



## IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP AFFECTING YOUR HEALTH?

### How's It Going?

**Everyone deserves to have partners listen to what they want and need. Ask yourself:**

- ✓ Is my partner or the person I am seeing kind to me and respectful of my choices?
- ✓ Is my partner willing to talk openly when there are problems?
- ✓ Does my partner give me space to spend time with other people?

If you answered YES to these questions, it sounds like you have a supportive and caring partner. Studies show that being cared for by the person you are with leads to better health, a longer life, and helps your kids.

### Are There Times...

**My partner or the person I'm seeing:**

- ✗ Shames or humiliates me, makes me feel bad about myself, or controls where I go and how I spend my money?
- ✗ Ever hurts or scares me with their words or actions?
- ✗ Makes me have sex when I don't want to?
- ✗ Keeps me from seeing my doctor or taking my medicine?

**These experiences are common. 1 in 4 women is hurt by a partner in her lifetime.** If something like this is happening to you or a friend, call or text the hotlines on this card.

### Helping a Friend

Everyone feels helpless at times and like nothing they do is right.

Sound familiar? This can be a bigger problem if you have a partner who is unhealthy or unsafe. Connecting with friends or family who are having hard times like this is so important.

**You can help by telling them they aren't alone.** "Hey, I've been there too and someone gave this card to me. It has ideas on places you can go for support and things you can do to be safer and healthier."

And for you? Studies show when we help others we see the good in ourselves, too.

### Partners Can Affect Health

**A lot of people don't realize that having a partner hurt you with their words, injure/hurt you or make you do sexual things you don't want to can affect your health:**

- ✓ Asthma, diabetes, chronic pain, high blood pressure, cancer
- ✓ Smoking, drug and alcohol abuse, unplanned pregnancies and STDs
- ✓ Trouble sleeping, depression, anxiety, inability to think or control emotions

Talking to your health provider about these connections can help them take better care of you.

## What does it mean to be strong, resilient or come back from bad experiences?

- ✓ Knowing you aren't at fault for what was done to you.
- ✓ Figuring out how to manage stress and find healthy ways to cope.
- ✓ Finding people who are safe can help you heal.

Maybe you have a good friend to talk with. Maybe you don't yet. For some, talking to the helpful people from the hotlines listed on this card might be a great first step.



## Your Past Can Affect Your Health

### Some parents/caregivers hurt their kids—it happens more than we think. Maybe they:

- ✓ Called you names, didn't feed you enough, couldn't love or care for you
- ✓ Injured you when they punished you or did sexual things to you or made you do things to them

### Where you live and what you saw when you were a kid can affect you too. Like if you:

- ✓ Had a caregiver who was hurt by their partner, they argued a lot, or they had mental health or addiction problems
- ✓ Faced racism, lived in unsafe places, or were bullied

Even if some of this or a lot of this happened to you—it isn't the end of the story.

## Simple Steps For Healing

### Science tells us when you are hurt as a kid or as an adult you are at risk for having a hard time taking care of yourself.

#### Let's change that.

1. The best way to make it better is to reduce the stress on your body.
  - Exercise—it calms the brain and body and helps you feel better.
2. It sounds silly, but when you get hurt, your body learns how to hold on to that stress and worry. There's a way to turn down anxiety when it's safe.
  - Deep breathing is the key to this. Check out "Tactical Breather," a free cell phone app to help you feel calm and reminds you how to slow your breathing to help you think.

## Safety Planning

*If you are being hurt by a partner, it is not your fault. You deserve to be safe and treated with respect.*

### "Safe" looks different for everyone, here are some things that can help:

- ♥ Remember what you have done in the past that has worked to keep you safe.
- ✚ Prepare an emergency kit in case you have to leave fast with: money, phone charger, keys, medicines, birth certificates and shot records.
- 💬 Talk to your health care provider about using their phone to call the hotlines on this card so your partner can't see it on your call log. Hotline staff can help you think through next steps.



FuturesWithoutViolence.org



©2022 Futures Without Violence.  
All rights reserved.

Funded in part by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Administration on Children, Youth and Families (Grant #90EV0414).

General Health

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is confidential, open 24/7, and has staff who are kind and can help you with a plan to be safer.

#### The Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)

TTY 1-800-787-3224 - [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

Text trained counselors about anything that's on your mind:

Crisis Text Line [www.crisistextline.org](http://www.crisistextline.org)

Text "START" to 741741



A tool to help with safety decisions if you, or someone you care about, is experiencing abuse in their relationship.

Download at [myPlanApp.org](http://myPlanApp.org)