior that is used towards achieving an end.

F 3. When a woman claims to be a victim of domestic violence but doesn’t leave, it tells me that she is exaggerating how bad it is, or perhaps is just making it up.

There are many reasons women don’t leave or find it difficult. Refer to handout on 50 reasons.

F 4. As long as children are not being abused themselves, they are ok to stay in a home where abuse is present if it is infrequent. They often may not even be aware of the abuse.

Witnessing abuse has consequences. Children may be harmed accidently during an episode, but also suffer a multitude of consequences from being in an environment where abuse exists.

F 5. Alcohol and drugs, along with poor social skills or anger management problems are main contributors to family violence.

Although there is a high correlation with alcohol or substance abuse and domestic abuse, it is not generally regarded as a cause. It may be used as an excuse for violent behavior. Violent behavior does not stop when alcohol abuse stops.

F 6. Domestic violence is often a disagreement that got out of control.

Domestic violence is a pattern used to control another’s behavior. It is rarely an isolated event. DV incidents often increase in frequency and severity over time.

F 7. Domestic violence doesn’t affect my world. It happens in other neighborhoods to people that are different from me.

Domestic violence is pervasive in our society. It affects all races, socioeconomic groups, all types of families regardless of socioeconomic status, profession, religion.

F 8. As long as a woman’s partner doesn’t hit her she is not a victim of domestic abuse.

Domestic violence can include emotional, psychological, financial, sexual and verbal abuse.

T 9. There can be good times in a relationship where domestic violence is present.

T 10. Domestic violence generally escalates over time.

T 11. There are many good reasons why women find it difficult leave abusive relationships.

Refer to 50 reasons

T 12. Domestic violence is a learned behavior, often affecting multiple generations.

F 13. Domestic violence is a relatively new problem caused by our current social environment.

Has received public attention and become identified as a problem over the past 20 years

F 14. Pregnancy provides some protection from battering, even in couples which have a history of domestic violence in their relationship.

Abuse may start or worsen during pregnancy. The most common cause of death for pregnant women is homicide, not pregnancy complications.