

“Domestic Violence within Clinton County”

By: Caitlin Williams – Domestic Violence Advocate

There is a violent crime that strikes the very heart of home and family, it is a crime that frequently goes unreported, that is Domestic Violence. Physical and sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are what most people think of when hearing about domestic violence. However, a regular use of other abusive behaviors by the batterers, such as emotional or financial abuse, makes up a larger system of abuse. While in many cases domestic violence is not physical, that is usually the only part that is punishable by law. Even if an assault occurs only once the act implants a threat of future violent attacks and allows the abuser to take control of the victim's life and circumstances.

According to the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting in 2016 there were a total of 181 reported victims of intimate partner Domestic Violence in Clinton County. Out of that 181 there were 125 female victims and 56 male victims. The survivors of these domestic violence instances have a variety of injuries ranging from apparent minor injuries, no apparent physical injuries but lasting psychological scars, internal injuries, and unconsciousness.

Domestic violence affects several people within the community; the perpetrator of the violence, the victim, their family members, friends, and co-workers. Domestic violence causes several issues both inside and outside of the home for every party involved. Several research studies have concluded children who live in a home where domestic violence takes place are more likely to be in violent relationships in the future, both as an abuser and/or victim. It is reported that nearly 3 million children witness domestic violence in their household every year. This example alone reveals how domestic violence can affect more than the assailant and victims. I encourage all victims of domestic violence to please seek help; you're not alone.

If you, your children, or someone you know has experienced a domestic violence relationship and are in need of counseling and advocacy please call SafeCenter's 24-hour crisis line at (877) 952-7283. Our services are available to all survivors regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

SafeCenter is a non-profit agency whose vision is for all individuals to experience the right to be free from violence. Their mission is to build comprehensive and sustainable community strategies to eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Clinton and Shiawassee Counties. For more information regarding services, contact SafeCenter at 1-877-952-7283 or via email at safecenter@thesafecenter.org