



MEN'S
DOMESTIC ABUSE
CHECKUP

www.menscheckup.org

1-800-MEN-1089

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For Immediate Release – July 26, 2006

Study offers men a confidential domestic abuse checkup

SEATTLE – Prominent researchers at the University of Washington today announced the launch of a new study and ad campaign aimed at men engaged in abusive behaviors.

“The social stigma of domestic violence often presents a barrier to men from all walks of life who need and want help. This project is exciting because it removes barriers by being confidential, all by phone and free,” said Joan Zegree, a therapist who has specialized in treating men, women and children affected by domestic violence for 27 years. Zegree is an adjunct assistant professor at the UW’s School of Social Work and has conducted innovative clinical research on domestic violence issues.

Domestic violence experts, a former abuser and victims together joined researchers to launch the study and campaign: **Men’s Domestic Abuse Checkup** at the YWCA Opportunity Place in Seattle. The study is a three-year project funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and administered by both the UW and University of Minnesota’s schools of social work.

Study supporters Mark Huston, a single father who has completed treatment for his abusive behavior, and Lane Judson, father of murder victim Crystal Judson Brame, both encouraged men to dial **1-800-MEN-1089**.

Judson’s 35-year-old daughter was a mother of two when her estranged husband, former Tacoma Police Chief David Brame, murdered her in a Gig Harbor parking lot on April 26, 2003.

"Each of us has a duty to stop abusive behavior whether it's mental abuse, emotional abuse or physical abuse," said Judson. "I am hopeful this study will find better ways to reach out to families who are hurting before it's too late."

Dr. Lyungai Mbilinyi, director of the project, said the UW hopes to recruit more than 100 men in the Puget Sound area to dial in for help. "We want to reach men before controlling, intimidation and physical assaults get worse," she said.

The initial contact involves a brief, confidential telephone intervention for men who are concerned about their behaviors toward their spouses or partners. In order to raise the profile of the study and encourage men to call, the UW is launching a print and radio ad campaign, with spots on KJR-AM (Sports Talk Radio) and print ads in the *Seattle Times*, *The Stranger* and on Metro bus lines. The ads began running today.

"Too many of us wait until we are hauled off to jail and forced to confront our behavior. I was one of those men," said Huston. "Instead of waiting for your girlfriend, your wife or your child to dial 911, pick up the phone and make the call to the Men's Domestic Abuse Checkup: **1-800-MEN-1089**."

Washington police respond to an average of 51,000 domestic violence calls each year, according to June Wiley, a local and national expert on domestic violence. Wiley serves as the training manager for New Beginnings, a Seattle-based nonprofit helping women and children affected by abuse.

"Boys who witness abusive behavior by their fathers are four times more likely to be physically abusive in dating relationships than boys who grow up in nonviolent homes," Wiley said.

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