

# Why Make Domestic Abuse Awareness Your Business?

1 in 4 women will experience physical abuse from an intimate partner in her lifetime. This abuse results in nearly 2 million physical injuries and approximately 1,300 deaths every year in the United States.

We all know the effect this abuse has on families and households, but what does it have to do with the workplace? Domestic abuse knows no boundaries. Most victims, and their abusers, can't "check" the impact of this abuse at the door. Instead, this abuse follows them to work, and ultimately affects the workplace in terms of safety, and productivity.

The Bureau of National Affairs estimates that domestic violence costs employers at least \$3 to \$5 billion a year in lost days of work and reduced productivity.

Studies have found that between 50 and 85 percent of abused women missed work because of abuse, and a 60% reported tardiness due to abuse.

Furthermore, abuse can impair job performance due to physical and emotional damages. Over 74% of survivors of abuse report being stalked or harassed while they were on the job, even after they left the abusive situation.

In the past, employers were reluctant to intervene with the "private" lives of employees. However, society no longer views domestic abuse as a private family matter. Being a responsible employer means addressing domestic abuse- for the safety and well being of your employees, and for the benefit of your business.

